

# *Constitution of the Lafayette Outdoors Society*

## Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be “Lafayette Outdoors Society”

## Article II: Mission

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide Lafayette students to interact with the outdoors, with a particular emphasis on physically and mentally engaging activities in the wilderness. This organization shall teach its members how to respect the outdoors through Leave No Trace principles, teamwork, and an emphasis on safety and personal risk management. Involved members shall have the opportunity to exit the club feeling confident in their leadership and safety in the outdoors.

## Article II: Membership

Membership in the organization shall be open to all members of the Lafayette College community who have an interest in pursuing outdoors activities. It will be expected that all members participate in club activities in a safe and constructive manner so as not to detract from the experiences of any other members. All participants must register with this organization via the “Outdoors Society” path on DoSportsEasy (<http://dosportseasy.com/lafayetteclubs/>)

## Article III: Organizational Structure

### SECTION A: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The club shall be governed by an executive board consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations. The duties of each position are stated below:

**The President:** The president shall oversee all activities of the group. In the event of another board member’s absence, or if that board member is no longer able to fulfill the responsibilities of their role, the president shall assume his/her duties. He/she shall act as the liaison to other clubs and organizations on campus. The president is the chair of the board, and will run the weekly general meetings.

**The Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall assist the president in all of his/her duties, and will assume those duties in the president's absence.

**The Secretary:** The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining and publishing minutes at every general meeting, and for handling any forms, reports, letters, or other administrative paperwork for the club. He/she shall also notify members of all of the club's upcoming activities.

**The Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain records of the financial transactions of the group and is responsible for maintaining the budget. The treasurer shall ensure that any member who makes a purchase for the club is reimbursed. He/she must be knowledgeable of the financial procedures for the club, and will assist in the preparation of the annual budget proposal to Student Government.

**Public Relations:** The Public Relations head shall be responsible for this organization's campus presence, as well as advertising events. They will also manage the organization's social media accounts and website.

**Impeachment:** Impeachment of any board member may occur if the person fails to uphold his or her duties, or if he or she does not adhere to the mission of the Outdoors Society. The impeachment shall require a discussion among the current board members and committee heads, followed by at 4/5 vote by the board and a minimum 2/3 vote by the committee heads.

In addition, the club will appoint an equipment manager who will be charged with overseeing the purchasing, maintenance, storage, and distribution of club equipment. The executive board shall be elected by the general membership of the club at the first general body meeting to occur after Spring Break. The election will take place in the order of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In order to run for election to the executive board, a member must be nominated for the position. Members may nominate themselves. Once all nominations have been heard, the members present at the election will vote, and the candidate who receives the most votes will be appointed to the position. Elected board members will hold their positions throughout the following academic year.

## SECTION B: SUBCOMMITTEES

The club shall be organized into a number of subcommittees, each of which will be dedicated to a specific outdoor activity or set of activities. The subcommittees could include, but are not limited to:

- Hiking/Camping
- Water Sports
- Cycling
- Rock Climbing
- Running

New subcommittees may be proposed by any active member of the club to the executive board, who will then present the new subcommittee to the general body for a vote. If a majority of those members present and voting are in favor of the new subcommittee then it will be initiated. Each subcommittee would ideally be led by one of the executive board members, but in the event that a new subcommittee is added, this will not necessarily be the case. Each subcommittee will have two committee heads. The leaders of the subcommittees are responsible for planning and running the weekend outings for their particular subcommittee, and for reporting on the subcommittee's activities.

#### Article IV: Procedures

The club shall hold meetings once a week. These meetings should occur at the beginning of the week and will be open to the general membership. The purpose of the weekly meetings will be to review the club's activities over the past week, plan outings for the upcoming weekend, and discuss any administrative issues. The president and vice-president will plan and run the meetings. It will be the responsibility of the secretary to take down minutes and publish these in email format for the membership. These minutes will include details about upcoming outings. Any discussions or debates will follow the Robert's Rules of Order.

If a club member wishes to lead a trip, they must attend the weekly meeting beforehand. If they are not trip leader certified and van certified, they must co-sponsor their trip with members who are.

Changes to trips must be made at least one day in advance. In order to make changes to a trip all other trip co-leaders and van drivers must be agree to the changes, and the board must approve any changes.

Funding for trips and purchases of gear will be discussed and allocated at weekly board meetings. If additional information is needed outside of board meetings, the treasurer functions as the point of contact.

Club gear may be borrowed for trips unaffiliated with the club, however the gear must be approved in advance by the board and the borrowers of said gear must agree to treat the borrowed equipment with respect. The cost of replacing equipment deemed by the board to be damaged due to the borrower's misuse/negligence will be charged to the misuser. Borrowers will be informed of this clause before they take equipment. Club trips always take priority over personal trips.

#### Article V: Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any active member of the club at any of the weekly general meetings. The amendment will be proposed to the executive board, who will then present it to the general body for a vote. If,

after voting, a 2/3 majority has voted in favor of the new amendment, then the constitution shall be amended.

## Article VI: Risk Management

### SECTION 1: INJURIES

All club led trips will have a designated trip leader. They will be trained in first aid and CPR and will carry a first aid kit with them on all trips. Trip participants are responsible for their own safety. The Additionally, emergency contact information is collected on all club members prior to trip involvement.

### SECTION 2: FINANCES

The Treasurer is primarily responsible for the keeping of club funds and records. His/her work is verified and approved by the President and/or Vice President at weekly officer meetings.

### SECTION 3: HAZING

The Lafayette Outdoors Society will not tolerate hazing of club members of any kind. The club will act in accordance with Pennsylvania State Law which defines hazing as “Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership...” Any club member found guilty of hazing will face immediate dismissal from the club, but retains the write to a written appeal to be submitted to the board for review.

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Co-founder's Name

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