

Lafayette Outdoors Society
Lafayette College
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lafayette Outdoors Society, also referred to as LOST.

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Scope

Section 1: Purpose Statement

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.

Section 2: Goals/Objectives

In pursuit of this general purpose, the Lafayette Outdoors Society will aim to teach its members how to respect the outdoors through:

- A. Leave no trace principles
- B. Teamwork
- C. Emphasis on safety
- D. Personal risk management

Section 3: Relationship & Policy Agreement

As a recognized Lafayette College student organization, the Lafayette Outdoors Society will have access to advising and resources through the Division of Student Life and the Lafayette College Student Government, however, the Lafayette Outdoors Society activities are not supervised by Lafayette College staff or Student Government Representatives. The members of the organization itself are responsible for following all College policies and state laws and for ensuring the safety, security, and appropriate and lawful behavior of the membership as well as any students involved in activities sponsored by the organization.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: Nondiscrimination

In keeping with Lafayette College's policy of nondiscrimination, membership in Lafayette Outdoors Society is open to all students of Lafayette College, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, religion, age, military or veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or familial status, pregnancy, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Section 2: Active Members

Active membership in the Lafayette Outdoors Society shall be limited to students who are currently enrolled at Lafayette College. Membership shall be retained until the student severs relations with Lafayette College whether by graduation, leave of absence, voluntary or involuntary separation from the College. Membership will be retained during the vacation and recesses of the College; however, per College policy, if a student is on an official leave from the College due to suspension or an involuntary separation, they are not permitted to participate in the organization. In order for the above to apply to members, a person must be registered with LOST in Do Sports Easy, as well as have paid their dues to the club for the semester in question. In order to attend sanctioned club trips, all members are required to register via the <https://recreation.lafayette.edu/join-a-sports-club/> web site.

Section 3: Selection of New Members

New members can join the organization by paying their dues for each semester in question and registering for the club via Do Sports Easy, as described above. There is no formal application process or interview required.

Section 4: Hazing

Lafayette College requires that no student participate in and that no student organization allow any of its prospective members, new members, members, or others to participate in any ceremony or practice that involves mental or physical exhaustion or abuse, or in any way interferes with the students' mental or physical ability to perform their work at Lafayette College. These rites must not reflect unfavorably upon either the group or the College or be of a dangerous, rude, or demeaning nature. Hazing, whether it occurs on or off campus, is prohibited and will be subject to sanctioning through the conduct process.

Section 5: Voluntary Member Withdrawal

Any member can, at any time, voluntarily withdraw their membership from the organization.

Section 6: Non-Voluntary Member Withdrawal

A general member can be removed from the club if they are in violation of the club constitution or the College's Code of Conduct. This shall be done by a majority vote of the executive board in a private meeting.

- A. Members may request that an active member be removed if their conduct violates the College's Code of Conduct or the club constitution. The removal of an officer is described in Article 6, Section 6.
- B. An active member must be given notice of concerns raised by membership by members of the executive board. A minimum of one meeting should be held between members subject of such concern and at least two executive officers.

- C. After this initial meeting, the member of concerning conduct will be able to appeal the motion for removal. This process will occur in another meeting which must contain at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the executive board, as well as the club advisor. After this appeal meeting, the board will vote on whether or not the member should be removed, with a simple majority of present members necessary to pass.

Section 7: Dues

Every semester in which a member participates in club events will require the payment of a \$10 due. Non-payment will result in exclusion from club activities. Additional dues for specific events will be instituted by the executive board a minimum of two weeks prior to the event taking place. If members are unable to pay their dues, they must meet with the Treasurer to make other arrangements.

ARTICLE IV: Organizational Leadership

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the Lafayette Outdoors Society shall be the President, Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Social Chair, the Cycling Chair, the Climbing Chair, the Hiking Chair, the Camping Chair, and the Gear Manager. Team Captains for climbing and cycling are members of the executive board. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chair, Cycling Chair, Climbing Chair, Hiking Chair, Camping Chair, Gear Manager, Climbing Captain, and Cycling Captain are all permitted to vote on any club matter.

Section 2: The President shall:

- A. 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 their duties. They 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.

Section 3: The Vice President shall:

- A. The Vice-President shall assist the president in all of their duties, and will assume those duties in the president's absence. The Vice-President will also be in charge of setting and controlling safety standards for all events that the club puts on.

Section 4: The Secretary shall:

- A. 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. They shall also notify members of all of the club's upcoming activities.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall:

- A. 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. They must be knowledgeable of the financial procedures for the club, and will assist in the preparation of the annual budget proposal to the Student Government.

Section 6: The Social Chair shall:

- A. The Social Chair 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. They are also responsible for the club's presence at Involvement fairs.

Section 7: The Cycling Chair shall:

- A. The Cycling Chair shall be responsible for the organization of any cycling related events, including but not limited to intro rides, advanced road and mountain bike trips, and races.

Section 8: The Climbing Chair shall:

- A. The Climbing Chair shall be responsible for the organization of any climbing related events, including but not limited to intro events, advanced climbing trips, and competitions.

Section 9: The Hiking Chair shall:

- A. The Hiking Chair shall be responsible for the organization of any hiking related events, including but not limited to intro events and advanced hiking trips.

Section 10: The Camping Chair shall:

- A. The Camping Chair shall be responsible for the organization of any camping related events, including but not limited to intro camping trips, and advanced long distance events.

