

SMALL PARTY ASSISTED RESCUE

presented by the

NORTHEASTERN REGION

OF THE

NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

Camp Pinnacle, Voorheesville, NY

July 19th – 21st, 2019



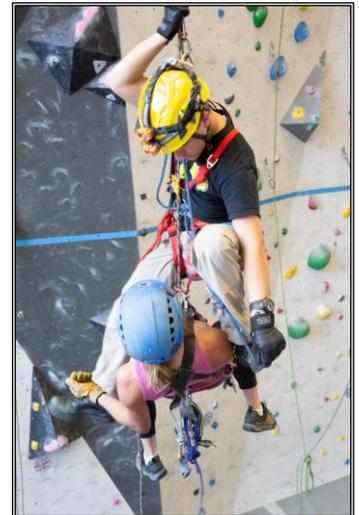
About the Course

The NCRC Small Party Assisted Rescue Course (SPAR) is an intensive three-day introduction to cave rescue techniques that can be performed by a party of six or less persons, using minimal gear normally carried on caving trips. This course teaches students how to handle common problems that arise while caving, provide basic medical care, move patients through obstacles, help persons who are stuck on rope, build and operate hauling and lowering systems, and prepare for and prevent problems with limited equipment and personnel. Not just limited to rigging, the goals of the course are to prepare cavers for survival in cave incidents and entrapments, to make decisions concerning self-extrication, and provide the technical skills necessary to help an injured, but conscious, person out of the cave through horizontal and vertical obstacles.



SPAR topics may include:

- Medical assessment and treatment
- Patient movement
- SPAR decision making / pre-planning
- Minimal gear climbing / problem solving
- Crack and crevice
- Sheltering in place
- Contingency rigging
- Converting fixed lines to lower
- Counterweight haul systems
- Traveling haul systems
- Releasable redirects
- Various pick off techniques



This course is NOT about litter-based rescues or large operations. This course is about developing the skills necessary for small parties to either self-rescue or stabilize a situation until help can arrive. Additionally, anyone with SRT skills, whether caver, rope enthusiast, or agency personnel, can benefit from this course by learning significant and critical rescue skills to be able to effectively respond in numerous environments. Students will be expected to study some material in advance so that the classroom sessions reinforce and elaborate on existing information. Skills will then be practiced in a rope gym, on cliff faces and/or underground. The course is rigging intensive, and students must be comfortable traveling on rope. The course will be demanding with long days, but will provide participants with valuable skills that can be used to help themselves and others when they are needed most.

Prerequisites

This is not a beginners' course. For safety and class efficiency, all students will be required to demonstrate competency with knots and basic vertical skills before taking this course. Testing will not be performed on the basic haul systems, but you should be familiar with these systems before your arrival. Fundamental knowledge will facilitate your success in rigging with minimal gear and in unfamiliar formats.

Please use the NCRC Level 3 Student Preparation Guide as a reference for the entrance skills expectations and testing until course specific materials are provided to you upon registration:

<http://ncrc.info/Resources/Students/Level%203/StudentPreparationGuide>



Limestone cliffs in Thacher State Park

Location, Facilities, and Accommodations

Located in scenic woodlands 2.75 hours north of New York City, Camp Pinnacle is surrounded by a whole host of caves, cliffs, and hiking trails offering panoramic views of the Adirondack and Green Mountains. Just ten minutes away, Thacher Park boasts a multitude of caves and 6 miles of limestone cliff-faces with the newest climbing area in the Northeast. We should have a great selection of training opportunities, with only a 15 minute drive to Knox, Onesquethaw, Clarksville, and Ella Armstrong Caves and

on-site access to classrooms and an indoor gymnasium. Bunkhouse lodging will provide ample space for each student, with linens available for \$25.

Ambient temperature normally stays within a comfortable range, with highs of 80°F and lows of 60°F.

Prepare for cave temperatures in the 40s and 50s, with some caves containing streams and muddy conditions.

Registration

Cost includes lodging and all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

\$230 *NSS Member*

\$250 *Non-NSS Member*

The *NCRC Manual of US Cave Rescue* is available at the discounted rate of \$40.00 each.



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Registration Link: <https://ncrc.regfox.com/2019-ncrc-spar-northeast-region>

Class size is limited to 12 students.

10% cancellation fee until June 15th

No refund for cancellation after June 15th

Schedule

Friday, Saturday: 8am – 9pm

Sunday: 8am – 4pm *(Lunch will be the last meal provided on Sunday)*

The schedule may be subject to change at instructor discretion.

White Nose Syndrome:

For the safety of the bat population, please decontaminate your gear after the seminar if you are travelling outside the region. Decontamination protocol may be found at:

https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/national_wns_decon_protocol_04.12.2016.pdf

Questions?

For questions about gear, prerequisites, or course material, contact Mark Dickey at mark@bestweb.net

For questions about registration, contact Greg Moore at northeast@ncrc.info

About the NCRC

The [National Cave Rescue Commission](http://www.ncrc.org) (NCRC) is a standing commission of the [National Speleological Society](http://www.nss.org) (NSS). It has served as the Society's representation on issues of cave rescue training and operations since 1979. The NCRC maintains a cadre of qualified cave rescue instructors to provide cave rescue training throughout the US. The NCRC is not a cave rescue team, but does track cave rescue resources and maintains equipment caches for rescues.