



## B A T S   N E E D   Y O U R   H E L P

# TAKING A CAVE TOUR? READ THIS NOW.

As it spreads across the country, a disease called white-nose syndrome (WNS) kills bats by the millions. People are not known to be affected, but they may carry it from cave to cave. Crystal Cave remains free of WNS – so far.



White-nose syndrome (WNS) results in the white fungus on this bat's face. Infected bats wake early from winter hibernation, months before food is available. Most of them die, possibly from starvation. WNS has wiped out entire colonies in the eastern states.

## TO PROTECT PARK BATS

- **Shoes must be sanitized before you enter the cave.**

At the cave entrance, you will walk over a mat that applies a sanitizing solution of Lysol to the sole. The park cannot be held responsible for any damage to shoes.

- **Change clothes if you are wearing any that have been in any other cave or mine since 2005.**

Normal washing does NOT destroy WNS.

- **Cameras or flashlights that have been in another cave or mine must be sanitized.**

Request a free disinfectant wipe when you arrive at the cave parking lot.

**If your group is NOT wearing any potentially contaminated clothing, you may purchase your tickets.**



## BAT FACTS

All bats in these parks feed on mosquitoes and other insects. At dusk, watch for these tiny, gentle animals catching their dinner.

In other areas, bats eat fruit, nectar, and pollen. A few eat frogs, fish, or even small rodents. Some plants are pollinated only by bats.

Around the world, people depend on the services of bats: pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, and eating harmful insect pests.

**Thank you for helping to protect these fascinating mammals.**