Dear Teachers and Chaperones:

We're glad that you came to Grand Caverns today, and that you chose to extend your field trip as a Meaningful Watershed Experience. We have tried to set up a "buffet" of activities to keep your students engaged in their "Living Cave/Living River". Here are some notes on the various stations that may help you guide your students.

Whenever your group has its scheduled caverns tour (morning or afternoon), you will be only at stations near the entrance of the cave, in 20 minute rotations. These are staggered to accommodate the caverns tour, and to give your students some exposure to several other aspects of the Living South River.

At **Watershed Models**, students will sit on the black benches facing the host, who will coordinate the "volunteer" students as they demonstrate Cooking Up Trouble (non-point Source pollution and forest buffers), a karst groundwater model and a contrast watershed practices model (Which community would you rather live in – Clearwater or Slubglub?). Volunteers are chosen by numbers taped under their seats; their roles should be comfortable and fun for them.

There will be some time at the end of Watershed Models for a look around the Museum, which is not hosted, but please remind students that they may touch things in the black cases by the window, but only look at the mounts or living items on the wall.

At the **Fish School and Invertebrate Lab** (2 rooms on the ground floor), your group may be split in half, for ten minute visits to each room. In the fish school, students will sit on a log to observe the aquarium, open a tackle box to learn more about a fish species for a test: "Catch Me If You Can", and play a card game of Go-Fish with the host. In the Invertebrate Lab, students may use the tools and materials to observe the stream critters, and may mark what they indicate about water quality in their journals.

Lunch will be in the picnic shelters near the parking lot. We will ring a bell to help students get ready for the next stations on time.

On the other end of the day (non-caverns tour part) your students will visit 3 40-minute stations in a rotation around the park: Water Chemistry (hosted by a teacher, at the end of the marked trail, Percolation,(hosted by a resource guide, and including soils), and a Free Choice Station (including Watershed Golf, Gift Shop and Alternative Energy – all in or near the Stone Lodge, and attended by a chaperone acting as traffic/safety director).

Water Chemistry: Students will make several tests to assess water parameters, and fill out their journal.

Percolation: Students will take a guided Watershed Hikeread and interpret a soils map of the area, use soil augers to create a column, and play a percolation game.

Watershed Golf: Students will play putt-putt, starting at the numbered hole of the ball they choose, and matching definitions to watershed terms in their journal.

Alternative Energy: Students will have a chance to try out past and future energy tools and toys.