

I believe in the NSS-CDS, its mission, its members and its legacy. I am honored to be nominated for the NSS-CDS Board of Directors.

I earned my NSS-CDS Full Cave diver rating in 1999. I have a vested interest in this organization that I worked so hard to be part of as a new cave diver. I remember a sense of accomplishment and honor upon graduation and receiving my certification card in the mail as an NSS-CDS cave diver and member. I would love to support its forward efforts.

I am an active cave diver and an NSS-CDS Cavern / Basic Cave instructor in our community. My experience includes extensive involvement with the Cambrian Foundation dive team, both locally and internationally, collaborating in cave exploration and scientific diving efforts always integrating educational components with students, concerned citizens and at times local government. I have been the Expedition Dive Safety Officer on local and international expeditions crafting emergency evacuation protocols with local hyperbaric facilities and medical services. I have volunteered with CDS projects over the years and serving as Volunteer Coordinator for our International Cave Diving Conference twice.

Conservation is essential for long term health and who better to be the eyes and voice of the caves than the cave divers? We are the advocates for and protectors of them. We do this through education and practices that minimize our impact on the caves while preserving access. Efforts begin in the classroom. I am for distinctive training through the NSS-CDS that has the highest standard of all. Although agencies have different philosophies, I support efforts that strive for us to work together for the good of our communities and the aquatic environments that we enjoy and depend on.

The CDS has been the voice of cave diving since its inception in the early 70s. The voice today, however, is somewhat muted. While the NSS-CDS was one of the first cave diver training organizations, many other training agencies are now available. We must strive to preserve our identity and leadership in the community.

I want to help reinforce the NSS-CDS leadership with priorities of practical conservation, community support and quality training.

Below are a few key focus points that encapsulate my philosophies and goals.

- Help make the NSS-CDS an organization that is sought after for cave divers and local environmentally concerned citizens
- Strengthen the established NSS-CDS outreach platforms, for example, web-based, social media, UWS
- Enhance the emphasis on conservation in cave diving education and for the non-diving community, with a stronger focus on young people, and beginning with human impact on the surface
- Promote global educational outreach to encourage stewardship of aquatic environments; providing opportunities to make a positive difference
- Actively support the NSS-CDS cave diver training program
- Keep the legacy of cave diving alive