

Caving Trip | Spring Youth Outreach 2012

Saturday, March 17 2012

Overview: Spring, the time of year when flowers are blooming and all the wonderful scents of Bradford Pear trees are on the rise! Rather differently than previous years, our Youth Outreach for this spring will drive us *underground* – away from all this ‘spring-ness’, allowing us to explore the darker reaches of God’s Creation.

One local cave is located near Hampton Cove, AL about 50 minutes from the church parking lot. The cave is quite open and non-claustrophobic, with the lowest ceiling (that we will experience) being about 3½ feet tall and the narrowest point being ten feet wide. It is very easily accessible for any sort of ordinary person and will pose no problem for most people. There is a creek that runs through the middle of the path in the cave which, if it has rained recently, will be fairly high. In that unfortunate event, we will also bring two rubber rafts for those that might enjoy staying dry instead of wading through a foot of water. Mud will be an issue in ANY case!!!

Our relatively non-perilous excursion will go through about a quarter of a mile into the cave to the Big Room (every cave has one) where we will enjoy a few provisions brought along from various places. After an illuminating devotional – which it will be quite literally, as it is rather dark in a cave – we will choose whether to continue onwards for another half-mile+ or to return to the open air. If time allows, we will also have a period of outdoor activities at a local park where we also will have lunch. The itinerary below explains in further detail. We will be officially done and at FBC no later than **2:45pm.**

Clothing/Attire: Durable **jeans** and **non-ripped** shirts are the order of the day. Light jackets could become useful if the weather is chilly, though they WILL get rather dirty. Full length warm-up pants could be used in replacement of jeans if desired. *Under no circumstances* will anyone need shorts as they will be cold and uncomfortable once they are in the cave.

Hiking shoes or tennis shoes with good tread will be quite acceptable, though sandals could work in a ‘pinch’ – a word which here means, ‘the stalagmites probably will pinch anyone who wears sandals with barefeet so *DON’T* bring them.’ And the mud would suck them off your feet anyhow, which could be very distressing.

Equipment: Bring a **flashlight!** (But not a whole arsenal please...) A few **towels** for any muddy people when traveling in various cars would be helpful as well. If there is a good bit of rain beforehand, then some **blankets** will be strongly encouraged. For the outdoor activities, please bring whatever equipment you deem fun for all in the time allotted.

