

# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CHARTER

## 1. ACTIVITY COUNCIL NAME

The name shall be the Stewardship Council.

## 2. AUTHORITY

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

- Maintain and revise Clubwide Stewardship Standards for approval by Branch Leadership Committee.
- Develop and maintain organization-wide protocols for Mountaineers Stewardship programs, including but not limited to:
  - Course curriculum, activity templates, and assessment documents
  - Leadership development
  - Activity-specific risk management
  - Use of shared teaching locations

## 3. PURPOSE

The Stewardship Council is a decision-making body. The purpose of the Stewardship Council is to promote safe and enjoyable Stewardship programs that also strive to conserve the natural world and to support public land managing agencies, conservation organizations, and privately owned lands that offer public access - e.g. The Mountaineers Outdoor Centers and Program Centers, and Shadow Lake Preserve - through stewardship of the natural resources they protect and by advocating for their financial and legislative support. The Stewardship Council does this by maintaining Clubwide Stewardship Standards, promoting shared ideas and resources across branches, and leading stewardship activities that engage members in natural resources preservation and restoration

Stewardship Council Responsibilities:

- Review/audit and revise Clubwide Stewardship 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

Voting membership of the Stewardship Council consists of:

- Stewardship Committee Chairs (or proxies)<sup>1</sup>. Each branch/lodge gets a single vote.

---

<sup>1</sup> This includes any committee whose scope includes Clubwide Stewardship Standards, as included in their committee charter and approved by their branch.

At the discretion of each branch Stewardship Committee, other key activity volunteers are invited to attend meetings and encouraged to participate in group discussions.

## **5. GOVERNANCE**

The Stewardship 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 Stewardship Standards are reviewed annually and submitted to Branch Leadership Committee for approval when updated.

## **6. DECISION-MAKING**

A motion to bring business before the Stewardship Council for vote may be made by any voting Council member. Any business related to Clubwide Stewardship Standards or the Stewardship Council Charter that comes before the Council for a decision making must pass by 75% consensus of the voting members, including delegated proxies and any members not present, in order to be adopted. Members not present must submit an electronic vote within 2 weeks of the request. Failure to respond is taken as consent. Other business must pass by simple majority of members present who did not abstain.

### **Eligibility**

Each branch Stewardship Committee has one vote, held by the Stewardship Committee chairperson or their delegated proxy.

### **Proxy**

In the event that the branch Stewardship Committee chairperson 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.

### **Quorum**

Two-thirds of voting members, including delegated proxies, must be present to make a decision, the exception being decisions on Clubwide Standards or the Council Charter, in which case all voting members must vote.

### **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 Stewardship 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: “Are we ready to vote electronically or would someone like a special meeting?”
  - a. If all members consent, an electronic vote is held.
  - b. If a member wishes to have a special meeting, the member schedules and publishes a meeting with at least 4-weeks’ notice (this can be online, but must be open to the entire voting Council membership). 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.
  - c. If, after 7 days with no consensus to vote and no member requests a special meeting, the Council will put the decision to an electronic vote.
2. An electronic vote must allow members 7 calendar days to cast their vote.

## **7. MEETINGS**

The Stewardship Council convenes annual or more frequent meetings called Stewardship Summits. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Stewardship Council. In addition to voting Council members, attendees may include key activity volunteers and other committee members (at the discretion of their Stewardship Committee).

## **8. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS**

No Stewardship 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 Stewardship 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 Stewardship Council, the Vice President of Branches will consult as necessary and make the final decision.

## **9. AMENDING THE COUNCIL CHARTER**

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

Amendment History:

Approved by the Stewardship Council in December 2025

Approved by the BLC on Feb 18, 2026