

# CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERSTATE HIKING CLUB



## ARTICLE 1- NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Interstate Hiking Club.

## ARTICLE 11- OBJECT

The objects of the club shall be to encourage hiking; to promote good fellowship among the lovers of unspoiled nature; to assist in the construction and maintenance of trails, the circulation of information of interest to hikers, bikers and canoers, the interchange of companionship, ideas and methods of cooperation with other hikers and with outing and mountain clubs, and in whatever else is related to the common purpose; to cooperate with agencies devoted to the preservation of natural scenery, the extension of public parks and reservations and the conservation of the natural resources of the country.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1** - Application for membership may be made upon completion of one activity. Active membership shall be from year to year, the year to begin on the first day of June. All members in arrears shall be notified by the Treasurer in writing. If dues are not paid by Nov. 1 following, the member in default shall be suspended from membership, and shall lose all voting, activity and other membership privileges during the period of suspension. Payments of dues at any time prior to the next annual meeting shall reinstate the member. All suspended members not becoming reinstated at or prior to the annual meeting shall automatically cease to be members of the Club; and any such person may thereafter be readmitted only as a new member. The names of suspended members shall be omitted from any published membership lists during their period of suspension. Whenever five or more members shall report to the Membership committee that they consider a certain member undesirable, such member, after a hearing before that committee, may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular business meeting; but no action to expel shall be taken at any meeting attended by fewer than twenty members.

**Section 2** - Honorary membership may be conferred by unanimous vote at an annual meeting, provided that the name of the person so proposed shall have first been submitted to the Membership Committee, and shall have received its approval. Such membership shall be for life unless cancelled by majority vote of the members at an annual meeting. Honorary members shall be entitled to all privileges of membership, but shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

**Section 3** - Applications for membership shall be made to the Membership Committee in writing. They shall be considered by this Committee, which shall have the power of summary rejection.

**Section 4** - Guests who have attended three activities shall be expected to apply for membership before attending any more activities.

**Section 5** - At all meetings of the Club, each member shall be entitled to one vote for each activity which he or she has attended during the year preceding the annual meeting, provided that during the first year of his membership, each member shall have a total number of votes equal to the number of activities which he or she has attended. To render this provision effective, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a full record of the attendance of each member at each activity. In the absence of the Secretary, the leader shall make such record, or see that it is made, and transmit it to the Secretary. Wherever the word "majority" is used, in this Constitution, it shall be understood to signify a majority of the voting strength, and not of the individuals.

**Section 6** - The Secretary will log credit for attendance, upon written notification. Everyone intending to participate and signing the attendance sheet in the presence of the leader of the activity shall be credited. A member receives credit for each separate scheduled activity in which they participate.

**Section 7** - Junior membership shall be granted to applicants not over 18 years of age upon meeting the following requirements: 1. Attend at least two activities accompanied by an adult member within three months. 2. Application must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and adult member sponsoring junior. 3. Meet the approval of the membership committee as to conduct and ability. A junior member must be accompanied on all activities by a sponsor. Juniors are exempt from the entrance fee, their dues are one dollar per fiscal year, and they have no voting privileges. Upon reaching 18 years of age a junior member will automatically become a senior member without entrance fee.

## ARTICLE IV - DUES AND FEES

The annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Officers at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. Annual dues are payable before or at the annual meeting. There shall also be an entrance fee of one dollar. Members admitted after December 1 shall be required to pay only one half annual dues for the balance of the fiscal year. Remittance of entrance fee and dues must accompany application for membership, and will be promptly refunded in case of rejection. The fiscal year shall start the first day in June.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

The officers of this Club shall consist of five members, who shall be elected to their specific title at the annual meeting and shall assume office immediately at the close of the election of officers. Their duties shall be the usual ones of such officers, except as specifically provided in this Constitution. Any vacancy occurring during the year may be filled by the members at a business meeting. The Board of Officers shall be titled: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Entertainment Chairperson, Trails Chairperson.

