

Fly and Marble Cave Trip Rules

Fly and Marble caves are on private property. The property owner has generously permitted visitation to these caves provided that some simple rules are followed. The following rules have been mutually agreed upon by the Colorado Cave Survey and the property owner. Violators will be denied access to the caves and property, and could face criminal trespass charges. Failure to follow the rules may also jeopardize cave access for the rest of us.

Background information, liability waivers, and access information is available at:

http://www.coloradocavesurvey.org/CCS_Fly_Marble.html

Rules for cave access and trip scheduling

1. No commercial trips are allowed and trip leaders cannot accept payment for trips into the caves.
2. All trips must be led by an approved trip leader. All prospective trip leaders must have visited the caves at least two times previously in the past five years, must make their request to become a trip leader on one of these trips, must be vouched for by another qualified trip leader, and must have a conversation with a Fly and Marble Cave Access Coordinator to ensure they understand and can follow the rules regarding access before being added to the trip leader list. Maintaining trip leader status requires at least one trip in the previous five years.
3. Trips must be scheduled with a Fly and Marble Cave Access Coordinator at least 3 days prior to the trip. The Coordinator will contact the potential trip leader to provide lock combinations and notify the property owner that the trip has been scheduled.
4. Notice will be given to the property owner at least 48 hours before a proposed trip, and may be assumed to be approved unless the owner indicates otherwise.
5. Trips cannot begin before 9:00 AM and must be off the property by 6:00 PM, unless special permission has been granted by the owners.
6. Trips are restricted to no more than seven persons per trip leader and no fewer than three persons overall.
7. Multiple trips may be permitted into the caves during a single day.
8. Visitors to the caves shall complete liability waivers, fully and completely, prior to entering the caves; minors must have a parent or legal guardian sign and date the waiver. Signed waivers must be returned to the Colorado Cave Survey prior to the trip.
9. Cavers entering Fly cave or Marble cave must be at least 5 years old.
10. The trip leader and participants agree that the owners and the Colorado Cave Survey is in no way responsible for injuries, illness, damages, death or losses for visitors to the property.
11. An Access Coordinator or the property owner has the authority to deny anyone access to the property and the caves at any time and for any reason.

12. This property access agreement may be suspended or revoked at any time by the property owner or by the Colorado Cave Survey.

13. Trip leaders are responsible for ensuring that every person on the trip is properly equipped. This includes, as a minimum, a secure helmet with chin strap, three independent sources of light and secure footwear.

Rules for behavior on the property and in the caves

1. Visitors must park their vehicles in the designated parking area. Currently, there is an unpaved parking area in the field inside the property fence. Do not drive your vehicles to the cave entrances, randomly across the property or anywhere other than the designated parking area.

2. The trip leader is responsible for making certain that all gates are securely locked after passing through. This includes the parking lot gate and any cave gate. Any gate or lock damage must be reported to one of the access coordinators following the trip.

3. The trip leader is responsible for the safety of everyone on the trip.

4. Trip leaders must sign into registers placed within the caves, noting time of entry and exit.

5. Trip leaders are responsible for making certain that their trip participants leave no litter or human waste in the caves. No trash or waste is to be left anywhere on the property. A toilet is available on public land across the road from the gate.

6. Trip participants will not damage any cave features or formations. This includes, but is not limited to, touching, breaking, muddying, or modifying the cave environment to the detriment of the geological feature. This includes any natural feature of potential visual, speleological, mineralogical, paleontological, biological, geological or other scientific interest.

7. Participants will not disturb or harass bats or any other wildlife inside the caves or on the property.

8. Digging in passageways is permitted only with prior notification and approval of the property owners.

9. Trip participants will not remove any natural, biological, or historical materials from the caves. Exceptions may be made in the case of special scientific work that is authorized in advance by the owners and the Colorado Cave Survey.

10. Participants will not use drugs or alcoholic beverages before or during any trip or while on the property.

11. There will be no use of chewing tobacco or smoking of any material in the caves or where smoke can enter the cave environment.

12. No firearms or campfires are permitted on the property.

13. No animals or pets of any kind should be brought onto the property or into the caves.

COVID-19 guidelines:

1. Individual trip leaders reserve the right to place specific Covid-19 guidelines for their trips as needed. Please check the current Covid-19 infection metrics and prevention guidelines per the CDC website.
2. No wandering off trail or away from caves whatsoever.
3. No individuals are to enter the Blackwells' property if they have any fever or symptoms of any illness.
4. Neither the landowners nor the Colorado Cave Survey are to be held responsible in any manner for any possible exposure to COVID-19 or other diseases resulting from any visit to these caves.