

SMALL PARTY ASSISTED RESCUE

a technical seminar presented by the
Rocky Mountain Region of the
NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION
and the

Colorado Cave Rescue Network

Eagle County, Colorado

October 12-15, 2017



About the Seminar

The NCRC's Small Party Assisted Rescue (SPAR) seminar 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 most problems that arise while caving, including basic medical skills, moving patients through obstacles, helping persons who are stuck on rope, building and operating haul and lower systems, and how to prepare for and prevent problems with limited equipment and personnel. 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 setting, then expanded upon at cliff faces and/or cave sites. 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

For safety and class efficiency, all students will be required to demonstrate basic vertical skills before taking this course. Required skills, including knots and single rope techniques are described here:

[http://caves.org/commission/ncrc/national/NCRC Student Area/L1 EntryPrepPkg HO v140308.pdf](http://caves.org/commission/ncrc/national/NCRC%20Student%20Area/L1%20EntryPrepPkg%20HO%20v140308.pdf).

Students are highly encouraged to contact a local NCRC instructor to check off on these skills prior to the class. Those not completing the entry test prior to the seminar may do so on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 12, between 6 and 9pm. Any students not checked off by then will not be allowed to participate in this seminar. For questions, contact Andy Armstrong canyoncovers@gmail.com.

Registration

Cost: \$150 - includes three days of instruction, course manual, lodging, and some meals. Class size is limited to 16 students. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com and enter "Small Party Assisted Rescue – Eagle County, Colorado." Refunds will not be available.

Schedule*

Each day of the seminar will begin at 8:00 a.m. Day 1 and 2 will end at 7:00 p.m., with optional attendance for lectures and demonstrations later in the evening. Day 3 will end around 4:00 p.m. Students should be prepared each day for classroom, rope gym, and cliff or cave activities.

*The schedule is subject to change at the instructors' discretion.

Please see next page for more information.



Photo by Jansen Cardy

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Accommodations

Our base camp for this seminar will be the friendly confines of The Timberwolf at Cotton Ranch, in Gypsum, Colorado. Lodging, showers, group meals, and classroom sessions will be here. Sleeping area preference will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Some students will need to sleep on couches or on the floor.



The Timberwolf at Cotton Ranch, Gypsum, CO

Field Sites/ Weather

This training takes place in the Rocky Mountains in mid-October. Some field sites will be as high as 9,900 feet. The weather will likely be cool and dry, but is highly variable and students should come prepared for winter weather, rain, and snow. You will be asked at registration to see if you have a 4WD vehicle that you would be willing to drive students between field sites for the class should conditions warrant it.

Required Equipment for All Participants

1. **HELMET.** A caving or climbing helmet is preferred. Construction-type or other helmets must have a 3 or 4-point chinstrap.
2. **LIGHTS.** Three dependable, independent sources of light. At least 2 must be helmet mountable.
3. **RUGGED CLOTHING.** Cave suit recommended. Must have insulating layers, and a shell layer.
4. **GLOVES.** Leather or rubber caving gloves
5. **BOOTS.** Sturdy, lug-soled boots with good support. NO tennis shoes!
6. **FOOD.** Quick energy, ready to eat (trail mix, candy bars, cheese, etc.).
7. **WATER.** 2 liters minimum capacity.
8. **SMALL PACK.** Rugged enough for the cave environment.
9. **FOUR CARABINERS.** Four extra carabiners that are not part of your SRT gear.
10. **SRT GEAR.**
 - Sewn seat harness
 - an ascending system that includes:
 - at least two gripping points of attachment above the waist
 - mechanical ascender attached to the seat harness that can be manipulated with one hand
 - a tether attached to the seat harness with a carabiner (non-lock OK) on the free end, independent of an ascender
 - approved descent devices include standard rack, 4-bar micro-rack with hyperbar, bobbin with safety carabiner, or Rescue Eight with ears
11. **RESCUE GEAR.** Any pulleys, prusiks, webbing, or small rescue gear that you normally carry in your cave pack.

Questions?

For **questions** regarding gear, prerequisites, or seminar material, contact Andy Armstrong, canyoncavers@gmail.com.

For **questions** regarding registration, contact Bonny Armstrong, bonnyarmstrong@gmail.com

About the NCRC

The National Cave Rescue Commission is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society. It serves as the society's representative on issues of cave rescue training and operations. By design, the NCRC is not an operating cave rescue team. Rather, its mission is to provide training and development opportunities for persons and organizations engaged in cave rescue activities.