

Trip Plan

Troop 2025 – Stark Caverns

September 11–13, 2026

Destination	Stark Caverns 125 Cave Drive Eldon, MO 65026
Route	I-44 / US-54 toward Eldon; final route per driver/navigation.
Departure	Friday, September 11 – meet at Rock Mechanics; final departure time set by troop.
Return	Sunday, September 13 – return to Rock Mechanics; final time set by troop.
Outing Leader	Joshua Schlegel, Scoutmaster • 573-202-3667

Emergency Plan

Emergency Services	911
Stark Caverns	573-TOP-CAVE (573-867-2283); assigned site-manager contact provided at check-in
Address	Stark Caverns, 125 Cave Drive, Eldon, MO 65026
Nearest hospital	Lake Regional Hospital, 54 Hospital Drive, Osage Beach, MO 65065 • 573-348-8000
First-aid trained adult	
First-aid kit location	Scout trailer, red bag
Off-site emergency contact	

Stark Caverns – Key Site Rules

- Reservation is confirmed. Stark Caverns assigns the outside campsite and provides arrival/departure instructions.
- In-cave camping is limited to the paved patio in the Grand Ballroom. Other cave areas are accessed only during a guided tour.
- NO FOOD OR DRINK other than water is permitted inside the cave. Coolers, food, cooking equipment, snacks, candy and gum remain outside.
- No fires, grills or other heat sources inside the cave. Fires are limited to designated firepits outside.
- Do not touch cave walls, formations, water or wildlife. Stay on designated paths/bridges and follow staff directions.
- Secure food and trash and move food waste to the dumpster before sleeping.
- Cave lights are turned off overnight; emergency use follows Stark Caverns instructions.
- Closed-toe footwear with good traction is required for Troop activities and is especially important on cave and gravel surfaces.

Schedule

Day	Time / Activity	Notes
Friday	Meet at Rock Mechanics	Roster / health-form check; load vehicles; buddy assignments.
	Arrive / check in	Meet Stark Caverns staff; review site rules and assigned campsite.
	Set up outside campsite	Patrol areas, dining/cooking area, boundaries, water and fire safety.
	Dinner / evening program / campfire	All meals are outside the cave.
	10:00 PM	Lights out; quiet campsite; food and trash secured.
Saturday	7:00 AM	Wake up / breakfast / patrol cleanup.
	8:30 AM	Camp program and advancement activities
	Late morning / early afternoon	Lunch and program time; prepare for move to in-cave camping.
	After final public tours / assigned time	Move permitted sleeping gear to Grand Ballroom paved patio.
	Evening	Dinner and cleanup outside cave; cave briefing with Stark Caverns staff.
	10:00 PM	Lights out in cave. Cave lights are off overnight; follow staff instructions.
Sunday	7:00 AM	Wake up. Breakfast must be outside the cave.
	By 9:30 AM	Packed and fully out of cave; clean cave/campsite and move vehicles as directed.
	Depart Stark Caverns	Final departure time to be set by troop.
	Return to Rock Mechanics	Unload and go home

Meal Plan and Duty Roster – Manticore Patrol & Axolotl Patrol

Meal	Water/Fire	Cook / Serve	Clean Up / Fireman
Friday Snack			
Saturday Breakfast			
Saturday Lunch			
Saturday Dinner			
Sunday Breakfast			

Meal	Main / Protein	Grain / Starch	Fruit / Vegetable	Drink / Extras	Preparation Notes
Friday Snack					
Saturday Breakfast					
Saturday Lunch					
Saturday Dinner					
Sunday Breakfast					

Participants

Meal Plan and Duty Roster – Adults

Meal	Water/Fire	Cook / Serve	Clean Up / Fireman
Friday Snack			
Saturday Breakfast			
Saturday Lunch			
Saturday Dinner			
Sunday Breakfast			

Meal	Main / Protein	Grain / Starch	Fruit / Vegetable	Drink / Extras	Preparation Notes
Friday Snack					
Saturday Breakfast					
Saturday Lunch					
Saturday Dinner					
Sunday Breakfast					

Participants

Suggested Advancement Activities

Area	Potential Work
Camping / Outdoor Skills	Tenderfoot: overnight camping, tent setup, meal preparation and cleanup; Second Class: campsite selection, fire-use discussion, and local wildlife observation; First Class: camping impacts, Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace, native plants and weather planning.
Hiking / Navigation	Second Class: compass and map orientation, map symbols, hiking hazards, and natural navigation; First Class: map/compass orienteering and GPS navigation.
Weather / Planning	First Class: identify forecast sources, explain why forecasts matter, recognize natural indicators of hazardous weather, and discuss local extreme-weather preparation and response.
Environmental Stewardship	First Class: investigate camping impacts, apply Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace, identify native plants/animals, and discuss conservation of the cave environment.

Trip Notes / After-Action

What went well:

What should be changed:

Stark Caverns / site notes:

Food / meal notes:

Safety / medical notes:

Ideas for next cave/outdoor trip:
