

New York State Good Sam Organization



Constitution & By-Laws
as submitted to Good Sam
7/13/2008

PREAMBLE

With the object in view of stimulating a greater interest and development of the principles of good camping, ecological awareness, decency, harmony through the club, fellowship among the campers, reverence for the woodlands, forests and wilderness areas that are our heritage, aid to fellow campers in any emergency situation no matter how small or how serious, safety in all situations, kindness for our fellow human beings and all wildlife, throughout the world, and with the avid desire of creating an enthusiasm which by reason of example, will serve to awaken a spirit of emulation, and cooperation to the same end throughout the camping world, we hereby form ourselves into the New York State Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club adhering to the following principles:

I will stop and give aid to fellow campers where safety and traffic conditions permit. I will not attempt to stop and give aid on turnpikes, freeways or expressways, but instead will give three short blasts on my horn to indicate that I am reporting the breakdown to the nearest patrol, toll gate, or police.

If I am broken down on the expressway, I will raise my hood of my vehicle to indicate I am in need of assistance, and will stay with the vehicle until help arrives.

I will keep my recreational vehicle in safe running condition at all times and give special attention to brakes, tires and running lights.

I will drive within the law and with consideration for others.

I will watch following traffic on upgrades and pull off the road as soon as possible whenever I am causing a slow down.

I agree to observe, and cause to be observed all posted rules and regulations for the betterment of the enjoyment of outdoor recreational facilities.

I will leave my campsite in better condition than I found it.

I will try to wear a smile (like Good Sam's) and promote the objectives of Good Sam whenever I meet other recreational vehicles.

Consonant with the most liberal spirit of intolerance in the achievement of our purpose, we further agree that in its vigorous pursuit, this organization shall at all times during the span of its existence, maintain an attitude strictly non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-sectional and non-racial, nor shall it, as an organization, take part in political issues, or

the affairs of the state with the sole exception of those which exclusively affect the positive attitude of the futures of camping in respect to our defined ideals.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

Name:

This organization shall be known as the New York State Organization of the International Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club. The State Organization shall recognize the International Good Sam Club’s Constitution and By-Laws as their ultimate governing authority.

Definition:

- a. The term “State Organization” shall be construed to mean the New York State Organization.
- b. The term “Club” shall be construed to the International Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club.
- c. The term “Chapter” shall be construed to mean a duly chartered Chapter of the Club.

Promotion:

The State Organization will only use the Club’s name and logo in good taste, and to promote the Club’s pledge and the State Organization’s activities in a manner consistent with the Club Constitution, By-Laws and General Policies.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this State Organization to promote the use and enjoyment of recreational vehicles and outdoor fellowship among its members through trips and group activities. This State Organization shall maintain an attitude which is strictly non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-sectional and non-racial, and shall be dedicated to bringing together people interested in the ideals and principals of the Club.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Membership in this State Organization is limited to those individuals who are members in good standing with both the Club and the State Organization. (i.e. have paid Club and State membership dues, when applicable.)

Section 2.

Each membership includes one couple or single and any dependent children living with them.

Section 3.

Members of the State Organization will be classified as either Chapter members or State members-at-large.

Section 4.

State members-at-large will be defined as those members of the Club who do not belong to a Chapter, but who have voluntarily decided to be members of the State Organization and meet all the necessary membership requirements thereof.

ARTICLE IV – STATE OFFICERS

Section 1. Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible to be an officer of the State Organization you must be a member in good standing and must reside in the State of New York, unless a special exclusion of residency requirement is approved of the executive director.

No State Officer may hold any other post or position within the Club, Region, State, or Chapter, unless special approval is given by the Club’s Executive Director.

Section 2. State Officers:

Officers of this State Organization shall be the State Director, Assistant State Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, Wagonmaster, Legislative Representative and such additional officers as deemed necessary by the State Organization. The State Board is comprised of all State Officers listed above.

Section 3. Term:

- a. The State Director shall be appointed by the Club’s Executive Director for a term of two years. The State Director shall be appointed in the even numbered years.
- b. The Treasurer shall be elected by the State Committee for a term of two years. The Treasurer shall be elected in the odd numbered years.
- c. The Secretary, Wagonmaster, Legislative Representative, and Assistant State Directors shall be appointed by the State Director and will hold office for a period designated by the State Director, but not to exceed the State Director’s term of office.

ARTICLE V – STATE COMMITTEE

The State is authorized to form a State Committee composed of the Chapter President, or the president’s appointed delegate, from each Chapter within the State, as specified in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted to the State Director by a State Committee member, in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to the State Committee meeting to be included in the agenda of the next State Committee meeting.
2. The proposed amendment(s) in their final form shall be sent to each member of the State Committee ten (10) days prior to the State Committee meeting at which the amendment(s) would be voted upon.
3. Such proposed amendment(s) shall automatically be an item on the subsequent agendas until disposed of by a vote of the State Committee membership.
4. The amendment(s) shall be approved with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the eligible voting members present.
5. All approved amendments shall become effective January 1st of the next calendar year, unless otherwise stated in the proposal.