Projected Itinerary: Saturday, 17 March 2012

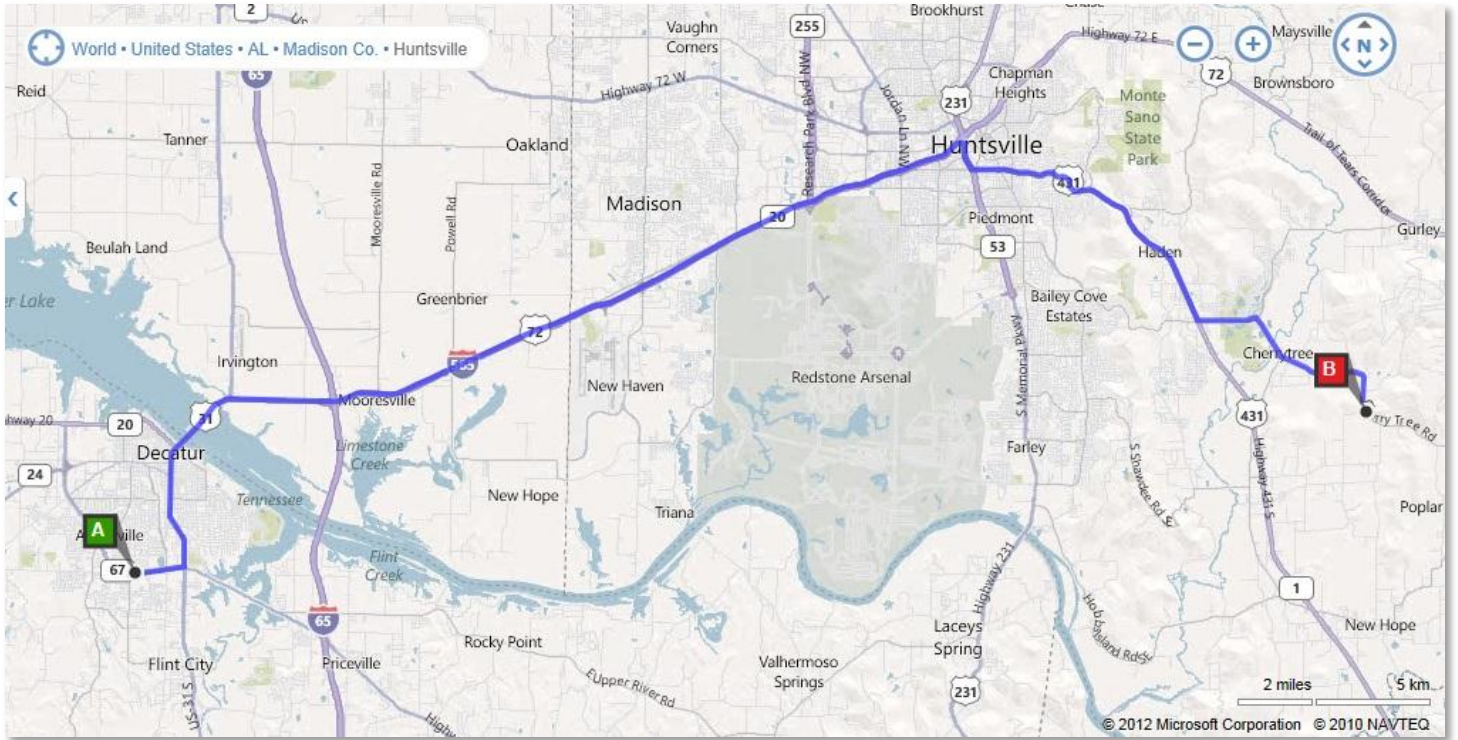
- 9:15am – Rendezvous in the Faith Baptist Church parking lot
- 9:30am – Leave for cave (pickup any stray attendees enroute as well)
- 10:30am to 12:00pm – Arrive at cave, caving, devotional in Big Room, return to outside
- 12:10pm – Leave for Rhode’s Ferry park
- 1:10pm to 2:30pm – Lunch¹ + outdoor activities at Rhode’s Ferry park
- 2:45pm – Arrive back at Faith Baptist Church, end of activity

¹Lunch is fairly certain to be **Chick-fil-a and drinks** ordered from UAH-land, with no cost to the attendees.

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Directions:



Link to official directions: <http://binged.it/ynAXS4> or www.faithbaptistdecatur.org/youth-spring-outreach-2012/

From 565: Continue on 565 until you reach the Governors' Drive exit (Exit 9). Follow Governors drive across the ridge for about 12 minutes until you reach the intersection of Governors and Hwy 431. Taking a left onto Hwy 431, continue about a minute until you see the baseball fields on the right. Turn right and follow the road a ways across two one-lane bridges, with a left and ~five minutes, and a right and ~five minutes. The cave entrance is within the woods about 100 yards, though I must warn that there are no places for parking except for the shoulder of the road.

Other Items of Note: One or two volunteer drivers will be required for this excursion. I strongly encourage any parents who would like to attend to come and enjoy a great time! A few short video clips of the cave are also available for viewing at the church's website via the link aforementioned or by clicking "Spring Youth Outreach" on the FBC homepage.

Conclusion: Though this excursion might be a bit more trying than, say, simply having a round of ball at a park or the like, I do believe all who participate will enjoy this tremendously! If you have any questions, concerns, worries, wisdom, troubles, anticipations, bits of advice, comments, compliments, complements, words of hate, wondering-if-anyone-has-actually-read-this-far, which-if-they-have-is-rather-amazing, issues, or tips, please see Chandler Johnson (or whoever has stolen his hat).

Points-of-Contact:

- Chandler Johnson – organizer, (256) 560-5367
- Yvonne Johnson – driver, (256) 221-2300
- Bob Hunter – driver, (256) 751-0532
- Pastor Nason – (256) 303-0193