

# CUMBERLAND CAVERNS

U.S. NATIONAL LANDMARK

## GROUP WELCOME PACKET

Thank you for choosing to bring your group to Cumberland Caverns! This Welcome Packet has everything you need to prepare for your adventure! Review these items closely in order to make the most out of your upcoming overnight caving experience.

### *Your Welcome Packet Includes*

- ✓ Checklist
- ✓ Important Reminders
- ✓ Release Form
- ✓ Rules & Regulations
- ✓ Overnight Itinerary
- ✓ What Should I Pack? - DOs & DON'Ts
- ✓ Snack Bar Menu & Price List
- ✓ Cancellation Policy

### *Contact Information*

**Phone:** 931-668-4396

**Fax:** 931-668-5382

**Email:** [info@cumberlandcaverns.com](mailto:info@cumberlandcaverns.com)

**Website:** [Cumberlandcaverns.com](http://Cumberlandcaverns.com)

**Address:** 1437 Cumberland Caverns Road, McMinnville, TN 37110

Please let me know if you have any questions.

See you soon,

**Guest Relations Manager**

# GROUP CHECKLIST

## *Due 10 Days Prior To Your Visit*

- Turn In Your Final Headcount
- Make Final Payments  
Late fees will be applied to anyone added after the 10-day mark.
- Make Snack Bar Menu Selection (**Choose One**)
  - Barbeque Sandwiches: \$6.00 (pulled pork)
    - Add chips and a drink: \$9.00
  - Hot Dogs: \$3.00 (all beef)
    - Add chips and a drink: \$7.00
  - Chili: \$4.00 (ranch bean chili)
  - Chili Dogs: \$5.00
  - Hot Dogs \$3.00 & Bowl of Chili \$4.00

## *Due Immediately Upon Arrival*

- Release Forms For **All Members Of Your Party**  
Release forms should be filled out and separated 'Adult' from 'Child'
- Tennessee Tax-exempt form or a Federal 501C3 form (if applicable)  
Tax related forms can be emailed to [info@cumberlandcaverns.com](mailto:info@cumberlandcaverns.com) or can be turned in the day of your trip

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **We Are Located In The Central Time Zone**

- **Arrive On Time For Check-In.**

Being late WILL impact your tour and possibly other tour groups.

- **Eat Before You Arrive**

The Snack Bar does not open until after your caving tour(s)

- **Bring Money For Dinner At The Snack Bar**

You will be hungry, so please inform all group members to bring money or debit/credit cards for Snack Bar purchases. (Breakfast, served the following morning, is included in your package.)

- **Pack Required Shoes And Clothing**

Lace-up shoes are required. NO sandals or flip flops allowed. Also we suggest a light jacket or long sleeve shirt. Inside the cave, it's 56° with 99% humidity. You may feel cool when you first go in, but warm up after a few minutes of moving around.

- **The Test Box Crawl Is Mandatory**

Everyone going on the adventure tour part of your overnight must crawl through the test box first. **The box is 19" x 33"**. This helps simulate the smallest crawl space on the tour.

- **You Cannot Bring Your Own Helmet!**

- **Vouchers**

If you have fewer participants than you paid for, you will be issued a Voucher for those numbers. The Voucher is valid for a 2 year period. We do not offer refunds.

- **Special Medical Conditions**

Please make the overnight manager aware of any special medical conditions of participants.

- **The Cave Is Not Handicap Accessible**

There are uneven pathways, stairs and some places without handrails.



**STOP! THIS FORM IS MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPATION!**

*(1) Form per every person in your group is required for check-in.*

**CUMBERLAND CAVERNS ADVENTURE TRIP RELEASE FORM**

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Participant is a(n): ADULT CHILD

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Print your name if signing below for a minor: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

***Please read the following carefully:***

**\*\*WARNING\*\***

**Under Tennessee law, an adventure tourism professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in adventure tourism activities resulting from the inherent risks of such activities, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, title 11, chapter 11.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS**

I, the undersigned person request and am granted permission to enter Cumberland Caverns to participate in a Spelunking Adventure Trip. I am aware I will be crawling in relatively small passages, climbing up and down ladders, walking and crawling over loose and slippery rocks and walking through muddy passageways. Furthermore, I understand that certain risks and dangers exist in this activity which may result in serious injury. I am aware that in signing this document on my behalf, or on behalf of my minor child and/or ward, for participation in Cumberland Caverns' Adventure Trip that certain elements of the activity are physically and mentally demanding.

**EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

I confirm that I am physically and mentally capable of participating in the activity. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown and assume full responsibility for my participation. I confirm that I will stay within permitted areas, within my group and in close contact with Cumberland Caverns guide and/or staff members during my time in the cave.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

In consideration of the service and facilities provided, I, for myself; and for my minor child, do hereby release, waive, and discharge Cumberland Caverns, their officers, employees, principals, directors, agents, and volunteers from any and all liability to the undersigned's personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin, for any of any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage, to personal property.

**SCOPE OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY**

The undersigned expressly agrees that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the law of the State of Tennessee. Further, I give Cumberland Caverns permission to use photo and video taken at this facility in promotional materials.

**I have read this document and I understand it is a release of all claims. I understand and assume all risk inherent. I voluntarily sign my name evidencing my acceptance of the above provisions.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*(Adults should sign for themselves. A parent or guardian should sign for minors)*

**\*\*\*If you did not receive a copy of the overnight information packet, which tells you everything to expect on your overnight adventure, please see your group leader.**

# RULES & REGULATIONS

Your safety and cave preservation are top priorities here at Cumberland Caverns. Please read these **Cave Rules & Regulations** carefully and share them with your entire group.

1. Discipline is to be maintained by the adults in the group. An unruly group can be very dangerous. Failure to comply with all rules could result in your expulsion from the cave.
2. Cave vandalism of any form will not be tolerated! It is a felony offence to damage the cave or harm any of its inhabitants. Violators will be prosecuted.
3. Outside food and drinks CAN NOT be taken into the cave except by person with medical reasons. Please make manager aware of such conditions.
4. Water bottles are permitted. DO NOT pour any liquids onto the cave floor.
5. All food and drinks must be consumed in the dining area only.
6. No running!
7. Stay with your group and behind your guide on designated trails.
8. Stay on the trail.
9. No rock climbing or rock collecting!!!
10. Use designated restrooms ONLY!
11. Each person on the spelunking trip MUST have a flashlight.
12. Place all litter into trash cans.
13. No smoking or tobacco products of any kind.
14. Drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated!
15. No profanity.
16. No weapons of any kind.
17. NO ONE is permitted to leave the cave unescorted after entering! Make sure each person in your group has EVERYTHING they need for their stay before entering.
18. While people can bring and use their own headlight, we DO NOT allow people to bring and use their own helmet. This can be a safety issue if it is not a proper helmet to wear in the cave.

Thank you for your cooperation in following and helping us enforce these rules.

We hope you have a great time at Cumberland Caverns!

# OVERNIGHT ITINERARY

## *Check-In*

### 4:30 PM. CST – Check In Parts Unknown Overnight ONLY

Please Arrive on time. A tour guide will meet you at the gift shop. Once your entire party arrives, your guide will take you to your campsite inside the cave and complete the check-in process.

**Please Note:** You will need to **take ALL of your gear to your campsite upon check-in** (including medications and provisions). Once you are in the cave you will not be permitted to venture in and out of the cave.

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### WALKING TOUR

Between 6:15-6:45 PM: Your adventure begins with the commercial Walking Tour which lasts approximately 1.5 hours. The Walking Tour is 1 ½ miles in distance and is considered mildly strenuous. The cave path is uneven, there are steep inclines/declines, bumps, indentions and a couple of different sections where stairs are involved. To be exact, 350 hand-carved stone stairs take you over a mountain and back again, inside the cave.

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### ADVENTURE TOUR

Between 7:45-8:30 PM: Change clothes and grab a small snack before embarking on your Adventure Caving Tour. Adventure Tours may involve climbing ladders, narrow passageways, getting muddy (especially in bubble gum alley), tight squeezes, belly crawls, stories and lots of fun!

**Please Note:** On occasion, the order of the Walking Tour and Adventure Tour may be switched.

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### FOOD AND GAMES

10:30 PM: Arrive back at your campsite. Food will be available for purchase at the Snack Bar during this time along with games for all ages.

