



NSS-CDS Apprentice Cave Diver Statement of Understanding

Student Contact Information

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)
STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX (LINE 1)			ADDRESS (LINE 2)	
CITY	STATE/DISTRICT/PROVINCE	ZIP/POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY	
MOBILE PHONE NUMBER		E-MAIL ADDRESS		

To the Student:

With an Actual Bottom Time (ABT) requirement of 600+ minutes, and an average course duration of eight or more days, the complete NSS-CDS Cave Diver course is simply too long for most students to take at one time. The normal procedure is to break the course into two or more segments.

It's a common standard of practice in cave diving to give cave diving students who are between course segments the opportunity to gain additional cave diving experience without direct instructor supervision — provided,

when doing so, students remain within the limits of the training they have received thus far.

To make this possible, the NSS-CDS provides its instructors with the ability to issue students an Apprentice Cave Diver *Statement of Understanding*. It identifies the named individual as a student who is undergoing training and who is authorized to gain limited experience on his own prior to finishing the course.

This Statement of Understanding outlines the limits of the training you have received thus far and secures your agreement to remain

within the boundaries of that training. Be aware you may be asked to show this document, along with your Apprentice Cave Diver card, at parks and privately-owned dive sites.

This agreement does not absolve you of the responsibility to complete all of your training. It expires on the date listed below. You and your instructor should set a target date for finishing your training at the same time as you sign this form.

Current Limits of Training *(check one, and only one, box in each category)*

Usable Penetration Gas <input type="checkbox"/> No more than 1,400 L/50 ft ³ <input type="checkbox"/> One-third starting volume	Penetration Distance <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 300 m/1,000 ft <input type="checkbox"/> _____ m <input type="checkbox"/> ft	Decompression <input type="checkbox"/> No planned decompression <input type="checkbox"/> Limited decompression	Navigation <input type="checkbox"/> Main line navigation only <input type="checkbox"/> Limited jumps
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Student Statement

By signing where indicated below, I agree to the following:

- I understand that, even though I have been issued an Apprentice Cave Diver card, I am not yet a fully-certified Cave Diver and must complete all of the training required by NSS-CDS Standards before I can become fully certified.
- I agree to remain within the limits outlined above during any cave dives I make when not under direct instructor supervision.

I further agree to the following limits:

- Dives must be within the personal limits of the *least* qualified member of the team, even if this person is someone other than myself.
- No dives requiring *complex navigation* (i.e., circuits and traverses which cannot be completed within the limits of one-third of my original starting gas volume).

- No dives involving the use of Diver Propulsion Vehicles (DPVs) or stage bottles.
- No solo cave dives.
- No dives requiring equipment removal to pass through restrictions.
- No dives in cave systems other than those commonly used for training.

Student Signature

Date

Instructor Authorization

I have reviewed these limits with the student and authorize him or her to dive independently of instructor supervision until the date listed below.

INSTRUCTOR NAME	INSTRUCTOR NO.	DATE ISSUED	EXPIRES ON:	INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE
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Please note: Expiration date can be no more than on year from date of issue.