ARTICLE VII – INDEMNIFICATION

Officers, Directors, State Committee Members and other authorized volunteers, employees or agents shall be indemnified against claims for personal and individual liability arising in connection with their positions or service on behalf of the State Organization to the full extent permitted by law.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Membership is composed of individuals who make application and pay the appropriate dues. They must provide proof of membership in the Club. The membership is in effect from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE II - DUES

Section 1.

Annual State Organization dues of \$1.00 per year for Chapter members must be paid to the State Organization Treasurer. Members-at-large will pay \$2.00 annually.

Section 2.

State dues are due on January 1st and are overdue April 1st. If dues are not paid by April 1st, the member in default will have his/her State Membership is suspended.

Section 3.

State Organization dues paying members will receive a discount on State Samboree fee providing dues were paid by the due date. Amount of discount will be determined by the State Committee at the time the fee for the State Samboree is determined.

Section 4.

New Chapters formed after October 1st will have their dues credited for the following year.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

State Director:

1. Is the highest Club Officer in the State.
2. Represents the State Organization membership to the Club.
3. Represents and upholds the Club Constitution, By-Laws and General Policies to the membership.
4. Acts as advisor in the administration of the State Organization and Chapter business.
5. Acts as an advisor at State Committee meetings, officiates at State Committee meetings and can only vote in the event of a tie.
6. Administers the formation of new Good Sam Chapters.
7. Officiates at State Samborees.

8. Appoints Assistant State Directors and notifies all Chapters who their liaison is to the State Director.
9. Presents an annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the State Committee at the annual Fall meeting.
10. Provides an agenda to the members of the State Committee thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Standing committee reports shall be listed as an agenda item.
11. Performs such other functions as specified in the General Policies of the Club.
12. Appoints committees as necessary.
13. Appoint a committee consisting of 3 members of the State Committee to conduct an annual audit. The treasurer will act as an advisor to the Audit Committee.

Assistant State Directors:

1. Serves as the representative for specific chapters of the State as the liaison to the State Director.
2. Assists in organizing Chapters.
3. Acts as advisor to Chapters in the assigned area when requested.
4. Performs such other duties as designated by the State Director.

State Secretary:

1. Handles all correspondence as assigned by the State Director.
2. Attends all regular and special meetings of the State Board and the State Committee. Records the minutes of all meetings noting the time and place of each meeting; how called or authorized; notice of meeting; record the roll call of all persons present; record motions/resolutions made with the name of the person making the motion and the second; record action on motion/resolution. Read minutes from previous meeting(s); duplicate and distribute minutes to members.
3. Provides copies of the agenda for the presiding officer for all meetings.
4. Files minutes and committee reports.

5. Has a copy of State Organizations Constitution and By-laws available at all State Organization functions.
6. Sends notices of all Regional and special meetings of the state Board and State Committee at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting.
7. Maintains membership records of all Chapter members and members-at-large of the State Organization.

State Treasurer: (The State Treasurer can not be a member of the State Director's immediate family.)

1. Shall have custody of all funds, securities and assets of the State Organization. The treasurer shall receive all monies received by the State Organization from dues, State Samborees or any other source.
2. Shall deposit State Organization funds in a checking or savings account in the name of the New York State Good Sam Organization, in a financial institution which must be federally insured or it equivalent, within an appropriate amount of time of receipt.
3. Keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements. Make a financial report, in writing, at all State Committee meetings.
4. All expenditures of monies are those expenses approved by the State Committee. No monies shall be paid, for any purpose, which was not approved in the budget by the State Committee or by special appropriation approved by the State Committee.
5. All disbursements will be made by check. All disbursements and/or withdrawals must have two authorized signatures. There shall be (2) authorized signatures on file at the financial institution for the State Organization bank accounts. They shall be the State Director and State Treasurer.
6. Prepare an itemized financial report to be distributed to the State Board and State Committee thirty (30) days prior to meetings.
7. Act as an advisor to the Audit Committee.
8. Act as State Organization election chairperson.

State Wagonmaster:

1. Shall serve as chairman of the parking committee.

2. Perform such other duties as designated by the State Director.

Legislative Representative:

1. Shall keep track of all potential laws affecting RV owners within the State.
2. Shall notify the State Board and the Club of any change in the laws.
3. Shall perform such other duties as designated by the State Director.

ARTICLE IV. DEATH/RESIGNATION, REMOVAL AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Death/Resignation:

Any member of the State Board may resign by providing written notice of resignation to the State Director or, in the case of the State Director, to the Executive Director.

