



# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Effective as revised January 1, 2012

# Constitution

## 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 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 and throughout the camping world, we hereby form ourselves into **The Good Sam 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 department.*

*If I am broken down on the expressway, I will raise the hood of my vehicle and/or display other distress device, to indicate I am in need of assistance and stay with the vehicle until help arrives.*

*I will keep my recreational vehicle in safe 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 and pull off the road as soon as possible whenever I am causing a slowdown.*

*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 RV owners.*

*Consonant with the most liberal spirit of tolerance 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 any part in political issues, or the affairs of state with the sole exception of those which exclusively affect the positive attitude of the future of camping in respect to our defined ideals.*

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME & SPONSOR**

The Good Sam Club shall be the name of this organization. It is sponsored as a division of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. The Good Sam® name and logo are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a service mark of the sponsor corporation. The Good Sam Club has the sole right to charter local Chapters of the Club. Each duly chartered local Chapter shall be wholly independent from the Club.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Section 1.** The term "Club" shall be construed to mean the Good Sam Club.

**Section 2.** The term "Chapter" shall be construed to mean a duly chartered local Chapter of the Club.

**Section 3.** The term "State" shall refer to State or Province as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1.**

All people who are interested in the promotion of the principles of good recreational vehicle camping as defined in both the pledge and the preamble are eligible for membership in this club.

#### **Section 2.**

Pursuant to the process provided in the By-Laws, persons of notable interest, who are in sympathy with the objectives of this Club, may have membership conferred upon them.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **Section 1. Club Management**

The sponsor corporation shall appoint appropriate personnel to carry out the day to day management of the Club. The sponsor corporation may appoint representatives in the field to assist with their responsibilities. These representatives serve at the discretion of the Sponsor Corporation.

#### **Section 2. State Directors**

State Directors shall be appointed by a designated representative of the sponsor corporation. Each State shall present the designated representative with a candidate for that office, who shall have received a simple majority vote of all chartered Chapter delegates in that State, at an election following the rules and procedures specified by the sponsor corporation. If a vacancy occurs during the term, the sponsor corporation and/or its representative may appoint a replacement for the duration of the term, or request that the State present another candidate for the position.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **AMENDMENTS**

*Amendments to this Constitution may only be made by the sponsor corporation.*

# *By-laws*

## **ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1.**

Each membership will include one couple or single and any dependent children. To obtain membership, the candidate shall submit an application to the Club. Payment of annual dues and acceptance of the Good Sam Pledge (as set forth in the Preamble and on the Club membership card) will be considered as an integral part of this application.

### **Section 2.**

All members in good standing will be notified of renewal well in advance of their expiration date by the Club. If a member does not renew his/her membership within sixty (60) days after the expiration date, his/her membership, his/her privilege to renew at the renewal rate, and the rights to his/her original membership number may be considered forfeited. A new application for membership will have to be submitted.

## **ARTICLE II CHAPTERS**

### **Section 1.**

The Club reserves all rights to charter Chapters of the Club and further reserves the right to withdraw or cancel any and all such charters.

### **Section 2.**

Each local Chapter is authorized to act with other local Chapters within the same State to form a State Committee composed of one Chapter President (or his/her appointed delegate) from each Chapter within the same State if they so choose.

### **Section 3.**

While not required, each State/Chapter may choose to write its own Constitution and By-Laws. If separate Constitution and By-Laws are written, provide a copy to the State Director to assure compliance with the Club Constitution and By-Laws. If a Chapter chooses to have a Constitution and By-laws, they must include the following provisions:

- a) They are a Chapter of the Club. The Chapter By-Laws can not state that they are a club of the Good Sam Club. "Club" always refers to the Good Sam Club.
- b) Any provisions in the State/Chapter's documents contradictory to the provisions of the Club Constitution, By-Laws, or the General Policies of the Club are null and void.

### **Section 4.**

Upon written notice to a Chapter, that Chapter will be required to submit a written list of all Chapter members and officers showing the individual member's name, address, and Club membership number. This is required to maintain good standing with the Club.

### **Section 5.**

Membership in any local Chapter will be dependent upon current membership in good standing in the Club.

### **Section 6.**

The Good Sam name and logo are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a service mark of the sponsor corporation. The sponsor corporation grants a limited use of such name and logo to all chartered Chapters for official noncommercial identification purposes only, as long as they maintain their good

standing with the Club. Misuse of the name or logo shall result in the immediate cancellation of the Chapter's charter.

- a) All Chapter patches, flags and decals must receive approval from its State Director before recognized as official.
- b) The Chapter will only use the Good Sam name and logo in good taste and to promote the Good Sam pledge and Chapter activities and in a manner consistent with the Club Constitution, By-Laws and General Policies of the Club. The Chapter agrees to cease and desist from all use of the Good Sam name and logo upon loss of its charter for any reason.