Section 11: The Gear Manager shall:

- A. The Gear Manager shall be responsible for overseeing the purchasing, maintenance, storage, and distribution of club equipment.

ARTICLE VI: Officer Terms and Election Procedures

Section 1: Term

The terms of all officers of the Lafayette Outdoors Society shall be one calendar year. Officers may serve multiple consecutive terms.

Section 2: Election Timeline

All officers shall be elected on or before the start of the fourth week of the fall semester. The effective term of all officers shall begin when the fall semester ends.

Section 3: Officer Criteria

All officers shall be elected from the active members. Any student seeking to hold office must have and maintain good academic and judicial standing. Officers must not be abroad during their term of office, or they will lose their standing as officers, and a new special election can be held by the executive board.

Section 4: Election Process

- A. The president will announce that elections will be occurring and communicate the details and timeline to the active members of the club.
- B. Candidates must submit the position or positions for which they intend to run, as well as a 2 minute or shorter statement about their qualifications and motivations for running.
 - a. Nominations will be accepted up to 3 days before the election
- C. Elections must be open to all members, and at least 75% of the executive board must attend the election.
- D. Each position will be voted on one at a time, starting with the president and following the order described in Article V, following each candidate's statements. There will be time for discussion of candidates before voting can occur, which will occur privately and counted by the sitting president. A simple majority will win the vote. In the event that a candidate is running unopposed, they will assume the position. In the event of a tie, the sitting president will break the tie.

Section 5: Officer Resignation

Any officer can, at any time, voluntarily resign from their position with proper notice given to the other officers and Advisor.

Section 6: Officer Impeachment

- A. The membership may request that an Executive Officer step down from their position for failing to complete the duties of their office or if their conduct violates the College's Code of Conduct in a manner warranting disciplinary action from the College. The impeachment process must occur while classes are in session, and the club advisor should attend the meetings as a non-voting mediator. The officer in question should be given notice of any concerns through verbal and written communication.
- B. For impeachment to occur, there must be a hearing where both the concerns of active members and the explanations of the officer in question must be heard. Upon the conclusion of statements, there will be a vote on whether or no the officer should be

impeached. At least 75% of the members in attendance must vote yes to confirm the impeachment.

- C. If the impeachment is voted down, the executive board must work with the officer in question to detail specific ways in which concerns about conduct can be avoided in the future.

Section 7: Officer Succession

Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President will become president and assume all presidential responsibilities until the regular term is over. If another executive officer position should become vacant, a special election must be held within 3 weeks to fill the position. The newly elected officer will serve a shortened term, and the position will be up for reelection at the next election cycle.

ARTICLE VII: Meeting and Programs

Section 1: The first meeting of the fall semester must be held within 10 class days of the Fall Club Fair.

Section 2: At least one board meeting should be held during each month in which there are at least 10 class days. Board meetings are open to the general body unless specifically advertised as closed-door. A business meeting will be held in the event that decisions need to be made that strongly impact club membership. Business meetings are defined as an official publicly advertised meeting with quorum present and minutes recorded.

Section 3: Quorum: A simple majority of the membership is required to conduct business (half plus one).

Section 4: Robert's Rules of Order shall govern meetings in all cases except when in conflict with this constitution and with general College regulations.

ARTICLE VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing by an active member of the Lafayette Outdoors Society at any regular meeting at which two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the active members are present.

Section 2: Proposed amendments shall be voted upon only after two regular meetings following the introduction of the proposal and discussion period.

Section 3: Proposed amendments will become effective following a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) affirmative vote of the active members.

ARTICLE IX: Risk Management

Section 1: Injuries and Risk Management

All club led trips will have a designated trip leader and at least one safety officer in attendance for every eight members present. Safety officers must have a currently valid CPR/First Aid certification and be registered in DSE as a safety officer. All trips under control of the Lafayette Outdoors Society must also have a first aid kit on hand that is properly stocked to attend to all, even severe injuries. In the case of a severe injury or upon the request of a participant, EMT or first responders will be called. If first responders are called to an accident, the cost will have to either be handled by the student or student's insurance.

All members in attendance of an event must either use pre approved LOSt owned gear, professionally provided gear, or have personal adequate certified specialty gear. Basic gear such as shoes and clothes are a necessity for all members in attendance.

In regards to watersports, participants must have passed a swim test administered by the College and in the case of kayaking, have passed a kayak specific water test, administered by the College.

Section 2: Finances

The Treasurer is primarily responsible for the keeping of club funds and records. Their work is verified and approved by the President and/or Vice President at weekly officer meetings. All funds that the club receives is provided by the Lafayette college student government organization and therefore is managed by them. All funds that the club receives for each request is used for the purpose of the request in full.

Section 3: Hazing

Hazing policy: Lafayette College and Pennsylvania State Law requires that no student participates in and that no student organization allows any of its new members, members, or others to participate in any pre-membership ceremony or practice that involves mental or physical exhaustion or abuse, or in any way interferes with the students' mental or physical ability to perform their work at Lafayette College. These rites must not reflect unfavorably upon either the group or the College or be of a dangerous, rude, or demeaning nature. The President is responsible for ensuring that members understand this policy and that (1) members will be held responsible for violations of this policy and (2) the student organization itself may face charges

for violating this policy. For a more comprehensive list of examples of hazing, refer to the Student Handbook.

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

Created: 03/09/2023