

TCHC Constitution

Submitted for club approval on April 11, 1991. Amendments to the constitution were approved on April 16, 2004.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

This organization shall be known as the Triple Cities Hiking Club. Its purpose is to bring together those who enjoy hiking and the out-of-doors, and to support activities and projects which promote the use of natural resources for hiking and other similar forms of outdoor recreation.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

There are four classes of membership:

1. Individual - adults aged 18 or over and children under 18 with the written consent of parent or guardian.
2. Family - spouse and non-voting children under 18.
3. Life - one payment of a one-time fee.
4. Honorary - individuals approved at a club business meeting by a three-quarters vote of the members present.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member will receive the hike schedules as published and other information relating to activities, meetings, and responsibilities of leaders and hikers. All club work is on an unpaid, volunteer basis; members are expected to assist whenever needed. All members are expected to suggest hikes and to serve as hike leaders and co-leaders.

ARTICLE IV: DUES AND EXPENSES

a. The dues for individual and family memberships shall be voted at annual meetings upon proposal by the Board of Directors. Dues for each year are payable by January first of the calendar year. New members shall pay the full amount on joining; however, between November 1 and December 31, this shall cover the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Individual members may pay their dues for life by paying 25 times the annual dues if less than 50 years of age, or by paying 10 times the annual dues if the member is 50 years of age or over.

b. The Hike Secretary shall each year prepare and distribute to the Board of Directors a roster of members before the election of officers. The roster will distinguish the active members who have paid their dues for the current year from the delinquent members who paid for the previous year but not for the current year. Members remaining delinquent shall be dropped from membership immediately following the annual April membership meeting.

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c. The Board of Directors may authorize operating expenses from the club treasury as necessary, i.e. postage, P.O. Box, stationary, printing and mimeographing, trail supplies, and other expense incurred in the normal operations of the clubs activities. The Board also may authorize expenditure of up to \$50 per occasion for memorials for deceased members and for special purpose gifts.

d. All expenditures other than those authorized in (C) require club approval by a two-thirds vote, if they are greater than \$200.

e. The Board of Directors shall, from time to time, establish rules and guidelines for reimbursement of those individuals providing transportation for other hikers. Hikers are expected to share any other expenses of scheduled club activities in which they participate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

a. The government of this club shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of 12 members. New members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual membership meeting in April. The term of office for directors shall be three years, four directors being elected at each annual membership meeting to take office at the end of the meeting. If more than four candidates are nominated, election shall be by written ballot with each member having four votes, each of which must be cast for a different candidate. The four candidates with the most votes are elected directors. The Board of Directors shall meet within one month after the annual membership meeting and at other times as determined by the President with the advice of the other directors or upon petition by any two directors. If a board member resigns or is absent from all board meetings in a twelve month period, or is otherwise unable to serve, the President shall appoint a member to fill his remaining term in office. No director, having served a full three-year term, shall be eligible for immediate re-election but will become eligible one year following the end of such a three-year term; any director serving less than a full three-year term may be elected to a full three-year term at the next annual meeting.

b. The officers of the club shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the annual membership meeting, and shall take office immediately, except for the treasurer who shall not take office before May 1. Any vacancies arising between elections shall be filled by the Board of Directors. No director may serve more than three consecutive one-year terms in the same office. All officers, except the two secretaries, must be board members.

c. The officers shall be a President who shall guide the policy of the club, preside at meetings, act as Chairman of the Board of Directors; a Vice-President who shall act in the absence or incapacity of the President, and also serve as chairman of the Hike Committee and maintain the hike schedules, record file; a Recording Secretary who shall keep minutes and attend to Club correspondence; a Hike Secretary who shall issue hike schedules, membership rosters and other notices and maintain the membership file; and a Treasurer who shall receive dues and fees and disburse funds as authorized by the Board of Directors, present a written financial statement at the annual membership meeting, at the end of the fiscal year, and at such other times as requested by the Board of Directors, issue dues notices, and maintain the membership file in cooperation with the Hike-Secretary.

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ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

a. The President, with the advice of the other directors, shall appoint a Nominating Committee, an Auditing Committee, and other committees as needed for special purposes.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members, not more than one of whom is a member of the Board of Directors. They shall be appointed at least two months prior to the annual meeting to draw up a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. This slate shall be reported in writing to all members, preferably in the hike schedule, at least two weeks prior to the annual membership meeting, but all nominations must have the prior consent of the nominee.

The Auditing Committee shall consist of at least two members of the club and shall be appointed promptly following the election of officers. They shall audit the books as soon as possible after the last day of the Club's fiscal year (April 30) and issue a report covering the period of the Treasurer's annual financial statement.

b. The Vice-President, with the advice of the other directors, shall appoint a Hike Committee. The Board of Directors may be designated a committee-of-the-whole for this purpose.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

a. The Annual membership meeting shall be held in April.

b. At least one general membership meeting besides the annual meeting shall be held each calendar year, at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors.

c. Special meetings may be called by any two directors or by any six members of the club. At least one week's notice shall be given to members as to the nature of the business to be conducted and the time and place of the meeting.

d. A quorum for the transaction of business at the club business meeting shall be 15 members or one-third of the membership, whichever is smaller. A quorum for the transaction of business at a Board of Directors meeting shall be seven members.

e. All transactions at club business meetings or Board of Directors meetings require a simple majority vote, except as otherwise specified either in this Constitution or in Robert's Rules of Order Revised. A transaction will be approved if it receives the required proportion of favorable votes out of the votes cast.

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ARTICLE VIII: HIKES

a. Persons attending club hikes shall conform to club regulations (as outlined in the hike schedule) and obey the instructions of the hike leader and co-leader.

b. The hike leader and co-leader shall have charge of the hike and make all decisions as to the route, pace, etc., consistent with the hike schedule and description. They shall be in charge of the hike from the time of departure from the meeting place until all hikers have arrived at the designated end of the hike. They will see that the rules of the club are enforced and that proper trail etiquette is maintained at all times.

The announced schedule shall not departed from except by will of the majority at the time of departure, or as may be thought necessary during the course of the hike by the hike leader. Hikers are expected to remain with the leader, who shall set a pace consistent with the hike description. The hike leader shall send a report of the hike and return any club material (maps, etc.) to the Hike Chairman within one week after the hike.

c. In the event that an individual is unable to lead the hike on the date designated in the schedule, it is his responsibility to obtain a substitute leader. Only after a reasonable effort has been made an substitute cannot be obtained, should the Hike Chairman be notified and asked to secure a substitute leader. If the Hike Chairman cannot be reached, the individual should contact a member of the Hike Committee. The President should be contacted only as a last resort.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any club business meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided that written notice, containing the proposed amendment, be sent to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order Revised" shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution.