Thank you for your interest in caving and for choosing the Caving Club at Indiana University (CCIU) for your caving adventures and endeavors. We hope you find value in your membership and these procedures will help you get full use of your membership. We realize there is a lot of bureaucracy involved with caving and/or the university, so this article was created to help ease some of the pains. This article serves as an expansion of the CCIU bylaws and constitution that can be found on the website (indiana.edu/~iusc) or Facebook. The CCIU constitution supersedes all standard operating procedures (SOPs). We encourage you to give us feedback on these procedures and the club in general. This feedback will help to improve the future of this club.

Sincerely,
The Officers of CCIU

Mission

The Caving Club at Indiana University provides a safe and educational atmosphere where students, faculty, staff and community members of all experience levels can learn responsible caving practices with opportunities to visit caves around the area. We provide members with resources for caving and experiences for personal advancement through leadership roles, conservation, surveying, community involvement, and rescue.

Meetings

CCIU holds a meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, during the academic school year. The meetings are held in the Geology Building (room 143 or 126) and usually last an hour or two. These meetings give updates about upcoming events, trips, and other relevant information about the club. Also, there is always some type of interesting presentation related to caving.

Come to these meetings to find out more about the club, pay membership dues, buy T-shirts, or just to enjoy the wonderful presenters we host.

Membership

All members must be at least 18 years of age or older (or a fulltime student at Indiana University with parental permission). Members must pay the annual dues of $15 to activate their membership. Your membership starts from the date you fill out the CCIU waiver and pay dues, and your membership is good until that date the following year. It is up to you to make the most of your membership. The membership fee is waived for all CCIU Officers, active Trip Leaders, and active Mentors. If you have any questions, please contact the CCIU Membership Coordinator.

Club Communication

The Facebook Group: Caving Club at Indiana University is currently the primary means to communicate within CCIU. If you’re on our Facebook Group, you should be getting all of the information you need. Secondly, our List-Serv: cciu-l@list.indiana.edu is used to communicate with members that do not have a Facebook. All posts to the List Serve are taken from Facebook and it is only updated with important information periodically.

Driving
Driving is critical for caving trips to happen as there are no caves on campus. All CCIU members with a valid driver’s license and insurance should submit the below form to the IU Office of Insurance, Loss Control & Claims (INLOCC; address below). This must be filled out before driving on a CCIU trip. Members cannot be assigned to specific vehicles; they must choose who to ride with per IU policy.

400 E. 7th Street Room 705, Bloomington, IN 47405  
812-855-9758 FAX 812-855-9320

http://inlocc.webhost.iu.edu/Forms/DLSubmission_nonemployee.pdf

***If you cannot drive, please offer money to the Driver for gas/vehicle wear and tear. This is an awkward situation and most Drivers don’t want to have to ask for money, but they will want and appreciate it. ***

General Gear List

*Helmet with chin strap* - or use CCIU equipment (see CCIU Equipment Check procedure below).

*Primary Headlamp* - or use CCIU equipment

*Secondary Headlamp* - or use CCIU equipment

*Four (4) AA Batteries* - if using CCIU headlamps. 3 AA batteries for primary light and 1 AA battery for the secondary light.

*Extra batteries* - don't rely on old batteries

*Extra light sources* - one non-electric, e.g. emergency glowstick, candle w/ waterproof Matches.

*Caving Clothes* – Wear clothes that can get wet, muddy, and ruined. Synthetics are great for wet caving due to their moisture wicking ability. Hiking clothes work fairly well, but caves can be unforgiving. Ensure you enjoy caving before making an investment in expensive caving clothes.

*Complete Change of Clothes* – to change into after the trip (spare shoes and underwear too!)

*Durable/Grippy Shoes or Boots* - hiking shoes/boots work great. Waterproof is far less important while caving because generally when there is water, it's probably over your shoes. Again, caves can be unforgiving to shoes so make sure you like it before making a huge investment.

*Soft Knee Pads* - should be worn at all times for almost all caving trips. You can buy cheap volleyball knee pads or expensive caving knee pads. You get what you pay for, but make sure you enjoy the sport before making huge investments. Plastic/hard knee pads tend to work poorly in caving conditions.

*Gloves* - grippy nitrile dipped garden gloves are good

*Cave Pack* - fanny or lumbar packs work great for short trips if they can hold your water; some backpacks are okay, but things tend to get caught on cave features fairly easily and zippers work poorly in caving conditions and

*Extra Large Garbage Bag* - to go inside your cave pack (this is for emergency warmth; all cavers should have one in their pack!)

*Water* - enough for the trip and then some. Hard plastic water bottles or tough hydration bladders work and pack great (e.g. Camelbak, Nalgene, etc)

*Food* - think about food items that hold up to getting dragged, thrown around, or squished. Bring enough to sustain yourself for the entire trip. Being properly fed and hydrated can make the difference between a good or bad caving trip.

