

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

HIWASSEE HIKING CLUB, ATHENS, TENNESSEE

Adopted: 10/29/1985 Revised and Amended: 09/01/1988, 08/02/1990, 05/03/1999,
08/07/2000 & 01/09/2006

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the HIWASSEE HIKING CLUB.

ARTICLE H OBJECTIVES

To develop opportunities for the enjoyment of the out-of-doors in the form of hikes and outings; to provide for related social and educational opportunities; to encourage and to teach Leave-No-Trace ethics; and to encourage the conservation of the water, forests, wildlife, and grandeur of the southern Appalachian mountains.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character who subscribes to the objectives of the club shall be eligible for membership in the Hiwassee Hiking Club, and are not younger than fourteen (14) years of age.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

The club officers shall constitute the Executive Board and shall consist of, a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor, These officers shall not be subject to removal from their terms of office except for cause and then only after a majority vote of club membership.

The PRESIDENT shall be the chief executive of the club. He/she shall preside at all meetings and events of the club. He/she shall appoint all committees and is an ex-officio member of the same. He/she shall have general supervision, direction and active management of the business of the club. He/she shall enforce the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws, and the mandates of the club.

ARTICLE IV—CONTINUED—PAGE TWO

VICE-PRESIDENT shall, in the absence of, or in the case of the inability of the President to act, have all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President; The Vice-President shall serve as chairperson of the Program/Publicity Committee. The Vice-President shall perform other duties and have other powers as prescribed by the Executive Board and/or club.

The SECRETARY/TREASURER shall keep the minutes of all club meetings in a book provided by the club for such purposes. He/she shall attend to all correspondence addressed to the club.

He/she shall have custody of all funds of the club. When necessary and proper, he/she shall endorse on behalf of the club all checks, notes, or other evidence of payment of money, payable to the club or coming into his/her possession and shall deposit the funds arising there from, together with all other funds coming into his/her possession, to the credit of the club. Drawing upon such funds will be only under direction of the Executive Board. He/she shall keep regular books of accounts containing a complete and true statement of cash accounts and all other transactions involving the club's funds. He/she shall account to the club at its annual installation, or at any other time upon request of the Executive Board and/or club, for the funds of the club.

All duties shall be performed which are incident to the office of the secretary/treasurer of a club, subject, however, at all times to the direction and control of the Executive Board.

The NEWSLETTER EDITOR shall edit, and mail out, a club newsletter on a monthly basis to give notice of club meeting times, when club hikes are scheduled, reports of hikes, other notices as specified in other sections of the Constitution and By-laws, and provide other information he/she feels would be *of* value to the club membership.

In order to give an accurate report of club hikes, the Newsletter Editor, shall keep a roll of the membership, and shall secure from the hike leaders, a record of the members and visitors on each hike.

The terms of all officers shall begin at the installation following their election and shall continue for one year or until the installation of their successors.

Any vacancy occurring on the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the membership in which the vacancy occurs.

A majority of the Executive Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

ARTICLE IV—CONTINUED—PAGE THREE

The Executive Board shall have in addition to the powers and authority expressly conferred upon it by these By-laws the right, power, and authority to exercise all such powers and to do all acts or things usually performed by the executive committee of clubs and like organizations of behalf of this club. The Executive Board shall have the right to appoint any person or persons as trustee to accept and hold intact for the club any property belonging to the club or any property in which it is interested, or for any other purpose, and to execute and perform all such duties and things as may be necessary in relation to such trust; to provide from time to time for the management of the affairs of the club in such manner as it may think fit, and in particular, to delegate any other powers of the Executive Board, except the power to fill vacancies in the respective offices of the members of the Board and except the power to alter and amend these By-laws, to any committee, officer, or agent, and to appoint any person to be the agent of the club with such powers and upon such terms as may be by it deemed wise.

ARTICLE V ELECTION AND MEETINGS

The annual election of the officers of the club shall be held in September each year at such time and place as shall be designated in the club newsletter to be mailed by the Newsletter Editor to each active member. The newly elected officers shall meet with the club at the October meeting to begin the development of a calendar of hikes for the new year, and to plan any other activities for the year so the Newsletter Editor [and/or Secretary/Treasurer] can have same printed and ready for distribution to the members at, or before, the beginning of the new year.

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of five (5) members, two of whom shall be Executive Board Members-elect and shall designate one member of the committee to be the Chairperson no later than August. During the time in which the committee serves, it shall nominate candidates to serve as club officers of the subsequent year and shall nominate each candidate for a specific office. The committee shall report its nominations in the September newsletter prior to the September meeting. However, the nominations of the committee shall not preclude club members from making nominations for the respective offices at the September meeting wherein the election is held.

The installation of officers shall occur at the October club meeting each year.

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ARTICLE VI DUES

The regular dues of active members shall be \$10.00 for a single and/or family membership and are due and payable January 1 of each year. New members will pay \$15.00 per family. Upon payment of said dues each member shall be entitled to receive a copy of the Constitution and By-laws; a current Club Membership list; the current hike calendar; a Club Patch (additional patches are available from the Newsletter Editor or Sec/Treasurer at \$2,50 each); and the monthly club newsletter. Persons joining the club on or after August 1 shall pay \$5.00 dues for the remainder of the calendar year.

