

# **Grand Valley State University:**

## **Backpacking Club**

### **In Association. With Student Environmental Coalition**

#### **Preamble:**

The GVSU Backpacking and Outdoors Club will bring together people who have an interest in backpacking, travel, environment and the outdoors. We want to promote outdoor fun and the importance of conservation through travel and activities.

#### **Article I: Name**

The name of the organization is the *GVSU Backpacking Club*.

#### **Article II: Purpose**

The BPOC is a club designed to gather people together that enjoy the outdoors. We organize fun, low-cost trips that get students away from campus and the grind of college life. This club also educates people on the importance of low impact camping, and doing our part to help the environment, so that everyone can enjoy it.

#### **Article III: Affiliation With Other Organizations**

GVSU Backpacking Club will be affiliated with the Student Environmental Coalition by the sharing of meetings and cooperation on events and fundraising.

#### **Article IV: Membership**

##### Section 1: General Assembly Membership

The membership of the Backpacking and Outdoors Club shall consist of any interested student currently enrolled at GVSU with six or more credits. Special membership consideration will be given to NON-GVSU students or alumni upon E-Board approval. It is the policy of GVSU and the Backpacking and Outdoors Club that no person on the basis of age, color, disability, familial status, height, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight shall be discriminated against.

A Membership Clause consisting of all members having to be in good standings with Grand Valley State University according to the current codebook will be observed.

##### Section 2: Fees/Dues

A membership fee of \$10 will be due of all members per academic semester. Dues must be paid at the beginning of each semester in order for any member to attend a backpacking trip.

#### **Article V: Executive Board**

##### Section 1: Description

The Executive Board will consist of (5) core members and meet monthly with bi-monthly SEC BPC E-board meetings:

**President:** Elected to one term which will be served both fall and winter semesters. The president is in charge of all other officers and conducting all normal meetings. The president has the authority to fill any vacant positions in the organization until an election can be held.

The president has the authority to call special meetings, but must give at least 3 days notice.

**Vice-President:** Elected to one term which will be served both fall and winter semesters. The vice president will be in charge of the other officers reporting back to the president. He/she will assist the president in all areas. If the president is unable to attend a meeting then the vice president will be in charge.

**Treasurer:** Elected to one term which will be served both fall and winter semesters. The treasurer is in charge of all funds raised by the organization, semester dues, and maintaining the account at Chase Bank. E-mails the President/Vice President on all financial happenings and updates.

**Secretary:** Elected to one term which will be served both fall and winter semesters. The secretary is in charge of minutes, record keeping and membership. The secretary will also be in charge of all club e-mail updates.

**Equipment Manager:** Elected to one term which will be served both fall and winter semesters. The Equipment Manager will regulate the use of club equipment. The Equipment Manager keeps records of all equipment, the equipment's use(s) (Borrowed, returned and condition), and brings attention to the president of any needed maintenance or replacements.

## Section 2: Impeachment of Officers

If any officer can no longer fulfill his/her position requirements and refuses to resign, then they may be impeached by the following process. For example, the presidential impeachment process is started when a due paying member motions for an impeachment vote. The motion must be seconded by another due paying member of the organization and a member of the E-Board. E-mail will be sent out to all due paying members informing of the motion, charges and vote date. The official impeachment vote will occur at the next official meeting after the executive officer in question has had a chance to explain their actions. Between the motion and the official impeachment, the vice-president will take over the president's responsibilities. Impeachment will occur when 2/3 vote is rendered. The vice-president then takes over the president's position for the remainder of that term. Another election will be held to fill the vacant vice-president's position for the remainder of that term. Impeachment of the vice-president or any other executive member will follow the same procedure.

## Section 3: Qualification for Officers

Each Executive Board member must be registered for at least 6 semester hours of credit at GVSU. Also, each Executive Board member must carry a 2.4 cumulative GPA, and be in good academic standing (GS).