*Trash Bag* - for dirty clothes storage on return trip.
*Towel* - for its many uses before and after the trip.
*Lysol Disinfectant Wipes* - for WNS cleanup (see after the trip)

**Equipment Check-Out**

CCIU members have the privilege to check out gear such as helmets, primary headlamp, and secondary headlamp from Trip Leaders during CCIU events and activities.

Upon checking out a helmet and headlamp, ensure everything is functional and tell the Trip Leader if it is not. We have a variety of helmets, so please choose a helmet that fits your head. Do a rigorous “shake” test to ensure your helmet stays on your head and is comfortable. The equipment you check out is your responsibility. Any damages beyond normal wear and tear incurred to equipment or loss of equipment is the responsibility of the member.

Upon returning equipment, please remove all batteries from headlamps and ask the Trip Leader where they want to you put the dirty helmets and gear. Explain if there were any problems you experience with the gear.

**Caving Trips and Events**

**Prior to the Trip**

All participants must be an active member before participating in any CCIU event, no exceptions. Trips are posted on our Facebook Group as an Event and/or the List Serve and usually have a member cap, depending on the cave, landowner, or Trip Leader preference.

Trips are first come-first serve after you meet the minimum experience requirements set by the Trip Leader (e.g. trips are rated on a spectrum of beginner, intermediate, and advanced using Trip Leader or Club knowledge of the cave and what you'll be doing in that cave).

***Your "Going" Facebook event status is your RSVP for that trip. Please only mark this category only if you can commit to going. List-Serv members should contact the Trip Leader. For all members, if your status of commitment changes, please contact the Trip Leader at least 24 hours in advance so someone else on the waitlist can attend. Failure to do this may result in you getting bumped on future trips. You have been warned!***

Ensure you have the recommended gear prior to your trip (see Gear List above for more details) and any landowner liability waivers emailed to the Trip Leader if requested. Don't expect a gas station stop for food, batteries, etc. Pack your gear and change of clothes the night before to ensure a speedy departure from your home.

**Day of the trip**

Ensure you are well rested and eat a good breakfast as caving requires a lot of energy and endurance. Drink plenty of water; hydration is happiness.

Double-check that you have all of your gear and change of clothes. Arrive ON TIME to the parking lot directly behind Geology, at the picnic table. If it's particularly cold, the Trip Leader may be inside the double doors. Currently, there is free parking on Cottage Grove Ave. behind Geology.

Become an active CCIU member, if not already. Everyone should sign in on the trip roster with up-to-date emergency contact information and whatever gear you are checking out. Fill out any waivers for the cave you are visiting. Be patient as the Trip Leader ensures everyone is being taken care of and CCIU safety calls are notified and sent the trip roster.
During the Trip
Stay with the group and follow Trip Leader instructions. Speak up if you need help or have questions. Help each other in difficult situations. Encourage yourself and others to GET DIRTY and HAVE FUN!

After the Trip
***To reiterate, if you did not drive, please offer money to the driver for gas/vehicle wear and tear. This is an awkward situation and most Drivers don't want to have to ask for money, but they will want and appreciate it.***

Sign out and return gear to the Trip Leader. Be sure to note any issues with gear before and after the trip. Remove your batteries from the headlights.

To prevent mold and mildew formation on your caving clothes, be sure to remove your caving clothes from your trash bag upon returning home. This prevents future stinky clothes. : )

We advise all members to follow the most up-to-date US Fish and Wildlife Service - White Nose Syndrome decontamination protocol found here: https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination

How to become a Trip Leader:

Trip Leaders are necessary for all CCIU trips and such a crucial part to this club. If you really enjoy caving, leading trips is the next step and will make you a better caver. It may seem daunting to be the leader, but CCIU is ready to bring you fully up to speed and help you along the way.

BE A TRIP LEADER; YOU ARE OUR FUTURE!

*Take an Orientation to Cave Rescue Course (offered every other year)*
*Be an active member for two semesters (Spring, Summer, or Fall)*
*Successfully co-lead a trip with an active Trip Leader*
*Gain 2/3 vote of confidence from the Officers*

See Trip Leader SOP for details on how to lead trips.

Trip Leader Incentives

5 trips or more with two beginner trips: $30 gift card
3 trips or more with one beginner trip: CCIU T-shirt or $10 gift card
1 trip: Free CCIU membership

How to become an Officer:

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that Officers first gain Trip Leader status prior to running for office. Positions for the next year are elected by 2/3 of the current Officer vote before the final meeting of the Spring semester.

Current Officers
President: Melissa Fitzpatrick – melfitzp@indiana.edu
Vice President: June Bowman – alisbowm@umail.iu.edu
Membership/Treasurer: Caroline Bedwell – carbedwe@umail.iu.edu
Fundraiser: Jonathan Kruse – jkruse1987@gmail.com
Equipment Manager: Justin Thompson – jthompson@mrdelivery.com
Secretary: Susan Reed – susan22.reed@gmail.com
Adviser: Chris Parks – cparks@indiana.edu
Current Mentors
Kevin Romanak – kromanak@indiana.edu
Danyele Cottrell – dcottrel@iu.edu
Tymme Laun – chaoslodge@comcast.net