Upon the death/resignation of the State Director, the Executive Director shall appoint a State Director to serve out the balance of the term or request that the State Organization present another candidate for the position.

Upon the death/resignation of the State Treasurer, the State Director shall conduct a special meeting of the State committee as soon as possible for the purpose of electing another State Treasurer.

Section 2. Removal for Ineligibility:

Any member of the State Board who is no longer eligible to serve may be removed by two-thirds vote of the State Committee.

ARTICLE V - STATE COMMITTEE AND DUTIES

1. The State committee is composed of all Chapter Presidents within the State or their appointed delegates.
2. Regular Meetings will be held three (3) times yearly. The State Director may call additional meetings, if the necessity should arise.
3. The State committee has the voting power to reconcile serious disputes within the State Organization and in any Chapter within the State.
4. The State Board shall be allowed voice only at the State Committee meetings as an advisory body. They have no voting power.

5. The State Committee has the authority to levy a reasonable fee to be paid by all Chapter members within the state to be placed in the State Organizations financial account. Such levy shall be recommended by the State Organization if there was an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Chapter delegates attending the meeting. The distribution of all such funds shall be at the discretion of the State Committee.
6. State Committee members shall:
 - a. Attend all State Committee meetings as the representative of their Chapter and report the proceedings of such meetings to the members of the Chapter. If the president is unable to attend, the president shall appoint a delegate and notify the State Director of the change.
 - b. Vote on such items as come before the State Committee on behalf of the Chapter.
 - c. Present to the State Committee any proposed amendments to the State Constitution and By-Laws deemed necessary by the Chapter
 - d. Serve on committees voluntarily, or by appointment, for the good of the State Committee.
 - e. Review, comment, revise and adopt the annual state budget.
7. No State Organization officer, Chapter officer, Chapter member or individual member may make any financial commitment for the State Organization without permission from the State Committee.

ARTICLE VI - QUORUM

Fifty percent (50%) of the current State Committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at the State Committee meetings.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

1. Meetings will be held three (3) times yearly. The State Director may call additional meetings, when necessary.
 - a. State Committee meeting will be on Sunday forenoon of the weekend of the State Samboree.
 - b. Fall meeting of the State Committee will be held the last weekend of September.

- c. Spring meeting of the State Committee will be held the last Saturday of March.
2. Written support of twenty-five percent (25%) of the State Committee membership is required to petition the State Director to call a special meeting.
 3. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order newly revised shall govern all meetings. The order of business shall be as follows:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Pledge and invocation
 - c. Roll call
 - d. Introduction of guests
 - e. Minutes of last meeting
 - f. State Director's report
 - g. Treasurer's Report
 - h. Legislative Representative
 - i. Correspondence
 - j. Committee Reports
 - m. Unfinished Business
 - n. New Business
 - o. Announcements
 - p. Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII - STATE SAMBOREE

The State Samboree will be held annually at a place and date as set by the state Committee and the State Board at a meeting held at the preceding year's Samboree.

ARTICLE IX - CHAPTER BY-LAWS, MEMBERSHIP, DUES, ETC.

1. Each duly chartered Chapter must provide a copy of their Constitution and By-Laws to the Club and State Director as required by the Club's Constitution and By-Laws, Article II, Section 3.
2. A Good Sam member may be a member of as many local Chapters as they wish, but can only hold office in one Chapter at a time.
3. Chapter emblem designs must be in accord with the Club policy and may be submitted directly to the State Director for approval.
4. Teen Chapter members will not be required to pay State Dues providing their parents are members of the Club and the State Organization. Each Teen Chapter will have equal voting rights through their Chapter president or Chapter delegate at the State Committee meetings.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted to the State Director by a State Committee member, in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to the State Committee meeting to be included in the agenda of the next State Committee meeting.
2. The proposed amendment(s) in their final form shall be sent to each member of the State Committee ten (10) days prior to the State Committee meeting at which the amendment(s) would be voted upon.
3. Such proposed amendment(s) shall automatically be an item on the subsequent agendas until disposed of by a vote of the State Committee membership.
4. The amendment(s) shall be approved with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the eligible voting members present.
5. All approved amendments shall become effective January 1st of the next calendar year, unless otherwise stated in the proposal.

ARTICLE XI - STANDING RULES

1. Resolutions are those motions made and approved at the State Committee meeting concerning the smooth day by day operation of the State Organization, that in no way change the State Organization Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Only members in good standing may address the State Organization in matters of policy.

ARTICLE XII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this State Organization is January 1 through December 31.

Presented: July 13, 2008
Adopted:

Respectfully submitted, July 13, 2008
Dan Crowley, Chair
Tammy McDougal, Secretary
Helen Jensen, Advisor
Linda Scheuer
Ada Elwood