

Caving Activity Guide

Goals

- Have a somewhat unusual adventure exploring a natural cavern.
- Note: caverns generally require guides so youth development goals for this outing are relatively limited.

Achievements Satisfied

This activity satisfies the following achievements.

- None.
- Notes:
 - Laurel Caverns offers a 3-hour Geology merit badge program in the morning and a 3 hour Forestry merit badge program in the afternoon.
 - There is a BSA Cave Exploration patch
 - Some caves with roped portion may satisfy portions of the Climbing merit badge.

Materials

- Duct tape to secure headlamp to helmet.
- Knee pads (optional)
- Extra clothes (will get dirty and wet in lower cavern)

Tips

- Caving can be done in fall or spring when the bats are not hibernating in the caves. Bats depart around the end of April.
- Laurel Caverns
 - Laurel Caverns PA has a large cavern with two routes. Upper cavern has paved trail and is suitable for younger scouts. Interpretive guides makes this a learning experience. Lower cavern has a mix of unpaved trail and rock scrambling, and is suitable for older scouts. Two narrow squeezes, including one 20 foot stretch where you must crawl through a tight space on hands and knees, make this unsuitable for anyone with claustrophobia. The cavern may be open to scouts one week later than the public season.
 - Camping is available nearby at Heritage Scout Reservation.