

BACKPACKING COUNCIL CHARTER

1. ACTIVITY COUNCIL NAME

The name shall be the Backpacking Council.

2. AUTHORITY

This Backpacking Council charter is adopted by authority of the Branch Leadership Committee. As approved by the Branch Leadership Committee, the Backpacking Council has the following authority:

- Maintain and revise Clubwide Backpacking Standards for approval by Branch Leadership Committee.
- Develop and maintain organization-wide protocols for Mountaineers Backpacking programs, including but not limited to:
 - Leadership development
 - Activity-specific risk management
 - Use of shared teaching locations
 - Adult, family and youth backpacking programs

3. PURPOSE

The Backpacking Council is a decision-making body. The purpose of the Backpacking Council is to promote safe and enjoyable Backpacking programs that also strive to conserve the natural world. The Backpacking Council does this by maintaining Clubwide Backpacking Standards and by promoting shared ideas and resources across branches.

Backpacking Council Responsibilities:

- Review/audit and revise Clubwide Activity Standards, at least annually.
- Share ideas and resources across branches with goals of:
 - Consistency where practical
 - Learning from one another to improve both volunteer and student experience
 - Understanding industry best practices and relevant research, where available
- Make other cross-branch decisions as determined by the Council.

4. MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Membership of the Backpacking Council consists of leadership, at the committee chair's discretion, from each committee that sponsors backpacking programs..

Eligible Committees are those whose scope includes the Clubwide Backpacking Standards, as included in their committee charter and approved by their branch.

5. GOVERNANCE

The Backpacking Council is led by group governance. There are no elected or appointed Officers or specific positions of leadership. Collectively, the group is responsible for convening regular meetings, ensuring Clubwide Backpacking Standards are reviewed annually and

submitted to Branch Leadership Committee for approval when updated, and assigning a facilitator for key decisions.

6.DECISION-MAKING

A motion to bring business before the Backpacking Council for vote may be made by any two Council members. Any business that comes before the Council for a vote must receive a simple majority vote of the eligible Council members present, including delegated proxies, in order to be adopted.

Quorum

Two-thirds of voting members, including delegated proxies, must be present to make a decision.

Eligibility

Each Backpacking Council member shall be eligible to cast votes for all motions and other Council business. Voting members may delegate their vote to another individual present at their discretion. Each Council member may cast a single vote.

Proxy

In the event that a Council member is unable to attend a meeting, they may delegate their proxy to another individual in attendance. A verifiable proxy may be in, but not necessarily limited to, the following formats: written, email, text message, or voicemail.

Table

In support of transparency and allowing time for Council members to confer with their committee, any Council member may make a motion to table the vote until a specific future date. The Council is obligated to honor a motion to table a topic for up to four weeks. If the motion is to table the vote for an extended period of time, or if the topic has already been tabled, the Council will vote on whether and for how long to table the decision.

Voting Electronically

The Backpacking council may vote between meetings to speed up the decision making process using email, Basecamp, or other electronic means. The process is as follows:

1. After sufficient discussion, a member poses the question: "Is there anyone who would like to have a special meeting before putting this to vote?"
 - a. If a member wishes to have a special meeting, the initiator of the discussion schedules and publishes a meeting with at least 4-weeks' notice (this can be online, but must be open to the entire Council). A special meeting can occur on a shorter timeframe if all members are available to meet (or abstain from the discussion) sooner than 4 weeks. Those present at the meeting will conduct a vote on whether to put the

issue to vote during the special meeting or to conduct the vote on the issue at a later date.

- b. If, after 7 days, no member requests a special meeting, or if all members decline a special meeting before 7 days have passed, the initiator of the discussion can put the issue to vote.
2. An electronic vote must allow members 7 calendar days to cast their vote. Any member who does not vote in 7 days is counted as “abstained.”

7. MEETINGS

The Backpacking Council convenes annual or more frequent meetings called Backpacking Summits. Backpacking Summits are typically held in January. Additional Council meetings may be held at the discretion of the Backpacking Council. A quorum of decision-making members must be present to make a decision on any matter.

Chairs may invite up to two of their committee members in good standing to join meetings.

8. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

No Backpacking Council member shall be removed from the Council except for good cause. The process of removal may be initiated upon a two-thirds vote of the Backpacking Council, with the affected Council member counting only toward the quorum. Removal may only be voted for good cause shown at a meeting called for that purpose, with notice of that purpose sent to all Council members and to the Vice President of Branches.

9. AMENDING THE COUNCIL CHARTER

Amendments to this Backpacking Council charter may be proposed by any Council member. Approval by the Backpacking Council should follow the chartered decision-making process. All amendments must also be approved by the Branch Leadership Committee.

Amendment History:
January 7, 2023