

# SPELEOLOGICAL UNION OF IRELAND

## The National Organization for Caving Throughout Ireland

# S.U.I.

## Caving in Ireland



- To support safe caving and to provide training in caving techniques and practices.
- To strive for the conservation of caves at home and abroad.
- To facilitate the introduction of beginners to caving and promote high standards of leadership and safety for such activities.
- To provide and maintain services as required by cavers.
- To promote the interests of Irish cavers.

### AIMS

### SERVICES FOR CAVERS

- Regular newsletters free to members.
- An occasional journal – Irish Speleology with exploration reports and research articles.
- Training courses for cavers.
- An annual symposium.
- Conservation guidelines.
- Negotiation in access disputes.
- Access to insurance.
- A library of caving books and magazines.
- Support for international sports exchanges and expeditions.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SUI is open to any individuals, clubs or groups who wish to pursue the aims of SUI. There are two categories of membership:

**FULL** – provides personal accident insurance cover and third party cover, plus delivery of “Underground” newsletter.

**BASIC** – includes only third party insurance cover and access to “Underground” via the internet.

## A CAVE CONSERVATION CODE

Take nothing but photographs

Avoid touching or damaging formations

Cave with care and within your abilities

Protect cave wildlife and do not disturb bats

Keep to marked routes and do not cross

conservation tapes

Do not pollute caves: leave nothing behind

you, clean up litter

Archeological and other remains should not

be disturbed

Do not interfere with scientific equipment in

caves

Set a good example for other cavers to follow

Respect the rights and privacy of land owners

Follow any access agreements

## EXPEDITION SUPPORT

Caves are found in many countries of the world, once competent in basic safe caving and rescue techniques most cavers want to see caves in other parts of the world. International caving plays an important part in the development of the sport and it's participants. SUI therefore offers financial support to members on genuine caving expeditions that can show they are helping to develop the sport.

## THE STRUCTURE AND HISTORY OF SUI

SUI was first established in 1979 and is recognized by the Irish Sports Council and the Northern Irish Sports Council as the NGB for caving and potholing throughout Ireland. In 2002 SUI was set up as a limited company to give some protection from litigation to the committee and members. SUI has three directors whose role is to oversee the organization and to ensure accurate financial records are kept. A committee is elected annually at the AGM to manage day-to-day business.

## TRAINING

Developing your skills in caving requires knowledge of equipment, safety, geology, weather, first aid and leadership. Training is vital in learning these skills and SUI runs regular training courses in personal skills and leadership skills for caving. These courses are open to all members.



## ACCESS TO CAVES

Most caves are found on private land and without access across this land there is no caving. All cavers must respect land owners rights, showing them due respect and consideration and be especially careful if crossing walls or fences. SUI will negotiate with landowners on behalf of cavers where there are access difficulties.

## INSURANCE

Caving is an adventure sport with inherent risks SUI recommends that cavers should have adequate insurance cover.

Third party cover is available to members through SUI's affiliation to the British Caving Association.

Personal accident cover is available to members through SUI's affiliation to the French Speleological Federation.