

# **TRIP REPORT FORM**

## **AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**DATE:** 9/2/2023

**CAVE:** Whirlpool Cave/Avery Ranch Cave

**STATE:** Texas

**COUNTY:** Travis County

**SPECIFIC AREA:** Through-trip

**TEAM LEADER:** Jakob Denton (primary), Kyle Welborn (secondary)

**TEAM MEMBERS:** Jakob Denton, Kyle Welborn, Caleb Crubaugh, Chris Griffin, Dheep Dalamal, Joshua Brookshire, Drew Zivley, Chance Slaughter.

**TIME ENTERED:** 2PM

**EXIT TIME:** 6PM

### **PURPOSE OF THE TRIP**

Recreational trip to introduce new members to the sport of caving and educate them on the basics of caving..

### **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR TRIP AND ANY SPECIAL OBSERVATION**

The Aggie Grotto departed at 9:20AM from the Walmart parking lot in College Station Texas. We traveled to the Avery Ranch educational show cave where we met with Underground Texas Grotto's Ethan Pereine (Avery Ranch Preserve manager). We entered Avery Ranch and Ethan gave an extremely informational lecture about basic cave processes and why our common caving practices are important. This lecture was extremely helpful for new members and provided them with an in-depth view of how caves form, equipping them with useful knowledge for our subsequent Whirlpool Cave recreation trip. Total time spent in Avery Ranch was approximately 40 minutes. After exiting the Avery Ranch Preserve Ethan showed us a couple of projects on the property and spoke more on cave digs.



*Aggie Grotto members listening to Ethan Perreine's lecture in Avery Ranch Cave Preserve  
Photo by Jakob Denton*



*Ethan Perreine Showing Aggie Grotto members a project on the property*  
*Photo by Jakob Denton*

We said our goodbyes to Ethan and we headed to Whirlpool Cave for our recreational trip. Upon arrival we donned our equipment then trip leaders proceeded to look over everyone's gear making sure they had appropriate caving attire. We then conducted a wellness check on the group and proceeded to enter the cave. Jakob took point while Kyle took up the rear. We entered the first chamber, made sure no one was freaking out yet, then proceeded with our adventure. We swiftly made our way to the Travis County Room with a few brief stops to ensure no one was getting left behind or over-exerted. Upon entering the Travis County Room Jakob conducted a pop-quiz and began asking questions regarding Ethan's lecture in Avery Ranch. Correct answers were rewarded with protection from the C.H.U.D.S. that are (not) known to inhabit the Whirlpool Cave Preserve. Incorrect answers were punished with solo duels against curious C.H.U.D.S. who (did not) approach the group. Following the pop-quiz, each of our group members did the optional rabbit hole challenge. After everyone discovered that they are smaller than they think, we ate our in-cave snacks and had 10 minutes of quiet dark time as is customary. Jakob awoke the group by playing the



song “Couch”, as is customary, and the group proceeded to the “Birth Canal”. The group promptly conquered the squeeze and moved on towards the “BF’d” passage. After a meticulous battle, we overcame the infamous “BF’d passage” and entered the final chamber of our recreational trip. At this time it was apparent that our group was fatigued so we decided to take a water break and head back towards sweet, supple, sunlight. The return journey was much quicker as usual. We took fewer breaks, but continued to move at an enjoyable pace. After an extremely fun adventure, we exited Whirlpool Cave around 6PM. Total time spent in Whirlpool was approximately 4 hours. After locking the cave, taking a baby wipe shower, and changing clothes, our group proceeded to Jasmine’s Mexican Cafe to enjoy some lovingly made sketch-mex as is customary. Our group arrived back at the College Station Walmart parking lot around 10PM. We bid each other goodnight having completed a successful day of educational and recreational caving, feeling exhausted yet satisfied..



*Pictured: Chance Slaughter completing the “Rabbit Hole” challenge  
Photo by Jakob Denton*



*Pictured: Aggie Grotto members atop a small breakdown pile  
Photo by Jakob Denton*