

OUTING CLUB CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

This organization shall be called the Rensselaer Outing Club, whose initials shall be "R.O.C."

Article II: Seal

The seal of the Rensselaer Outing Club shall be:



Article III: Mission Statement

The Rensselaer Outing Club's mission is to provide members of all skill levels the opportunity to go on wilderness trips, rent an assortment of gear, and attend affordable leadership training and certifications to further knowledge of the outdoors and outdoor adventure sports. We aim to to promote enjoyment, fun, and safety in the outdoors.

Article IV: Purpose

The purpose of the Rensselaer Outing Club shall be:

- 1) To further outing activities among the students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute by:
 - a) *organizing and conducting hiking, camping, whitewater kayaking, rafting, canoeing, backcountry skiing, ice climbing, rock climbing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cave exploring and other similar trips;*
 - b) *creating interest in the principles of conservation of natural resources;*
 - c) *instructing its members in wilderness first aid, Leave No Trace principles, and forest fire prevention.*

- 2) To operate under industry standards and best practices while being safe and having fun.

Article V: Affiliations

The Rensselaer Outing Club shall be a member and abide by all the laws laid down by the following organizations:

- 1) Intercollegiate Outing Club Association (I.O.C.A.)
- 2) National Speleological Society (N.S.S.)
- 3) Rensselaer Student Union
- 4) College Outside

Article VI: Publication

The Cairn editor, who shall be elected in accordance with Article X of this constitution, shall be responsible for the R.O.C. newsletter entitled The Cairn. The purpose of The Cairn shall be:

- 1) to inform all interested parties of the activities of the R.O.C.
- 2) to discuss any matters that the Cairn editor deems of interest.

Article VII: Membership

Membership in the Rensselaer Outing Club shall be governed by the following rules and regulations:

- 1) Membership in the Rensselaer Outing Club, Inc. shall be open to all undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty members, employees and alumni of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
- 2) An applicant for membership shall fill out a membership form provided by the Rensselaer Outing Club, such forms when properly filled out shall be approved by a club officer. Upon payment of dues, the applicant shall be considered a member of the Rensselaer Outing Club.
- 3) The dues of the organization are as follows:
 - a) *For graduate or undergraduate students,*
 - i) *\$36.00 per year, or*
 - ii) *\$24.00 per half year.*
 - b) *For faculty and alumni*
 - i) *\$55.00 per year, or*
 - ii) *\$37.00 per half year.*
- 4) Renewal of membership shall be automatic upon payment of current dues.
- 5) To obtain the status of a patch member, and to gain the privilege of wearing a R.O.C. patch, a member must participate in three official R.O.C. trips in three different activities, including at least one overnight trip, participate in club service, and obtain approval from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine what constitutes an official club trip.

- 6) To become an honorary member, a person shall have distinguished himself by exemplary service to the club or to the outdoors, and shall have the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee.
- 7) A voting member shall be a patched undergraduate member or a patched graduate member. Alumni and faculty shall not be voting members.

Article VIII: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of the clubs president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, Cairn editor, Pit chair, and the member at large. They shall be elected annually in the manner in Article X of this constitution for a term commencing at the close of the annual election meeting and ending at the close of the annual election meeting of the following year. If a member of the Executive Committee ceases to be a student at RPI or is ruled, by RPI, to be ineligible to hold office, his position shall be considered vacant.

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president, a majority of the Executive Committee, or a petition signed by 25% of the voting members of the club. Every member of the Executive Committee must be informed, in advance, of every Executive Committee meeting. All business of the Executive Committee shall be transacted at Executive Committee meetings. All motions (except those for honorary membership) must receive the votes of the majority of the entire Executive Committee to be passed. Results of Executive Committee meetings shall be distributed to all members of the club.

Article IX: Administration

The general administration of the club shall be vested in the Executive Committee consisting of the officers and members enumerated in Article VIII of this constitution. The duties of the Executive committee which may be delegated to one or more committees, chairmen, trip leaders, other members of the club, or the entire voting membership, shall include the following;

- 1) To supervise all club activities.
- 2) To be responsible for all club finances.
- 3) To plan and schedule of trips.
- 4) To purchase equipment, supervise its use, and maintain it.
- 5) To give leadership to members.
- 6) To designate trips for patch membership qualification.

