

The background is a dark brown cave interior. On the left, a large stalactite hangs from the ceiling. On the right, a large stalagmite rises from the floor. The floor is covered with various sized rocks and stalagmites. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**Welcome to the  
First ASS Meeting  
of the Year!**



**'25- '26 Officers**

# Outreach

Dylan Oliphint  
Class of '27  
Multidisciplinary Engineering

- Emerged from Weatherford, TX
- A TRUE ASS MAN
- Hobbies: Robots, and going in/out of muddy holes
- Fav Cave: Lake Cave, NM



# Webmaster

Christian Argenbright

B.S. Biomedical Engineering, Pre Med Minor  
Class of '28

- From Dallas
- BBQ'd Competitively in High School
- My favorite cave is Carlsbad Cavern in Carlsbad Caverns National Park
- Love to go hiking, cycling, backpacking
- Other things I like: Sci-fi and horror, Grouplove, Science Research, alt-rock music, and Battleship





# Quartermaster

Cassidy Whitehead

B.S. Molecular and Cell Biology

Class of '25

- from San Antonio, TX
- favorite cave: Deep, TX
- big science guy (aspiring)
- hobbies/interests: traveling, digs, music, outdoor activities



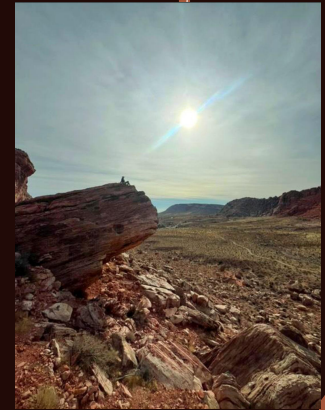
# Quartermaster

Kayla Boggess

B.S. Geology

Class of ???

- from Houston, TX
- favorite cave: Sand Cave, NM
- pockets full of rocks
- hobbies/interests: rocks, caves, rock climbing, anything with rocks





# Safety Officer

Russell Oplinger

Nuclear Engineering Ph.D.

Class of '23

- Bryan Native
- Proud Member of M.M.A
- Favorite Cave: Sand Cave
- History & Outdoor Enthusiast
- Other hobbies: 3D Printing, Reading, Gardening
- Caving Interests: Survey, Restoration, & Rescue



# Secretary

Jakob Denton  
BS Rangeland Wildlife & Fisheries Management  
Class of '24

- Crawled out of Nordheim TX
- ASS enthusiast
- Favorite cave: Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave TN
- Soilz
- Hobbies: bodybuilding, One Piece
- Proud Triple M member





# Treasurer

Ben Walker

BS in Accounting MS in Financial Management  
Class of '25

- Born in Houston
- 4th year in ASS
- Favorite cave: Jester Cave, OK
- Hobbies: Lego, Movie Theaters, Mixology, Playing Music



# Vice President

Nicolas Vain

Geology Major

Class of '28

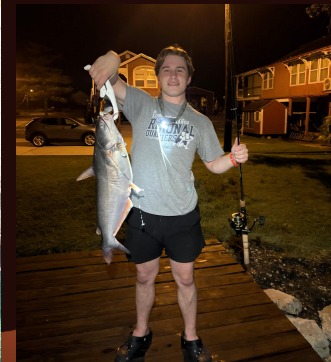
- From: Georgetown, TX
- Cave digger
- Favorite Cave: Lake Cave, NM
- Love 70s - 80s Rock
- Cats
- Running





# President

- My name is Kyle Welborn
- Senior chemical engineering major
- From Houston
- Favorite cave is Tumbling Rock, in Alabama



Jenna Crabtree  
M.S. HMGT - thesis '30  
B.S. ENST '24

# University Advisor

- Jenks, Oklahoma
- Favorite Cave: Carlsbad Cavern, located in Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)
- Explorer's Club Member
- 2025 NSS Webinar Series Committee Chair
- 2025 NCKMS Hospitality Director
- 2027 NSS Convention Howdy Party & Campground Party Chair
- Only exists for Carlsbad and cave mentorship/restoration, without these life is dull and meaningless
- Cave Interests: Cartography, Education/Outreach, Expeditions, Management, Restoration (CFRP), Survey
- Cave Accomplishments: NCRC Level I, WKU Cartography Certificate, NPS Volunteer, 3rd place TSA Spring Convention Cartography Salon, TX Cave Princess:)
- Cave Community Interactions: TCR ('22, '23, '24), TSA Spring Convention ('23, '24), NSS Convention ('22, '23), NCKMS ('23)
- I genuinely see you all as my beautiful freaky offspring and i love you
- I like old people things



Peep the moonrocks but no dexter->





# HYPE VIDEO - easy

HYPE VIDEO HARDDDDDDDDDDDD

The background of the slide is a dark brown cave interior. In the top left, there are several stalactites hanging down. In the top right, there are large, jagged rock formations. In the bottom left and bottom right, there are more rock formations and stalagmites. The overall lighting is dim, with some highlights on the rock surfaces.

