

# Carlsbad Caverns

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
New Mexico  
[www.nps.gov/cave](http://www.nps.gov/cave)



## Application for School Fee Waiver\*

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Fieldtrip (You are encouraged to request alternate dates in case your first choice is not available.):

First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Students: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Chaperones (no more than 10 students/chaperone): \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Arrival (Please note that the park is on Mountain Time. Allow for delays and add 30 minutes of travel time to park visitor center from Whites City.): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs, if any:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*In addition to the above information, please attach a letter on school letterhead describing the relationship between your class curriculum and park resources, as well as a signed copy of the Visitor Rules.**

**All documents may be faxed to the education office at 575.785.2302.**

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## Visitor Rules

**Please read the following visitor rules to all participating classes, sign and send back with your application:**

Park staff wants this to be an enjoyable visit for you and your students. Please review the following rules before your trip to Carlsbad Caverns National Park:

1. Students must stay with adult chaperones at all times. We recommend one adult for every ten students. Each adult should be assigned a group of students and must maintain control of that group.
2. *Stay on the cave trail at all times*; the cave floor is very delicate and can be hazardous.
3. *Talk quietly* to allow yourself and others to enjoy the cave's natural silence.
4. Cave pools are not wishing wells. *Do not throw anything in the pools*. Foreign materials introduce new bacteria. The native bacteria may not be able to compete with the foreign bacteria, and thus, may be eliminated.
5. *Tobacco use of any kind is not permitted* anywhere in the caves.
6. *Gum, food and drinks (other than plain water) are not allowed* on the cave trail system. The odor from gum and food can attract animals not normally found in the cave. Once they are in the cave, they often cannot find their way out.
7. *Do not touch cave formations, walls, or ceilings*. Oils and dirt from hands can permanently damage and stain the caves.
8. *Do not collect anything natural to the park*.

A fee waiver may be revoked and a bill for collection sent to your school if your group does not follow the rules and/or behaves inappropriately.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chaperone Responsibilities

**Please have all chaperones read their responsibilities before attending the trip.**

Your role as chaperone is one of the most important jobs you can take on when agreeing to accompany students on a fieldtrip. This letter is to outline your role and responsibilities when visiting Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The overall outcome of your group's visit hinges on you. It is a big task; one that we hope you fully understand and fully act upon.

As a chaperone, you are expected to:

- You are asked to refrain from bringing small children with you. We want to limit the distractions to the educational component of your group's visit.
- Stay with your group at all times. Remember that students should be in groups of ten or less, with each group having one adult chaperone. While in the cave, groups should spread out so that there are not large clusters of students all together.
- Chaperones should walk with the group to better maintain order.
- Make sure all students follow the rules of the cave.
  - Keep all voice/noise levels to a minimum. We want to preserve the cave's natural state of silence, as well as respect other visitors.
  - Remain on the paved trail at all times. This is for everyone's safety.
  - Do not touch any of the cave formations. Oils and dirt from your hands will permanently damage and stain the cave.
  - Ensure that nothing is thrown into cave pools. We do not want to introduce new bacteria into the water.
  - Smoking or other tobacco use is not permitted anywhere in the cave.
  - Gum, candy, or any food items are not permitted in the cave. The only beverage allowed in the cave is water. The odor from food items can attract animals normally not found in the cave.
  - Do not collect anything natural to the park (e.g., rocks, flowers, etc.).
- The behavior of your group rests on you. It is ***your responsibility*** to maintain control at all times. Be aware that a non-compliant group will be asked to leave the cave, and fees may be invoked dependent upon specific behaviors.