## Section 4: Elections of Officers

The officers shall be nominated and elected by the due paying members of the Backpacking and Outdoors Club. The New Executive Board shall serve from May to May. Elections will be held in the last week of February of every winter semester. In the event that an e-board member leaves club for any reason, that member's position will be filled from within the executive board. A due paying member will then be elected by e-board to fill the newly vacant e-board spot.

## Section 5: Club's Website

GVSU has opened, in their registered domain name, an address for club promotions, schedule, equipment lists, and anything else members and officers wish to display. The maintenance of the club website at <http://www2.gvsu.edu/~backpack/> will be a conglomeration of input from all officers. Officers may suggest the implementation of the skills of a club member or friend who is inclined in web designing skills. Such volunteer help should be accepted as a charity to the club (the club should need not pay for any unprofessional web design service(s)). As it stands Mark Bryson will continue as web-master.

## **Article VII: Advisor**

The Advisor to the Backpacking and Outdoors Club shall be chosen by a vote of all officers currently in office, hence, responsible for the club. Each advisor shall serve his/her term from August through May.

## **Article VIII: Meetings**

### Section 1: Meetings

The first general assembly meeting in the fall semester shall be held the Thursday after campus life night.

General assembly meetings shall be held once per week at 9:00pm in 123 Manitou Hall, Allendale Campus. No meetings will be held on Holidays or during Final Exams.

### Section 2: Club Business

All club business relating to major decisions shall be held at weekly meetings. Both sides of the issue in question shall be discussed and time given for questions. When a vote is called for, it shall be conducted at the meeting in such a way that it may be verified by a minimum of 2 independent counts by members of the executive board. All voting will be done anonymously!

### Section 3: Quorum

Quorum (number of members required to conduct business) cannot be determined ahead of time, due to the wavering status of members attending general assembly meetings. The Quorum must be decided upon the attendance of members at the specific meeting an action will be passed. (Recommended Quorum will be 2/3rds of members.)

### Section 4: Meeting Format

An agenda for each meeting will followed. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to backpacking club business. (Votes, sing-ups, payments, dues). The next fifteen minutes will be devoted to Student Environmental Coalition club business. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to presentations and demonstrations/clinics.

## **Article IX: Amendments**

All proposed amendments will be submitted to E-Board for consideration. Only E-board has the power to approve and or alter the constitution. If the constitution is altered it will be presented to the general assembly for consideration and suggestions. However E-Board will have final say over ratification.

**Article X: Drug and Alcohol Policy**

All club trips/events ECT. Will be illegal drug and drug abuse free. The alcohol policy is as follows: THERE WILL NO ALCHOL CONSUMPTION BY ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 21. All trips will be BYOB and must be packed in your own pack, this includes packing out all trash and or disposing of it properly. Anyone who is caught drinking underage or behaves in a conduct that is unbecoming of the club and Grand Valley State University; or jeopardizes the safety or well bean of others will be expelled from the club permanently. Under no circumstances will alcohol be purchased during a trip at any point in time.

**Article XI: Behavior Policy**

Similar to the Drug and Alcohol policy any member who conducts them selves in a disorderly manner unbecoming of a backpacking club member or Grand Valley Sate University student well be expelled from the club. Depending on severity of actions the expelled member may be reported to DPS and Grand Valley administration. All conditions of expulsion will be up to E-Board members.

**Article XII: Liability Policy**

Every member before going on any club-sponsored trip must fill out a release form and emergency contact information. At least one E-Board member must be CPR certified. All trips must have a member who is CPR certified in attendance. A master first Aid kit with Ambu mask will be carried in the lead transport vehicle at all times. On the trail at least one mini first kit with Ambu mask will be carried by a member.

**Article XIII: Impeachment**

This topic is covered above in Article V, Section 2.

**Article XIV: Dissolution**

Should the Backpacking and Outdoors Club cease to exist, all monies remaining in the non-student Life Fee accounts should be donated back to GVSU’s Student Life Sports and Recreation funds.

*Revised 4/13/07*

Matt LaShell, Current President

X

David Faling, Current Vice President

X

Christie Smith, Current Treasurer

X

Brandi Caverly, Current Secretary

X

Sarah Clark, Current Equipment Manager

X