# What is ASS?

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The Aggie Speleological Society is an organization of underground enthusiasts that have been at A&M for over 50 years.

We discuss just about anything and everything that has to do with caves, so this is for you if you are interested in cave formation, biology, exploration, digging, cartography, conservation, restoration, equipment, rope work, and much more!

The background is a dark brown cave interior. In the top left, a jagged rock formation hangs down. In the top right, a large rock formation has several long, white, icicle-like stalactites hanging from it. In the bottom left, there is a tall, pointed rock formation with horizontal layers. In the bottom right, there are several smaller rock formations, including a small white rock and a larger, more complex one. The overall lighting is dim, with the text area being slightly brighter than the surrounding cave walls.

# How to Join?

It is super easy! Just join the GroupMe that will be shown at the end, and come on out to meetings every Thursday in HEB 203. Dues? The Aggie Speleological Society does not have any! Learning about caves is free for all A&M students.

The background is a dark brown cave interior. On the right side, there are several stalactites hanging from the ceiling. On the left side, there are some stalagmites rising from the floor. The overall lighting is dim, with a slightly lighter brown area at the top and bottom edges.

**What if I want to go caving?**



# The Aggie Grotto is for you!

The Aggie Grotto is a chapter of the National Speleological Society and an affiliate of ASS.

It is a separate organization that participates in recreational and project caving trips throughout the United States.





# About the Aggie Grotto

This is where many of the ASS teachings are applied to introduce new cavers to the wonders of caving and, eventually, the wider caving community as a whole.

As a new member, you can expect to get into a cave basically as soon as you want. Your first trip will be to what we consider an easier cave where you can get a feel for being underground.

The background of the slide is a dark brown cave interior. At the top, several stalactites of various shapes and sizes hang down. At the bottom, there are several stalagmites and some large, flat rock formations. The overall color palette is shades of brown and tan.

# More About the Grotto

A lot of the caves we go to are at least 2-5 hours away, so we often camp.

A typical Aggie Grotto trip will have a group of about 20 people leave on a friday evening after classes, camp upon arrival, cave on saturday, hang out that evening, pack up and leave Sunday morning. The price of food and gas is split between all who go on the trip.

Some trips require the use of a vertical equipment set to ascend and descend down rope, and the grotto offers vertical training for these situations.

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# How to Join?

Anybody in the TAMU/BCS area can join.

The Aggie Grotto does have dues that cover equipment like helmets, rope, vertical sets, and other various gear.

Sign the safety waiver, safe caving contract, and fill out an emergency contact information form.

If you are interested, get in line to fill out paperwork/pay dues.

If you are not sure yet, no problem! Talk to me, another officer, or keep coming to free ASS meetings until you decide. No need to pay dues until you want to participate in a grotto only event.



# First Caving Opportunity!

The Aggie Grotto is going to Whirlpool on 9/7, 9/13, and 9/14.

This is a day trip to Austin with 8-9 other grotto members including two officer trip leads.

TCMA (Texas Cave Management Association) caves require those who enter to be TCMA members. This requires a \$15 donation once a year, but this will also allow you to get into other caves as well.



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# Vertical Trainings

The grotto has a newly revised system for vertical trainings. Specific details will be provided at your first session. The updated procedures can also be found on the website. This is where grotto members can sign up to be vertically trained and checked off to go to vertical caves that will be introduced later in the semester.

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# The Descent Social Tomorrow

We will put on one of our ASS favorites, The Descent.

8pm

The background of the slide is a dark brown cave interior. In the top left, a large, jagged stalactite hangs down. In the bottom left, a tall, pointed stalagmite rises from the ground. On the right side, a large, textured rock formation with several vertical stalactites is visible. The overall lighting is dim, with some highlights on the rock surfaces.

# Knot Night

This is a more informative social where we hangout like The Descent social tomorrow, but we practice some knots that are very useful for caving purposes.

Next friday September 12th.

This will also help give a boost for when you attempt vertical training.



# Aggie Speleological Society Group Me





# Whirlpool Sign Up 9/7/25



# Whirlpool Sign Up 9/13/25



# Whirlpool Sign Up 9/14/25



# Outreach Committee Sign Up







# Stay After If You:

- Need to fill out the Safe Caving Contract, pay Grotto dues, etc...
  - Have any questions about Caving?
  - Signed up for Whirlpool on Sunday
  - Want to introduce yourself