### **Section 7.**

The Club recommends a Chapter to have a minimum of six (6) rigs, however if membership falls below this number, the Club will extend, on a case-by-case basis, special circumstances and timeframe to allow for membership to be rebuilt.

## **ARTICLE III SPONSOR CORPORATION**

### **Section 1.**

The sponsor corporation's staff shall receive such compensation and reimbursement of expenses as determined by the sponsor corporation. The duties of the Good Sam Club staff shall be defined by the sponsor corporation and will be within the realm of international directorship and all that this term encompasses and implies; as well as international correspondence, finance, communication, publicity, publications, samborees, caraventures, special events, and all other activities that are considered international, interstate and inter-provincial.

### **Section 2.**

The sponsor corporation may remove a State Director from office for Cause. "Cause" includes, but is not limited to, failure to abide by the Club Constitution, By-Laws, or General Policies of the Club, misuse of the Good Sam name and/or logo, or failure to perform the duties of his/her office.

## **ARTICLE IV STATE DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1.**

Each State Director may appoint one or more Assistant State Directors, a State Secretary, and other State officers as appropriate (except State Treasurer who is elected by the State Committee) to assist him/her. All State officers must be residents of the State, unless a special exclusion of residency requirement is approved by the sponsor corporation. None of the fore-going may hold any other post or position within the Club, State, or any Chapter concurrently, unless special approval is given by the sponsor corporation.

### **Section 2.**

A State Director is appointed to a two-year term.

### **Section 3.**

The State Director is the highest Club officer in the State. His/her functions are:

- a) To represent his/her State membership to the Club.
- b) To represent and uphold the Club Constitution, By-Laws, and General Policies of the Club.
- c) To act as the advisor in the administration of State and Chapter business.
- d) To administer the formation of new Good Sam Chapters.
- e) To officiate at State Events

- f) To advise the State Committee composed of Chapter delegates in his/her State, to officiate at its meetings, and to vote only in the event of a tie.
- g) To perform such other functions as specified in the Director's Manual.

**Section 4.**

State Directors shall receive such compensation and reimbursement of expenses as established by the sponsor corporation.

**ARTICLE V**  
**STATE COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.**

Each State is authorized to form a State Committee composed of Chapter presidents or their appointed delegates as specified in Article II, section 2 of these By-Laws. When formed, a State Committee has the voting power to reconcile serious disputes within the State and in any Chapter within the State.

**Section 2.**

No part of the Club Constitution or these By-Laws shall interfere with the authority of the State Committee to establish, regulate, or control a State treasury; nor to interfere with the State Committee's right to levy a reasonable fee to be paid by all Chapter members within the State, to be placed in the State treasury. Such levy will only be recognized by the Club if made by a three-fourths vote of the Chapter delegates attending a meeting of the State Committee held after thirty (30) days written notice of the purpose of the meeting to the Chapter delegates within the State. The vote to levy a fee may be made by mail. If there is no designated Chapter delegate for a Chapter, such written notice shall be sent to the Chapter President. All such funds shall be the sole property of the State Committee.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**RESIGNATIONS**

**Section 1.**

All resignations shall be made in writing and presented through the proper chain of authority of the Club. No resignation shall cancel the dues of a member for the remaining terms of his membership. Any and all benefits (except Life membership) derived from holding a State or Chapter office shall terminate upon the date of said resignation.

**Section 2.**

No member may be expelled from his membership within the Club except for his/her direct continued opposition to the Good Sam Pledge, Preamble, Constitution, By-Laws or the General Policies of the Club. Before any proceedings are taken on the proposed expulsion of a member, the individual must receive written notice of the contemplated action and reasons. The Club retains the sole right to expel a member.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**DISBURSEMENTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS**

**Section 1.**

All disbursements relating to activities outside of a State or Chapter will be handled by and through the Club. In cases where reimbursement for travel or postage is sought from the Club by a State officer, staff member, or any other indicated individual for services performed in a Good Sam activity, written approval must have been given in advance by the Club.

**Section 2.**

No State or Chapter staff member or employee, nor individual member may make any financial commitments for the Club without prior permission in writing from the sponsor corporation.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.**

Amendments to these By-Laws may only be made by the sponsor corporation.

**Section 2.**

No part of this constitution or these By-Laws shall be construed to interfere with the rights of a duly chartered Chapter to levy dues or fees for Chapter use, as agreed upon through a vote of the membership of the Chapter, and as stipulated in the Chapter Constitution, Articles, or By-Laws. All such funds shall be the sole property of, and used by, the local Chapter.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**STANDING RULES**

1. Written resolutions, signed by their authors only, will be considered by the Club.
2. Only members in good standing may address the Club on matters of policy.