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### LIGHTS OUT

12:00 AM: Lights out inside the cave. Please make sure to have a flashlight available in case it is needed during lights out. Additionally, please be considerate of others that are sleeping. These are considered quiet hours so we request that you do not begin packing up your campsite until the wakeup call.

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### WAKE UP CALL

7:00 AM: Wake up call. A complimentary breakfast will be served at the Snack Bar. Everyone will be led out of the cave around 8 AM.

**Please Note:** Times may vary depending on group size and pace.

### ***Alternative Higgenbotham's Revenge Itinerary***

Check-In

Adventure Tour

Walking Tour

Food And Games

Lights Out

Wake Up Call

### ***Alternative All Around The Mountain Itinerary***

Check-In

Walking Tour

Adventure Tour

Food And Games

Lights Out

Wake Up Call

Adventure Tour

### ***Apple Brandy Trail Add-On Itinerary***

Check-In

Walking Tour

Adventure Tour

Food And Games

Lights Out

Wake Up Call

Apple Brandy Trail Guided Hike

# WHAT SHOULD I PACK? - DOS & DON'TS

## *DO Bring...*

- Tarp to put under sleeping area.
- Bedding: sleeping bag, etc. (air mattresses, sleeping pads, cots are allowed and yes we have outlets for your pumps)
- All explorers are required to wear lace up shoes or boots.
- A clean change of clothes (you WILL get muddy & wet)
- Light jacket (cave is 56° long sleeves and/or a light jacket will be enough)
- Garbage bags to put muddy/wet clothes in.
- Personal toiletries (no showers in the cave but we do have clean up stations and restrooms): towels, wash rags, toothbrush, etc.
- Knee pads (Hint: Adults you WILL want these.)
- Gloves
- Flashlight (caves are dark)
- Money/debit card(for snack bar & gift shop)
- CPAP devices allowed (we can put you near outlet if we know in advance)
- Cameras, phones and recording devices are permitted but bring them at your own risk.
- A good attitude. You are going to have FUN! 😊

## *DO NOT Bring...*

(These "cave no-no's" are prohibited inside the cave.)

- Tents
- Coolers
- Outside food or drinks (Snack Bar in cave, please eat only in the designated area)
- Chewing Gum
- Laser Pointers
- Fires
- Tobacco products
- Alcohol
- Weapons (pocket knives are allowed)
- Profanity
- Fighting
- Horse play (Have fun but safety first!)
- Excessive noise (Please be considerate of your neighbors!)

**NOTE:** Due to liability issues we cannot haul guests or their gear to the cave. Please keep this in mind when packing.

*Cavers Motto ~ Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.*



# SNACK BAR MENU & PRICE LIST

Please remember to bring money for dinner at the Snack Bar after your caving tour. You will be hungry, so please inform all group members to bring money or debit/credit cards for Snack Bar purchases.

## *Dinner Choices*

Prior to your visit, please **select one Dinner Menu** option that will be available for purchase.

### DINNER MENU OPTIONS (CHOOSE ONE)

- Barbeque Sandwiches: \$6.00 (pulled pork)
  - Add chips and a drink: \$9.00
- Hot Dogs: \$3.00 (all beef)
  - Add chips and a drink: \$7.00
- Chili: \$4.00 (ranch bean chili)
- Chili Dogs: \$5.00
- Hot Dogs \$3.00 & Bowl of Chili \$4.00

### DRINKS AND SIDES

- Candy: \$2.00
- Chips: \$2.00
- Cappuccino, French Vanilla Cappuccino: \$2.00
- Hot Chocolate, Cider: \$2.00
- Coffee, Hot Tea: \$1.00
- Gatorade: \$3.00
- Canned Drinks and Water: \$2.00
- Milk, Orange Juice: \$1.00

## *Breakfast Choices*

Breakfast, served the following morning, is included in your package.

- Pancakes
- Bacon
- Cereal
- Chocolate Milk
- Orange Juice
- Milk
- Coffee

# **CANCELLATION POLICY**

- Please keep in mind, we do not issue refunds. We do issue Vouchers that are good for 2 years from your original reservation date.
- If you need to cancel, please call us in advance and let us know. We will either move your reservation to another date or issue Vouchers for your group.
- You may reschedule your group twice in a two year time period.
- For questions or concerns, and or rescheduling please contact us at 931-668-4396.