



## *Tennessee Cave Dirt*

Welcome {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }} {{ contact.LASTNAME }},

### **Survey Competition**

Think you're a good surveyor? The 2019 National Speleological Society Survey Competition will put your skills to the test. Located in the campground directly adjacent to the cave information booth, the course consists of 12 established stations from which you (teams of up to 3 people) will collect and record data. Either use your own set of instruments (no Disto's!) or check out a compass, clinometer, and tape at the booth (courtesy of Sewanee Mountain Grotto). Loaner instruments are only available while the booth is manned (7-10 AM and 4-7 PM), but the course is open all hours of the day and night from Monday at 8 AM to Thursday noon. Simply pick up a blank data sheet from the "Survey Competition" clipboard at the cave information booth, then get "on station!" Stations are pre-numbered and clearly marked with flagging tape. No sketching required! When you finish, return your data sheet to the box at the booth. Surveys will be judged on accuracy and loop closure, with prizes for the first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be announced 5 PM at the Cave Information Booth at the Fairgrounds Contact Hali Steinmann (halisteinmann@gmail.com) for further information.

### **CaveSim**

We're hauling a cave across the country and we need your help! CaveSim is traveling from Colorado to Cookeville for the NSS Convention in just a few weeks, and we're planning lots of cave conservation outreach before and during Convention. In addition to making CaveSim free for everyone who attends Convention, we'll be working with the JSS and with non cavers from the Cookeville area to teach them all about the importance of caves, bats, groundwater, and conservation. The mobile CaveSim rig weighs nearly 8 tons, and we're still seeking sponsorships from individuals, grottos, and other organizations to help pay for fuel, vehicle and trailer wear, and some new updates like air conditioning. We recognize sponsors with signs on the trailer, posts on social media and our webpage, and on our annual sponsor t-shirts. If you or your organization would like to be a CaveSim sponsor, or if you have questions, please reach out to Dave at [jacksondmit@cavesim.com](mailto:jacksondmit@cavesim.com). If you're not familiar with CaveSim, check out [www.cavesim.com](http://www.cavesim.com), and see who's already sponsoring at [www.cavesim.com/news](http://www.cavesim.com/news).

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers needed for lots of tasks during the week. If you would like to volunteer, there will be sign up sheets at registration in the High School. All volunteers who work at least 4 hours will get a Convention Volunteer T-Shirt.

## Speleo-Auction 7pm Wednesday Auditorium Benefitting NSS

Come out and join us for the annual NSS Auction and Fundraiser. Bring your checkbook or credit card and bid on the many speleo-treasures that will be offered. Proceeds go to the NSS. Donations of items for the auction are welcome and can be dropped off at the NSS Bookstore area prior to Wednesday at 5pm. Many auction items will be on display before the event at the NSS bookstore.

Donations of items which will be of interest to cavers and sell competitively are encouraged. Vintage items such as NSS Newsletter and Bulletin prior to 1950 may be highly sought after. Artistic bat memorabilia may sell for some value. Halloween decorations should go elsewhere. Bundles of NSS News and other recent publications will not be accepted. Donated items become the property of the NSS. Donations may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor or the IRS for deduction determination.

The 2019 NSS Convention which will be held in Cookeville, Tennessee on June 17-21, 2019.

Please submit newsletter requests to: [nss2019newsletter@subworks.com](mailto:nss2019newsletter@subworks.com)

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Newsletter Editor

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