## **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS**

A meeting may be held on any official activity of the Club at the discretion of the officer or officers present and shall be so held, if requested by three members present on the activity. Seven members, including the officer, shall constitute a quorum. The annual meeting shall be held on the first official activity in June. At this meeting, reports of all officers and standing committees shall be due; and the election of officers for the coming year shall be held.

## **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES**

**Section 1** - The Board of Officers shall constitute the Membership Committee. Its duties shall be to accept or reject membership applications, and to report its favorable recommendations to the Club. Its rejection of any application shall be final, and shall not be formally reported.

**Section 2** - An Activities Committee of not less than five members shall be appointed by the officers at the annual meeting or as soon thereafter as possible. Its duties shall be to arrange the schedules for the Club activities; appoint leaders for each event; and distribute printed schedules to the members. No activity described in the schedule shall thereafter be changed or cancelled except in case of foreseeable endangerment to participants or official closing of the area to be visited. The leader shall be responsible for the conduct of the activity. The leader shall announce changes at the meeting place prior to the activity. In the absence of the leader, an officer shall appoint a leader.

**Section 3** - The Publicity Committee shall consist of one or more members. Its duties shall be to secure favorable publicity for the Club and its activities, and to make its activities known as widely as possible.

**Section 4** - The Trails Chairperson shall have authority to associate with himself such other member or members of the Club as he deems advisable. His duties shall be to cooperate in trail-making and maintenance in accordance with the programs of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; to investigate and report on suitable locations for new and desirable trails; to initiate activities in clearing, marking and keeping up existing trails and opening new ones; and to invite or recommend the cooperative work of the members in such undertakings.

**Section 5** - The Officers shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the duty of this Committee to nominate a list of officers for the coming year, which shall be read at the annual meeting prior to the election; provided that it shall be the privilege of any member or members to make additional nominations from the floor for any and all officers before the vote is taken. The Nominating Committee shall make the proposed slate known first at a regular meeting, not less than one month prior to the annual meeting, and repeat the announcement at each subsequent gathering.

**Section 6** - The elected Entertainment Chairperson shall have charge of all Club social functions and shall be responsible for collecting and paying out all monies necessary to carry out the programs. Monies accumulated in a separate account are to be considered a part of the general Club treasury to be allocated at the discretion of the membership.

**Section 7** - All standing committees, except as otherwise defined in this Constitution or ordered by majority vote of the members, and all special committees authorized by vote of the Club unless otherwise specified in such vote, shall be appointed by the Officers.

## **ARTICLE VIII - CLUB PROPERTY**

**Section 1** - All Officers and committee chairpersons shall transmit to their successors the Club property in their hands at the end of the fiscal year.

**Section 2** - In the event of dissolution of the Interstate Hiking Club, the remaining assets shall be transmitted to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey.

## **ARTICLE IX- MONEY DISBURSEMENTS**

The total amount of monies voted for contribution to hiking and/or environmentally oriented organizations at the annual meeting shall not be changed during the ensuing year. Bills presented to the Treasurer shall be paid at the Treasurer's earliest convenience.

## **ARTICLE X - AUDIT**

The President shall appoint a person to audit the Club funds at the end of the fiscal year. The written report of the auditor shall be submitted to the officers during the month following the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI - PETS**

Pets may not be brought on a regular local event. However, pets may be brought on a camping event at the discretion of the leader. Under no circumstance shall a pet be off a leash or not restrained.

**ARTICLE XII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Roberts Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of this Club for all matters not contained in this Constitution.

**ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may only be amended at an annual meeting attended by no fewer than 20 adult members. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and read by an Officer at all preceding meetings commencing no later than the first Sunday in May. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to adopt an amendment. Suspension of any part of this Constitution shall be only in an emergency and by unanimous consent of the Board of Officers.

(6/2011)