Constitution for the Nittany Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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ARTICLE I. Name and Location

1. The name of the organization shall be the Nittany Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Herein referred to as the Grotto.
2. The headquarters of the Grotto shall be located at the Pennsylvania State University.

ARTICLE II. Type of Grotto.

1. The Grotto shall be a student grotto.

ARTICLE III. Purposes

1. To promote interest and to advance in any way and all ways, the study and science of speleology.
2. To promote fellowship among those interested therein.
3. To cooperate with, and promote the activities of the NSS in the Central Pennsylvania area.

ARTICLE IV. Subordination

1. The constitution and by-laws of the NSS shall be binding on this grotto. Any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.

ARTICLE V. Membership

1. Membership in the Grotto shall consist of five types:

   Regular membership, Associate membership, Affiliate membership, Family Dependent membership, and Honorary membership.

2. Anyone having a serious interest in speleology and who is a student or member of the faculty or staff at the Pennsylvania State University or any NSS member of the area who does not reside closer to another active chapter of the NSS may apply for Regular membership.

   A.. Regular Grotto members may participate in any official Grotto function, may cast ballots, and may hold offices provided he or she fulfills the requirements described for that office.
   B. Only Regular Grotto members shall be counted in the official Grotto membership list.

3. Any NSS member who desires to become associated with the Nittany Grotto may apply for Associate membership.

   A.. Associate members may participate in official Grotto functions, but may not cast ballots nor may hold office.

4. Any person or organization who shows an active interest in speleology and who would like to affiliate themselves to such an organization so as to become more acquainted with the subject may apply for an Affiliate membership.

   A. Personal Affiliate membership should be considered temporary and should the individual's interest in speleology continue, membership in the NSS should be requested of the individual by the Grotto.
   B. Personal Affiliate members may participate in official Grotto functions but may not cast ballots and may not hold office.
   C. An Organizational Affiliate membership may be offered to only organizations whose fields of

interest may include speleology.

D. An Organizational Affiliate membership in no way obligates the Grotto to the individual members of the affiliate organization. They may likewise neither cast ballots nor hold office in the Grotto. Neither they, nor the organization as a whole, may attend official Grotto functions except by invitation from the Executive Board.

5. Any member of the family of a regular member may apply for a Family Dependent membership.

   A. Family Dependent members may participate in official Grotto functions, may cast ballots, and may hold offices provided he or she fulfills the requirements described for that office. The Family Dependent member will not be entitled to receive Grotto publications.

6. Any person making a particularly noteworthy contribution to the Nittany Grotto may be named to the position of Honorary membership.

   A. Honorary members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the Regular membership.
   B. Honorary members shall be named by action of the Executive Board.

7. New Membership and Recruitment
   A. Any and all new members will be given full disclosure during recruitment, including but not limited to the disclosure of:
      1. New Membership Manual
      2. Schedule of New Member Events and Activities
      3. A list of responsibilities
      4. A definition of personal rights, and a copy of the University Hazing policy, prescribed by policies and Rules for Student Organizations.

   B. All Members, including but not limited to new members and recruits, reserve the right to refrain from participating in any activities without consequence, based on personal values, or moral reserve as defined by the member.
   C. Any and all interaction/activity between new members and/or members will be limited to guidelines stated by University policy, as well as local, state, and federal laws.

8. Revocation of Membership
   A. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of at least a quorum of Grotto members, a membership may be revoked for any of the following reasons:
   i. Actions endangering the welfare and safety of Nittany Grotto and National Speleological Society members and guests of either society.
   ii. Actions detrimental to the good reputation of the Nittany Grotto and National Speleological Society
   iii. Acts of cave vandalism and violation of state conservation laws relating to caves.

ARTICLE VI. Officers

1. The officers of the Grotto shall be the following.
   A. A Chairman
   B. A Vice-Chairman
   C. A Secretary
   D. A Treasurer
   E. A Faculty Advisor

ARTICLE VII. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Faculty Advisor, coordinators of the standing committees, and the latest past Chairman, if still active in the Grotto, as set forth in the By-laws.

2. The Executive Board shall have the power to manage the business of the Grotto as set forth in the By-laws.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be reduced to writing and signed by not less than ten Regular members in good standing, except such amendments as may be proposed by the Executive Board.
2. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Grotto as a regular meeting, but shall not be voted on until the next regular meeting.
3. If the amendment has been proposed by the Executive Board, a majority vote of Regular members is required for adoption. If the amendment has not been proposed by the Executive Board, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all regular Grotto members is necessary for adoption.
4. Amendments become effective upon adoption.

ARTICLE IX. Dissolution

If the Grotto dissolves, becomes defunct, or is transferred to the inactive status by the NSS, all Grotto property shall revert to the NSS as provided by the By-laws of the NSS.

ARTICLE X. Effective Date

1. This Constitution shall become effective upon approval of the Grotto and by the NSS.