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Since a teenager, I've poured my soul into caving. It's my passion as it may be yours. At 28 years old, I can definitely say that it has been our caving community that has provided me with my closest friends and my greatest life achievements thus far. And it is the role of the NSS to foster this very community for you, for me, and for every other explorer and protector of the underground. If elected, **I will grow this community and strengthen its benefits for us all.** Towards that, I ask for your vote.

To grow this community, I will design and implement a "Welcoming Program," providing the NSS, Sections, and Grottos with the information and tools they need to actively attract and include cavers. The program will also introduce a "Greeter" position in each grotto—a person who will ensure visitors feel welcome at meetings and find trips underground. I believe the implementation of this organized program in college grottos will especially be fruitful for the Society.

To strengthen the benefits of this community, I will seek out and engage opportunities to create new NSS Preserves, acquiring caves that will be made accessible to NSS members. Further, I will ensure that the NSS is actively working with landowners, both private and government, as appropriate, to re-open closed caves to responsible caving.

While a student at the University of Virginia, I chaired the Charlottesville Grotto. As a Director of the Virginia Speleological Survey, I organized a county-level survey that was the most active and productive in the state. In 2012, the National Geographic Society awarded me with a Young Explorers Grant to organize and lead a week-long expedition into the Chestnut Ridge Cave System in Virginia. I am an elected board member of the Butler Cave Conservation Society—America's oldest dedicated cave conservancy—for which I chair the Conservation Committee. For the NSS, I was appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee and chaired the Nominating Committee. Most relevantly, I have previously served on the NSS Board of Governors. I am an NSS Life Member, Fellow, and Certificate of Merit recipient.

Professionally, I am a project manager at an environmental consulting firm in Virginia, managing the budgets, schedules, and resources for Department of Defense remediation projects around the country. I anticipate enrolling in business school within the next year to pursue an MBA in General Management. With this background, I will bring much-needed business skills to the NSS Board.

I will be a Director whom cavers across the country recognize as someone they can personally call up and rant to about how the NSS is falling short, with the expectation that I will follow up with real action, because I will.

If you have any questions about me or just have an idea for the Society you'd like to see implemented, shoot me an email at [farrarnc@gmail.com](mailto:farrarnc@gmail.com) or give me a ring at (540)315-2643. I look forward to representing you on the NSS Board of Governors and strengthening our cavers' community.