- 7) To approve honorary membership.
- 8) To make decisions on the disciplinary problems, having the power to take appropriate action thereon.
- 9) To assess amount of damage inflicted upon club property or equipment, in case such damage was the result of carelessness on the part of a member or members. If it is found to be true they will be held financially responsible.
- 10) To fix the date of the annual election meeting, which must occur before the end of the Spring semester preceding the previous annual election meeting.
- 11) All duties enumerated elsewhere in this constitution.
- 12) The club as a whole can veto any action the Executive Committee takes by means of a petition signed by 60% of the voting membership of the club.

Article X: Elections

The election of members of the Executive Committee shall be governed by the following rules:

- 13) Election of members of the Executive Committee shall take place at the annual election meeting.
- 14) The patch members shall nominate at least one candidate for each position on the Executive Committee.
- 15) All members of the club shall be notified of the date of the election meeting and the nominations for the Executive Committee at least 14 days before the meeting or sooner under extenuating circumstances.
- 16) All candidates for membership on the Executive Committee shall be voting members of the club and eligible to hold such office under the regulations of RPI.
- 17) Vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee shall be filled at a special election meeting by the same procedure used to elect the members of the Executive Committee at the annual election meeting.

Article XI: Meetings

The club shall hold meetings every week unless otherwise specified by the Executive Committee. The club shall hold an annual meeting for the election of the Executive Committee each spring. The annual election meeting shall be held at a date and place set by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee, by a petition of 25% of the voting members or by the club's president.

Article XII: Rules of Conduct

The following rules of conduct shall be in effect at all times:

- 1) Intoxicating beverages, illegal substances, and firearms shall be prohibited on all club activities and trips.
- 2) The privilege of using privately owned land shall not be abused.
- 3) On all trips particular care shall be given to follow Leave No Trace principles.
- 4) On state and federal land, all Conservation Department rules and regulations shall be observed and strictly adhered to. Offenders shall be held personally responsible, rather than the club or its officers.
- 5) The faculty advisor(s) shall have final authority on any matter pertaining to the safety or general welfare of any participants and trip/ assistant trip leaders in a club activity.
- 6) Trip leaders shall have final authority on all matters on their trips except as specified in section 5 of this article.
- 7) Payment shall be made for any damage inflicted upon club property or equipment as a result of carelessness, such amount to be set by the Pit chair.
- 8) Signees may be assessed if they fail to show up for a trip or cancel their reservations if the club has made commitments involving an expense as a result of their reservations. Advance deposits may not be refunded under the same circumstances.
- 9) Neither the club nor its officers shall be held liable for any injury suffered by a member of the club during his association with the club.
- 10) * Important of filling out health and risk forms truthfully and fully.

Article XII: Officers of the Executive Committee

The officers of the club shall perform such functions as usually pertain to the offices held by them. The remaining member at large shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the president. The functions of the officers are described below.

President

The President is to oversee all aspects of the club, run the weekly meetings, and act as the point of contact for outside club members and organizations.

Vice President

The Vice President is to stand in as acting President in the President's absence, organize the food for Fall Lake George, organize all club advertising efforts (including apparel ordering), and edit the advertising budget for the club.

Secretary

The Secretary is to take minutes at all meetings, maintain the club mailing list, and send out meeting minutes to the club members.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is to take in dues and validate club members, organize with the activity chairs and turn in a club budget every year, and is in charge of the club finances.

Pit Chair

The Pit Chair is to maintain all of the gear the Outing Club owns (along with activity chairs) and the equipment room it is held in, and to hold weekly hours in which club members can rent out gear.

Cairn Editor

The Cairn Editor is to update and maintain the website, outing.org, and to publish the club's newsletter, the Cairn.

Member at Large

The Member at Large is to plan the Fall Lake George event, plan the Spring Banquet, manage the Fall Lake George budget, and help with anything needed of them after Fall Lake George.

Article XIII: Quorum

The quorum for the transaction of business at the annual election meeting or any other meeting of the club shall be 40% of the voting membership.

