



ROLE OF THE CAVE / MINE LEADER

Technical Expert	Be sufficiently familiar with the techniques and specialist equipment to ensure safe use underground and correct care and maintenance.
Disciplinarian	To possess authority, if necessary, to control the actions of group. In matters of safety and conservation the group MUST obey the leader.
Caver / Mine Explorer	Have a genuine interest in the underground environment and to maintain enthusiasm and commitment. Indifference or lack of enthusiasm is often noticed by the novice.
Educator	Instruct in the necessary technical skills, environmental awareness, cave formations, geology, biology, conservation at the appropriate level.
Friend	Maintain a meaningful personal relationship to enhance the relevance of the underground experience to the novice.
Protector	Minimise risks in a hostile environment. Possess a detailed knowledge of real and potential hazards and the technical skills necessary to protect the novice in the optimum fashion.
Actor	Have the ability to use many different leadership styles to meet the needs of the group and the situation.
Psychologist	Have the ability to use different styles of interpersonal relationship to suit the novice(s) and the situation, e.g. psychological support of nervous or distressed novices.
Organiser	Be able to arrange equipment, transport, venue, information to parents, approval by authority, destination notes, etc.
Guide	Select routes, points of interest, caving anecdotes and manage your party.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CAVE / MINE LEADER

Individual Novice	Safety, comfort, physical and psychological needs and enjoyment. A meaningful and relevant underground experience.
Party of Novices	A meaningful and relevant social experience. Should be co-operative, caring and supportive rather than aggressive, competitive and self-centred.
Landowners, Farmers, Gamekeepers	Extreme sensitivity is necessary to maintain access. Novice parties are responsible for the heaviest use of some underground sites and this can jeopardise local access arrangements.
Employing Authority	Are the nature and style of novice caving activities compatible with any stated educational aims and objectives? Is there an outdoor education policy? Are there any rules, regulations or guidance which may affect caving activities?
Other Cavers	Respect the rights of club explorers to enjoy the underground environment without excessive inconvenience, e.g. traffic jams caused by novice parties. Plan alternative venues at weekends or Bank Holidays.
Cave, Pothole or Mine	Carefully select the venue to minimise risk of damage to a fragile and scarce environment. Educate novices to share a sensitive minimum impact approach.