



Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council

CADETTE / SENIOR

INTEREST PROJECT PATCH

CAVES & CAVERNS

Complete 8 activities, including the 3 *'d ones.

- *1. Find out what contents would make up a spelunking First Aid Kit. Compare your troops first aid kit and list those items necessary. Be sure that you have all the items, or that the items will be available at the location you will explore before you actually go spelunking. Know how to care for fractures, leg cramps, sprains, and abrasions.
- *2. Hypothermia is a common hazard of caves because of their temperature and often wet conditions. Find out what hypothermia is and ways to avoid it. Be able to identify the symptoms of hypothermia and the appropriate treatment.
- *3 Learn how to dress appropriately for spelunking and discover what equipment may be necessary. Learn about spelunking safety from someone who is knowledgeable in this area. Learn emergency procedures for spelunking and understand their use.
4. Study the eco-systems within caves. Become knowledgeable about animals and plants that make their homes in caves. Be able to name at least two that are endangered and find out what, if anything is being done to change this situation. What impact, if any, does human usage have on the eco-system?
5. There are several caves in our National Park System (Mammoth Caves, Wind Caves, Carlsbad Caverns, etc.) In Indiana, we have Blue spring Caverns in Bedford, and Squire Boone Caverns in Corydon, among others. Visit one or more of them under proper supervision and share your trip with your troop or another group. Be sure to refer to Safety Wise. OR If you are unable to visit a cave, speak to a spelunker about his/her experiences. In addition, write to at least two caves and ask them to mail you information (or you may locate this information in

the library). Share the information you gained from your conversation and flyers (or library info) with your troop or another group.

6. Find out about careers related to spelunking; for example, a geologist, hydrologist, ecologist, or ranger/tour guide. Talk to someone who has or formerly had a job in this field. Find out what training is required. What is the salary range?

7. Learn about different kinds of caves. Be able to tell how at least two different types of caves (ie. limestone caves, lava tube caves, etc.) were formed. What accounts for the various colors and patterns? Name and describe 3 distinct types of cave formation. Be able to explain the difference between stalagmites and stalactites and how they were formed.

8. Caves and Caverns have played an important part in the lives of many pre historic and Native American people as their homes and storage areas. Study the ways caves have been used and share this knowledge with your troop or another group.

9. Many caves and caverns throughout the world bear the drawings and paintings of prehistoric cave dwellers. Photos and descriptions of many of these drawings can be found at your library or through many other sources. Look at the drawings from at least three caaves and read about them. Approximately when were they done? What mediums were used? Do you consider these art or merely utilitarian drawings; or perhaps, a combination of both? Share your opinions and studies with your troop or others.

10. Caves are "discovered" or found in many ways. Be able to tell about the discovery of at least two caves. Share this information with your troop or another group.

11. Set up a "Cave Convention" for younger girls (perhaps a Brownie or Junior Girl Scout Troop or a group at your school) to share your knowledge. Some suggestions for this are caving safety, photos/drawings/maps of caves, ecology displays, information on cave animals, demonstrations of caving techniques such as repelling, and career/job possibilities.

12. Prepare a bulletin board on spelunking. Speak to your librarian or school personnel for permission to post it. it should contain information you have gained about caves, their history, inhabitants, jobs, etc.

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