

# **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 Club Wide Backpacking Standards for approval by Branch Leadership Committee.
- Develop and maintain organization-wide protocols for Mountaineers Backpacking programs, including but not limited to:
  - Course curriculum and assessment
  - Leadership development
  - Activity-specific risk management
  - Use of shared teaching locations

## **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.
  - This council is responsible to set the standards for all applicable badges.
- 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 (Chair or Proxy)**

Voting membership of the Backpacking Council consists of all Branch Backpacking Committee chairs. Each branch gets a single vote per activity, which must be cast by the Chair or the delegated proxy.

## **5. GOVERNANCE (Group 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. The annual meeting will be facilitated by a staff member.

## **7. DECISION-MAKING (Consensus)**

After group discussion and deliberation, a motion to bring business before the Backpacking Council for vote may be made by any two voting members. Any business that comes before the Council for decision making must pass by 100% consensus of the voting members present, including delegated proxies, in order to be adopted.

### **Quorum**

Majority of voting members, including delegated proxies, must be present to make a decision.

### **Eligibility**

Each branch Backpacking committee chair, including delegated proxies, is eligible to participate in consensus decision making. Each branch has one representative.

### **Proxy**

In the event that a voting 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.

### **Inconclusive Outcomes**

In the event that consensus cannot be reached after a reasonable hearing of the proposal, any voting member, with agreement of the majority of the voting members, may put forth a motion to stop discussion and move the decision to an alternate process. *Groups should define in their charters what this alternate process is and how it works. Examples could include moving to a super majority vote, tabling to the next meeting, or tabling for review in 6 months.*

### **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.

### **Electronic Consensus**

The Backpacking council may make decisions in-between regular 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 seeking consensus on a decision?"

- a. If a member wishes to have a special meeting, they schedule and publish a meeting with at least 4-weeks' notice (this can be online, but must be open to the entire Council). Those present at the meeting will decide by consensus 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, Council may seek consensus.
2. Council members must have 7 days to respond with their position.

## **8. 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.

## **9. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS**

No Backpacking Council members 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.

In the event of a dispute about whether a particular role in a branch should serve on the Backpacking Council, the Vice President of Branches will consult as necessary and make the final decision.

## **10. 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:

Provide an amendment history.

The Backpacking Council Charter was first approved following review of the Branch Leadership Committee on DATE.