

# The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy

Membership Application Form

Apply online at: [www.rkci.org](http://www.rkci.org)

Date

Name - Please print clearly

Street

City, State & ZIP

Email Address

Telephone

## Membership Categories and Dues: (circle membership type)

### Memberships For Individuals - Voting

Individual Member \$15/year

Sustaining Member \$75/year

After five consecutive years a sustaining member becomes a Life Member.

Life Member \$300/one time

### Memberships for Organizations or Individuals - Non Voting

Supporting Member \$50/year

Benefactor Member \$1,000/one time

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues expire on January 1 of each year.

Individual and Supporting Member dues are half the amount after June 30.

Makes checks payable to the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy.

Mail completed form and payment to:

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy,**

1515 Cordell Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45439.

## What can you do?

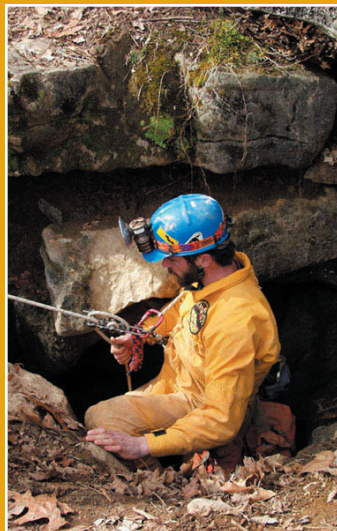
Now that you know how important caves and karst is to our everyday lives and to our future, you can see the importance of protecting it. We need you to help us reach out to educate our communities and protect these valuable and fragile resources.

## Join RKC

**Please help us by becoming a member and/or donating to the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. Membership is open to the public.**

Please complete the attached form and mail it in with your check or go to our website to join online.

If you live on karst ground and are concerned about protecting it or would like to learn more, please contact us.



Rockcastle Karst  
Conservancy

Email: [info@rkci.org](mailto:info@rkci.org)

Phone: 937-296-0245

[www.rkci.org](http://www.rkci.org)

1515 Cordell Dr.

Dayton, Ohio 45439



Rockcastle Karst  
Conservancy

*Dedicated to the preservation of caves and karst  
in the Rockcastle County, Kentucky region*

## The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy

The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the unique geological, hydrological, biological, and recreational resources associated with caves and karst. Our goal is to permanently protect caves and karst lands in the Rockcastle County, Kentucky area through education, land acquisition and resource management.

Karst areas are being increasingly threatened by development, mining and poor agriculture practices. Groundwater is becoming polluted from surface runoff and becoming a hazard to our communities, and all who live in them. This is not just a problem for people who live on karst, but also to anyone who depends on their natural resources, such as fresh water and it's native wildlife. Actions must be taken today to preserve these areas for future generations.

### Our Mission.

We are dedicated to saving caves and karst from pollution and exploitation for future generations.

### What is Karst?

Karst is a special type of landscape that is formed by moving water and the dissolution of soluble rocks, including limestone and dolomite. Karst regions contain aquifers that are capable of providing large supplies of water. In simple terms, Karst is defined as a landscape with sinkholes, springs, and streams that sink into caverns.

More than 25 percent of the world's population either lives on or obtains its water from karst aquifers. In the United States, 20 percent of the land surface is karst and 40 percent of the groundwater used for drinking comes from karst aquifers! Natural features of the landscape such as caves and springs are typical of karst regions. Karst landscapes are often spectacularly scenic areas such as the sinkhole plains and caves of central Kentucky and Rockcastle County.



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The hollow nature of karst terrain results in a very high pollution potential. Streams and surface runoff enter sinkholes and caves, and bypass natural filtration through soil and sediment. Groundwater can travel quite rapidly through these underground networks - up to thousands of feet, or even miles, per day - transmitting contaminants to wells and springs in the vicinity.

Unless watersheds are protected, these direct connections between the surface and the subsurface can threaten the quality of our drinking water. The safest watersheds are those in which all residents understand the karst landscape and work together to reduce soil erosion, high-density development, agricultural and urban storm water runoff, overgrazing, improper waste disposal, and pollution.

Caves are very unique ecosystems and sustain many life forms that can survive nowhere else. Many of these life forms may be important for future research and medicines. It may seem strange, but a future cure may be right under your feet.

### Land Acquisition

The most effective way we have to protect caves and karst is land acquisition. The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is actively seeking to purchase land that contains caves and karst. The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is also seeking to lease karst land and to obtain conservation easements.

