

COLORADO BEND STATE PARK CAVE SURVEY PROJECT 2011–2012 Project Participant Information

Welcome to the TSA-CBSP Cave Survey Project!

In order to be as happy, safe, and productive as possible, here are some things you need to know.

Project Dates: The Project dates are the weekend of the second Saturday each month, except in the intense heat of summer. The 2011–2012 dates are 7–9 October, 12–13 November, 9–11 December, 13–15 January, 10–12 February, 9–11 March, 13–15 April, and 11–13 May. There is also a possibility of a trip in June 2012, so watch the CaveTex listserv (<http://texascavers.com>) for announcements.

Location: CBSP is located along the Colorado River in San Saba County. Follow Highway 580 west for ½ hour from the town of Lampasas to the small community of Bend (general store for last-minute supplies). Soon after crossing the river, turn left onto County Road 442 (paved at first but becoming fairly well maintained gravel). Always keep to the right and on the main road, avoiding turn-offs to fishing camps. Upon entering the Park boundary (3.6 miles from Bend), go **just past** the farm gate on the right, and look for a faint track to the right with flagging tape. Don't go through any gates. Follow the rough "road" to the central fire circle, and camp in the woods anywhere around it. **Do not** camp in anything resembling a roadway, blocking vehicle access to out-of-the-way tent sites. We will sign in at the fire circle around 9:00 am Saturday morning and assign teams.

Project Rules: The TSA camping area is in a closed part of the park, so we can get away with a little more stuff than we could in the public camping area. However, it is a State Park and we have some rules for the Project in order to maintain good relations with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Basically, the rules are thus:

- 1) **Take home all your trash** (including empties from around the fire pit) and clean up after yourself.
- 2) **Don't bring firewood** into the park. We're trying to keep the fire ants out .
- 3) If you enjoy the fire, then do your part and **help collect wood**. Any stumps or cut cedars are fair game. Do not damage any live trees. No other ground fires allowed, just the main campfire, and only when there is no burn ban.
- 4) A **\$2 per person fee** is collected when you sign in Saturday morning, since this is an official TSA Project. The second dollar helps cover some of the costs associated with photocopying, map supplies, group gear, etc. No other fees are involved, and Project camping in the Park at Caver Camp is free.
- 5) All participants on project weekends are expected to **work**. Cave cartography, surface surveying, digging, etc. are all needed. It helps if you have a team and objective together before you arrive. Trip leaders will be assigned less experienced people for training. **All teams leave camp by 10 am Saturday, so be ready to go by then.** Rescue teams are sent out by 9 pm if your team is not back in camp.
- 6) **Research Permits must be displayed** on your dashboard when your car is not parked in camp. Park only in CBSP designated parking areas, not along the roadsides.
- 7) Dogs can be off leash in the camping area as long as they are not a problem. Clean up any messes that somebody could step in. **Immediately stop any barking!** Problem dogs may be banned from future trips. Leash your pet when you are out of the camping area (Park rule).
- 8) **No obvious alcoholic beverages** or other mind-altering substances outside of camp.
- 9) **Be respectful** of your fellow cavers in the camping area , especially in the morning — some folks do make long drives and long cave trips!
- 10) **Don't leave paper and crap all over the woods!** If you are in the field caving, dig a proper cathole, burn your paper, and bury your waste. In camp, there is a pickle-bucket outhouse built and solely maintained by cavers. Do your part to follow the posted rules, and pitch in with maintenance. There are also pit toilets at the Park Office (at the river) and at the Gorman Falls parking area for the dainty.
- 11) After the productive trip of Saturday, you are free to visit many other caves in the Park Saturday night or Sunday. **Clear all Sunday trips with a Project Leader.** Talk to Project Leaders for more information .
- 12) Caving on **non-project weekends MUST be coordinated through the park office**, and will likely have fees and restrictions associated. Do NOT try to avoid these by claiming to be a caver.

Gear: Bring water, a tent, sleeping bag and pad, old clothes for caving, a couple of changes of clothing appropriate for the weather, and your food, pots, stove, etc. The temperatures range from the teens in winter to 100s in summer. The group fire is often used for cooking, but not during burn bans. For caving you need hiking boots or work boots with deep lug soles, gloves, old pants, a T-shirt, knee pads, a helmet, a headlamp, and a small pack (such as a fanny pack) with water, extra lights, small first aid kit, granola bars, etc. Some caves require vertical gear, but if you are vertically competent, you likely have your own equipment. Survey gear can be provided by your team leader or by the Project. If you do not have an adequate helmet or headlamp, contact the Project Leader to arrange a loan. Bicycle helmets are **not** adequate for caving. Nor are sneakers!

Project Leader:

Jim “Crash” Kennedy — jkennedy@batcon.org or 512-663-2287

Web Site: (official) — <http://www.cavetexas.org/projects/cbsp.html>

(trip reports, etc. – not up to date) — <http://www.caveresource.com/tx/tsacbp/tsacbpindex.htm>

Road Log from Bend, Texas to Cavers’ Camp in Colorado Bend State Park:

<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Comments</u>
0.0	0.0	Stop sign in Bend, junction of County Road 442 and highway 580 at Colorado River. Turn onto 442, left (south) if coming from Lampasas.
0.1	0.1	Cattle guard.
0.2	0.3	Road turns right. Houses and driveways on left.
0.2	0.5	Low water crossing.
0.3	0.8	Road to Barefoot Fishing Camp on left. Keep to right on CR 442.
1.4	2.2	Cattle guard.
0.8	3.0	Cattle guard. Road to Sulphur Springs Camp on left (County Road 446). Keep to right on CR 442.
0.6	3.6	Cattle guard. Gate and entrance sign for Colorado Bend State Park. Turn right onto rough, flagged two-track. Do NOT go through any gates!
0.2	3.8	Caver Camp. Set up in the woods anywhere around the fire circle.

* end of road log *

A location map and GPS waypoints are at <http://www.maverickgrotto.org/maps/cbsp.html>.

