

## Venturing Ranger Cave Exploring Elective Requirements

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1.
  - a. Write the [National Speleological Society \(NSS\)](#) to request information about caving and information about caves and cavers near you.
  - b. Learn about the different types of caves.
  - c. Learn about caving courtesy, caving dos and don'ts, and what the BSA policy is on cave exploring.
  - d. Read at least one book about caving.
2.
  - a. Learn the following knots used in caving:
    - Endline knots: bowline figure six, figure eight on a bight
    - Midline knots: bowline on a bight and butterfly
    - Joiner knots: water knot, fisherman, figure eight on bend
    - Prusik knot
  - b. Teach these knots to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group.
3.
  - a. Learn about the different types of ropes available for climbing and caving and explain the uses of each and the characteristics of each.
  - b. Learn proper climbing rope care. Know and practice proper coding and storage.
  - c. Know how to keep proper records on climbing rope and how to inspect it for wear and damage. Know when to retire a rope.
  - d. Using the knowledge acquired above, make a tabletop display or a presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group.
4.
  - a. Demonstrate that you know how to properly and safely rappel a distance of at least 30 feet.
  - b. Demonstrate that you know how to ascend a rope using mechanical ascenders or Prusik or other ascending knots. Ascend at least 30 feet.
  - c. Know and explain the differences, advantages, and disadvantages of single rope (SRT) and double rope (DRT) for rappelling and belaying.
5.
  - a. Visit a sporting goods store or NSS-affiliated organization or have them make a presentation to your crew so you can learn about personal caving gear, including helmets, light sources, backup lighting sources, clothing, boots, cave packs, etc.
  - b. Find out what the American National Standards Institute requirements are for helmets.
6.
  - a. Make a list of what you need in your personal cave pack. Include your personal first aid kit and cave survival gear.
  - b. Learn what crew equipment is, including a first aid kit, caving ropes, and ascending equipment.
  - c. Help make a first aid kit for your crew or group and demonstrate that you can keep it up.
  - d. Demonstrate to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group how to construct both a personal and crew first aid kit.
7.
  - a. Learn about the many types of cave formations.
  - b. Make a tabletop display or presentation on cave formations and caving conservation for

your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group. Include practices such as proper carbide removal; care of walls, ceiling, and formations; and principles of Leave No Trace.

8. Find a cave you would like to visit; get permission to enter it; make a trip plan including cave location, a list of participants, expected time in the cave, expected date and time of return, and an emergency contact; and then go in the cave, led by a qualified caver.
9. From a cave expert, learn about natural and fabricated hazards such as mudslides, loose rocks, pits, deep water, critters, complex routes, wooden ladders, and flooding.
10.
  - a. Using a three-dimensional cave map, learn what the standard map symbols represent.
  - b. Using the knowledge above, make a tabletop display or presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group.

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