



**Memorandum of Agreement
Between
Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
and
Benjamin Skinner**

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) and **Benjamin Skinner**, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to engage in an **Opening J C Sinkrim Hole Project** within SCCi's **Charles B. Henson Cave Preserve** property.

The period of this agreement is from **February 10, 2023 to June 30, 2023**. This MOA is valid to the named applicant until it expires or is rescinded by the SCCi. However, the MOA becomes immediately void if the applicant violates the terms and/or conditions of the MOA or any non-excluded provisions of the management policy as determined by the designated project representative of SCCi. If there is a conflict between terms in this MOA and the Special Use Permit (SUP) for this project (attached), the MOA governs.

Responsibilities of Benjamin Skinner

The applicant agrees to follow the protocols outlined in their SUP request submitted on February 3, 2023, and to abide by the following restrictions:

- Although the SUP request specifies a single date for the project (February 11, 2023), multiple trips are authorized during the term of this Agreement subject to certain terms below.
- If significant cave is discovered, provide a digital map in PDF format at 300 dpi. In-cave sketches will be drawn at a scale of at least 20 ft/inch and drafted at same.
- Provide a digital version of all data (provide scans of survey notes at 300 dpi), maps, photographs and reports generated as part of this project to SCCi for unrestricted use; maps and photographs remain the property of their creator(s).
- Provide a brief digital narrative (email acceptable) of each project trip before embarking on the next trip.
- No collection of samples or cave specimens is authorized under this MOA.
- Modifications to the cave are restricted to manual digging and use of small explosive charges in a process known as rock shaving as described in the SUP request. Safety precautions will be

employed to reduce risk to both project participants and the cave environment. Be aware that removing rock may destabilize a passage that has been at equilibrium for a long period of time.


- Schedule the digging trips and coordinate activities through SCCi's online permitting system.
- Limit the total number of people entering the Preserve to a maximum of six people, excluding any representative of SCCi. And
- Whatever else the Vice-chair deems necessary.

Responsibilities of SCCi:

- Designates members of the Henson Preserve Management Team as SCCi Project Representatives
- SCCi will provide reasonable access to the property

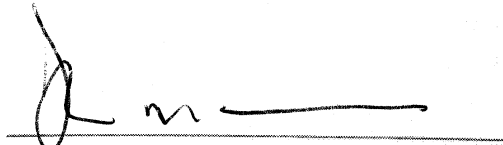
Attachments: SUP request

Accepted By:



(Applicant)

02/10/2023
(Date)



(SCCi Vice-chair)

10 Feb 2023
(Date)

Memorandum of Agreement
Opening J C Sinkrim Hole Project
Benjamin Skinner
February 9, 2023

Attachment

Special Use Permit Request

Special Use Permit Application

SCCi requires Special Use Permits (SUP) for all non-research activities that (1) fall outside typical recreational use of a preserve, (2) have the potential to impact preserves/caves, their natural or cultural resources, or (3) interfere with the visitor experience.

If you're not sure whether your proposed activity requires an SUP, please email permits@scci.org with the details of what you would like to do.

Examples when a Special Use Permit (or, in some cases, a Research Permit) is needed include, but are not limited to:

- Any activity prohibited or listed as requiring a special use permit in an SCCi preserve management plan, visitor use plan, or policy. (e.g., group sizes that exceed limits; camping; disturbing, collecting, or removing artifacts, biota or geologic media (just to be clear, the mud that sticks to your shoes, clothes or gear is OK!), digging in the cave or on the preserve, modifying the cave passage, bolting of any nature, removal or replacement of existing bolts or rigging, use of rigging points other than those allowed, etc.)
- Cave exploration and survey. If you found a previously unknown or unexplored cave on an SCCi preserve; discovered previously unknown passage within a known cave; want to do a lead climb to explore a high lead, dome, or canyon; or want to re-survey a previously mapped cave, you need a SUP. All new cave exploration will follow a "survey-as-you-explore" ethic, and that all cave survey activities will meet our current survey standards.
- Cleanup activities beyond the removal of typical incidental modern litter that may accumulate in caves and on preserves. A SUP is required for organized group cleanups; large-scale waste removal; or **ANY** graffiti removal, or formation cleaning.

An approved SUP permits the special use and may have a duration of up to one year. A visitor permit is required for each time members of the team will be on the preserve.

Please provide a brief summary of the project. Detailed information should be provided under the specific sections that follow.

Applicant:

Benjamin Skinner

Abstract or Summary:

J C Sinkrim Hole was inspected on a recent visit to the property and it was found that the entrance was impassable. The cave has significant airflow and most likely connects to Johnson's Crook Cave. Widening of this entrance would either confirm the connection to Johnson's Crook Cave or open up a new possibly significant cave that also has significant airflow within the same sinkhole. This project would benefit the GSS and SCCI by either opening a new cave or confirming the connection to a known cave.

Name of Project:

Opening J C Sinkrim Hole Project

Preserve(s) Requiring Access:

Henson Preserve

Financial Information:

If the project is receiving funding of any kind, please attach a copy of the grant, contract, or other information relating to the amount of the funding, source of the funding, and duration of the funding.

Is the project receiving funding?

No

Additional Information Related to the Project

Credentials of those conducting the project: Include information only on the individual responsible for the actual work. Include past projects conducted; expertise in the field in question; and educational qualifications.

Benjamin Skinner: previously opened Cheap Sunglasses Chasm in Alabama along with multiple karst features in Alabama that are currently unreported and one current ongoing project in Tennessee that blows significant air.

A description of the methods to be used to execute the project goals: Destructive or non-destructive methods, examples include: bolting; digging; other modification to the cave walls or passage; collecting samples, current or historic; photography; on-site examination; etc.

An effort will be made to modify the cave walls so that humans can fit through the current opening. Holes will be drilled using a rotary hammer and 1/2" drill bit. Putty will be placed to seal the end and gunpowder will be packed into the hole. An ignitor will be placed into the powder and it will be packed with more putty and a wooden dowel. A wire will run out to a safe area where the ignitor will be burned by touching each wire strand to each terminal of a lithium ion battery. Rock will be removed by hand or with a pry bar and the process will be repeated until the passage is passable by humans. This will likely take up to 10 holes and ignitors.

A description of the data and the format in which it will be reported: what type of information will the project yield? Examples - Data, photographs, excavation and recovery of historic items, new passage? How and where will this be reported—in a paper for an institution of higher learning, a national journal or magazine, a specialty journal, only to the SCCi board?

A word document detailing the new passage discovered will be submitted to the SCCi board.

Number of entries: the number of times the property or cave must be entered. The number of entries, and the proposed date for each, should be included. A Visitor Permit is required for each visit to a Preserve. The Special Use Permit permits the proposed use not access.

One entry on 02/12/2023

Duration of each event: How much time will be spent on SCCi properties during each entry?
8 hours

Number of personnel involved: The number of persons it will take to conduct the project for each visit;
and overall.
Three

The proposed schedule: When will the project begin, when will it end, when each of the site visits be
made.
02/12/2023