ARTICLE VH DISCIPLINE

Any member who by his conduct violates any of the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws, the rules of conduct, or the code of ethics, may be expelled from the membership by the Executive Board, in a meeting assembled, by a three-fourths vote of all the officers, provided that said member shall have been given at least ten (10) days' notice in writing of such pending action. Service of such notice may be made by personal delivery or by registered letter mailed to such member's last known address.

ARTICLE VM AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the membership of the club, or at any adjourned session thereof, or at any special meeting called for said purpose, provided that before any such meeting a notice of the subject matter of the proposed amendment to be voted on at such meeting be sent to each active member ten days before such special meeting.

CODE OF ETHICS

My recreational standards shall be to conduct myself while hiking or camping—either with or without the Hiwassee Hiking Club—in such a manner that the pleasures to be experienced by others shall be a little greater for my own acts.

CODE OF ETHICS-CONTINUED-PAGE FIVE

In view of this, it is my duty as a club member and a hiker to:

Guard the reputation of the Hiwassee Hiking Club to the end so that no censure will prevent any from enjoying its benefits...

Adopt as my own, the *Eight Principles of Leave-No-Trace Behavior* while on the trails of the wild areas that we hike...

1. *Plan ahead, prepare well, and prevent problems before they occur.*
2. *Keep noise to a minimum and strive to be inconspicuous.*
3. *Pack it in, pack it out.*
4. *Properly dispose of anything that can't be packed out.*
5. *Leave the land as you found it.*
6. *In popular places, concentrate use.*
7. *In pristine places, disperse use.*
8. *Avoid places that are lightly worn or just beginning to show signs of use,*

In addition while hiking on club sponsored hikes I pledge to...

- » Be ready with hiking information and a welcome to all visitors..
- Lighten the burden of my leaders with *my full* cooperation..
- Contribute, when a leader, to the enjoyment of others by the faithful performance of my duties..
- Cooperate with the officers of the Hiwassee Hiking Club for the betterment of hiking and camping....

GENERAL INFORMATION Membership in the

Hiwassee Hiking Club

Guests are always welcome on hikes. Newcomers find the shorter hikes more to their liking than the longer hikes. Membership forms may be obtained from the club's Secretary/Treasurer.

GENERAL INFORMATION-CONTINUED-PAGE SIX

The single/family membership rate in the Hiwassee Hiking Club is \$10.00 per year. New members pay \$15.00 for the first year.

Executive Board

The Hiwassee Hiking Club Executive Board will consist of the president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and newsletter editor.

Committees

To assist in the success of the Hiwassee Hiking Club, club members will be asked to serve as committee members and chairpersons on annual basis:

- Nominating Committee
- Program/Publicity Committee (Vice-President chairs this committee)
- National Trails Day Committee
- Trail Maintenance Committee

Other committees may be added as needed and with the approval of the club membership.

Car Pooling

The Hiwassee Hiking Club urges its members and guests to car pool in the interest of fuel economy. To assist those drivers who volunteer their vehicles, the Executive Board has recommended a donation of two (2) to four (4) cents per mile, depending on the size of the vehicle and the number of passengers present

CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS_1. Scout your hike prior to the hike date.

- _2. Write a brief description of your hike and send it to the newsletter editor three (3) months prior to your hike
- _3. Report plans of your hike at the monthly meeting of the club in the month which precedes, or of, your hike. Also, give a detailed written summary of your hike with driving directions to the newsletter editor for the monthly newsletter.
4. Obtain backcountry use permit, and permission to park or cross private land when necessary. Backcountry permits may be reserved up to 30 days in

CHECKLIST FOR HIKE LEADERS-CONTINUED-PAGE SEVEN

advance; however, camping permits must be picked up in person within 24 hours of start of backpacking tour.

- _5. Arrive at the meeting place 15 minutes early to greet visitors and to coordinate transportation. Obtain names of all hikers, with complete addresses of *all* visitors. If the meeting place is in Athens, or Etowah, remember that some hikers may be waiting at the designated trailhead. These hikers must be notified of any last minute changes in your plans.
- _6. Take full charge of your hike, one leader in front and one in the rear (if a large party of hikers). Other leaders should maintain intermediate positions in the group. As a leader, you have the right and responsibility:
 - (a) To limit the number of hikers participating, if necessary (remember a hiking party cannot exceed 12 [including companion dogs] in the USFS wilderness areas).
 - (b) To exclude those who, in the leader's judgment, are not physically able, sufficiently capable or experienced, or are not properly equipped for the planned hike,
- _7. Make sure that the trail and lunch or campsites are left clean and *all* fires extinguished.
8. Check-off all hikers at the end of the hike and determine that all drivers can start their vehicles.
9. Send a list of participating hikers, members and guests, along with a brief account of the trip highlights to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the FOOTPRINTS section of the monthly newsletter.