Article XIV: Removal of Members of the Executive Committee and Expulsion of Members

At any meeting of the club, a motion to remove a member of the Executive Committee from his position for failure to carry out his duties in the best interest of the club, or for any actions detrimental to the club, can be brought up by a petition of 25% of the total voting membership of the club. A full discussion of the charges shall be held at that meeting, or at the next meeting of the club if the member is not present at the meeting when the petition is presented. If within 14 days of the discussion, 2/3 of the voting members demand, by petition, that the member of the Executive Committee be removed, this member is stripped from all duties and responsibilities, and his position becomes vacant.

A member of the club may be expelled for actions detrimental to the club by the same procedure as for removing a member of the Executive Committee.

Article XV: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by either of the following methods.

- 11) A proposed amendment shall be approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee by a majority of its members. The Executive Committee shall set a date for a meeting of the club to take action on the amendment. This date shall be within 14 days of the Executive Committee meeting and all voting members shall be given at least 7 days notice of the meeting and its purpose. If at such a meeting 2/3 of the entire voting membership of the club approve the amendment, it shall be considered passed. Voting may be done in person or by written proxy.

12) A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in a petition signed by 25% of the voting membership of the club. The Executive Committee shall then set a date for a meeting of the club to take action on the amendment. This date shall be within 14 days of the submission of the petition and all voting members shall be given at least 7 days notice of this meeting and its purpose. If at such a meeting 2/3 of the entire voting membership of the club approve the amendment, it shall be considered passed. Voting may be done in person or by written proxy.

Article XVI: Conflict

In case of conflict between this constitution and any rules or regulations of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or of the Student Union, the rules or regulations of RPI or of the Student Union shall supersede this constitution and shall be binding upon this club.

Amendments

18 March, 1958 - Article VIII. Board of Directors

The business of the club shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of not less than three nor more than ten members, all of whom shall be over twenty-one years of age and at least one of whom shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New York State, and who need not be members of the Rensselaer Outing Club, Inc. The number of members of the Board of Directors will be determined between three and ten by the voting membership of the Rensselaer Outing Club, Inc. Such Directors shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Each annual budget of the Rensselaer Outing Club, Inc. shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, before its submission to the Rensselaer Student Union.

2 May, 1961 – Article IV. Clause 3

The dues of the club shall be \$2.00 for the year, payable at the beginning of the year, or in the case of second semester applicants, \$1.00. There will also be a \$1.00 initial fee for new members.

21 March, 1972 – Article VII, Paragraph 1, Sentence 1

The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of the club president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, Pit chairman, Cairn editor, and one member at large.

21 March, 1972 – Article X Clause 7

The order of election of the Executive Committee officers shall be as follows: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, Pit chairman, Cairn editor, member at large.

1 July, 2014 – Article I

Rensselaer Outing Club is no longer a corporation and is thus known as Rensselaer Outing Club instead of Rensselaer Outing Club, Inc.

1 July, 2014 – Article II

An electronic version of the seal has been added.

1 July, 2014 – Article III

Changed cycling to mountain biking and skiing to backcountry skiing. Added whitewater rafting, kayaking, and ice climbing

1 July, 2014 – Article IV

Added the club's National Speleological Society and Student Union affiliations.

1 July, 2014 – Article VI

Updated membership fees and process for becoming a member as well as the process for becoming a patch member.

1 July, 2014 – Article VII

Updated the text for the members of the Executive Committee, better defined election timing. Rephrased distribution of meeting happenings to not be media specific.

1 July, 2014 – Article VIII (board of directors)

Removed everything about the board of directors. As the club is no longer a corporation, this is no longer necessary.

1 July, 2014 – Article VIII (administration)

Removed "To insure proper chaperonage of overnight co-ed outings."

1 July, 2014 – Article IX

Removed election procedure for Board of Directors.

1 July, 2014 – Article XIV

To be more explicit, added that in the case of removal/expulsion, the officer position becomes vacant.

11 November, 2015 - Article III

Added a Mission Statement to the constitution.

11 November, 2015 - Article XII

Added descriptions for all of the officer positions.

11 November, 2015 - Article V

Added College Outside as an affiliation.