



# National Association for Cave Diving

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## NACD CAVE CONSERVATION POLICY

A primary purpose of the NACD is TO CONSERVE and TO PROTECT the cave habitat and its varied flora and fauna through education and a development in the cavern/cave student of a strong respect for this unique and delicate environment. In consideration of the ever-increasing number of cave divers utilizing the underwater cave environment, it has become of prime importance that conservation of this environment be strongly emphasized at all levels of training.

It is the responsibility of all NACD instructors to educate each cavern/cave student of the unique formations found within our cave systems and to develop a high level of awareness in each student of the fragility of the cave habitat. Students must be made aware of the need for proper buoyancy control, trim position, propulsion technique and awareness levels necessary to preserve this limited resource for the enjoyment of future generations.

Damage resulting from unintentional contact through the use of poor technique or reduced awareness cannot be condoned by NACD instructors and must be strongly discouraged through the education process at all levels of training.

Damage resulting from intentional contact, including contact resulting from the diver's failure to obtain appropriate training, shall not be tolerated in any form. If an NACD certified diver wishes to undertake an advanced activity, that diver agrees with and understands the need for training in that activity. Such advanced activities may include alternate gear configuration (for example, sidemount configuration), operation of a DPV within the cave system and diving to depths beyond 130 fsw. By engaging in such activities without proper training, the diver acknowledges that he is exposing the cave environment to intentional and unnecessary damage.

Removal of "souvenirs" of any form from the cave habitat is condemned by the NACD. The diver is encouraged to remove diver debris from the cave systems, but to leave all naturally occurring formations- intact or damaged- within the cave.

Each cavern/cave diver must assume a high degree of personal responsibility for protection of the cave environment. It is the duty of each diver to take personal responsibility for eliminating damage to the cave systems and educating others of the need for conservation and protection of these systems.

I, as a student in an NACD cavern or cave program, have read this policy and agree to its terms.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

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DATE: