

Bylaws of the Desert Peaks Section

As approved by the Membership as of March 2012.

Article I: ORGANIZATION

1. This Section is constituted by action of the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of the Bylaws of the Sierra Club. This section is an integral part of the Sierra Club and of the Angeles Chapter and is governed by their Bylaws; it is not a separate legal entity.
2. **The name** of this section is the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.
3. **The purposes** of this Section are to foster the purposes of the Sierra Club, as stated in its Bylaws, and further:
 1. To explore the desert mountain areas of the Southwest.
 2. To aid in the conservation and preservation of these areas in keeping with Sierra Club policies.
 3. To stimulate interest in climbing desert mountain ranges, improve climbing and hiking techniques, and cultivate comradeship among the membership.

Article II: MEMBERSHIP

1. **Regular members.** Any current member of the Sierra Club may become a member of the Desert Peaks Section upon:
 1. Climbing any six mountains on the Desert Peaks Section Peak List maintained by the Section.
 2. Subscribing to the Section newsletter, The Desert SAGE.
 3. Making application for membership, with a list of qualifying peaks climbed with dates, and Sierra Club membership number, in writing to the Membership Chair.
2. Membership will be maintained so long as the member subscribes to the Section Newsletter and maintains a current membership in the Sierra Club. Subscriptions to the newsletter are for a term of one year (6 issues).
3. **Voting.** Only regular members of the Section may vote.
4. **Qualification for office.** Only regular members qualified to vote may hold office. No Section member may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms, or for an unexpired term and one succeeding full term, during a five year period.
5. **Honorary members.** Any member of the Sierra Club who has performed outstanding service for this Section and who is otherwise unable to qualify for membership under Section I of this article, may become an Honorary Member of the Section by a majority vote of the membership at a regular or special meeting of the membership. Honorary members shall not be entitled to hold office or to vote.
6. The **current membership list** shall be published annually in the Section newsletter.

Article III: MEETINGS

1. **Place of business.** Regular and special meetings will be held in the Angeles Chapter area.
2. **Regular meetings** may, in conformance with requirements elsewhere in these Bylaws, be held monthly from October through April. Section business will be conducted at these regular meetings. Notice of regular meetings shall be given in the Angeles Chapter Schedule and/or the Section newsletter.
3. **Special meetings.** Upon written request of ten percent of the listed membership, the Chair shall convene such a meeting within thirty days of receipt of the request. The Chair shall direct that notice of these meetings shall be given to each member in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of such a meeting.
4. The **order of precedence** of motions and rules relating to motions tabulated in Robert's Rules of Order, revised (1915) shall govern the Section in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or special rules of this Section.
5. **Quorum.** Ten percent of the regular membership shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at any regular or special meeting.

Article IV: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the Section shall be in the hands of a Management Committee of five members, elected by the members of the Section for alternating terms of two years. The Management Committee shall consist of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Program Chair. Three Management Committee members shall be elected on odd numbered years and two members shall be elected on even numbered years.
2. Only the Management Committee or those specifically authorized by it shall act in the name of the Section. The Committee shall have the authority to make rules and regulations for carrying out the procedures established by these Bylaws. If any dispute arises concerning any act of the Section Management Committee, the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee shall have the power to determine the procedures to be followed. Actions of the Section must be consistent with the purposes of the Sierra Club and the policies and directives of the Angeles Chapter and the Board of Directors.
3. The **Chair** shall preside at meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall enforce the Bylaws; shall call meetings of the Management Committee as required; shall appoint committees with the consent of the Management Committee to plan and carry on the work of the Section.
4. **Vice-chair.** During the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act in his/her place; shall arrange scheduled climbs; shall be Chair of the Mountaineering Committee; shall be the Outings and Safety Chair; shall solicit and collect outing proposals from leaders for approval for submission to the Angeles Chapter Schedule.
5. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall have custody of the current year records of the Section; shall attend to the correspondence under the direction of the

- Chair; shall have a copy of these Bylaws and those of the Angeles Chapter available for inspection at all meetings of the Section and the Management Committee.
6. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer, under the general supervision of the Management Committee shall have custody of the funds of the Section and keep an accurate record thereof; shall make disbursements when authorized to do so by the Management Committee or the Chair; shall prepare an annual budget at the beginning of the fiscal year and track the fiscal status; shall manage the inventory of merchandise for sale including pins, Road & Peak Guides, and clothing.
 7. **Program Chair.** The Program Chair shall arrange programs and refreshments for the regular meetings and be responsible for the annual spring banquet.
 8. The newly elected Management Committee shall appoint the officials listed below and such others as may be designated by the Management Committee. These positions may be filled by Management Committee members. The Management Committee plus these officials constitute the Extended Management Committee.
 1. **Conservation Chair.** The Conservation Chair shall direct the conservation activities of the Section.
 2. **SAGE Editor.** The Desert SAGE Editor shall be responsible for soliciting inputs for the SAGE including trip write-ups and other reports as called for by these Bylaws; shall assemble the SAGE; shall direct publication and mailing of the SAGE. The Desert SAGE shall be published in odd numbered months. Non-members may subscribe.
 3. **Mountain Records Chair.** The Mountain Records Chair shall work to maintain the register books and containers on DPS peaks.
 4. **Archivist.** The Archivist shall have custody of the permanent records of the Section.
 5. **Membership Chair.** The Membership Chair shall review applications for Section membership; shall maintain an address list of active Section members and a list of holders of achievements; and shall keep a membership list of those qualified to vote at the regular and special meetings. The Membership Chair, if not already a member, shall be an ex officio Management Committee member without vote.
 9. Meetings of the Extended Management Committee shall be held, when called by the Chair or any three members of the Management Committee, at least quarterly at times and places to be specified. These times and places should be announced at regular general meetings of the Section and in a Newsletter of the Section or Angeles Chapter distributed to all members. Special meetings of the Extended Management Committee may be called by the Chair, or any three members of the Management Committee, but only on at least one week's notice, unless all members waive this notice requirement. Due notice of special meetings and the scheduling of regular meetings must be given to all members of the Extended Management Committee. Three members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum and three affirmative votes shall be required for the transaction of any business or approval of any resolution. All meetings of the Management Committee shall be open to attendance by any member of the Sierra Club in good standing, except that in unusual circumstances, the Management Committee may convene in

private session for discussion of sensitive issues, but shall take no vote except in open session.

Article V: ELECTIONS

1. The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee of three members of the Section, one of whom may be an officer, and shall announce the committee members at the January meeting.
2. At the regular February meeting, the nominating committee will submit to the membership at least three candidates for election to the Management Committee. Nominations for additional candidates may be made from the floor at the regular March meeting.
3. Names of nominees shall be placed on a ballot and mailed to all members of the Section within two weeks after the March regular meeting. Completed ballots must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee before the opening of the regular April meeting. The ballots will be counted by at least two members of the Nominating Committee at the regular April meeting, and the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected in odd numbered years, and the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected in even numbered years. Election results will be announced at that meeting. Proposed additions and deletions to the Peaks List in accord with Article XI and proposed changes to the Bylaws in accord with Article X shall also be included in the ballot. An election is invalid unless 25% or more of the regular membership votes (blank ballots do not count).
4. The newly elected members and the hold-over members shall meet within two weeks and select from their number a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Program Chair. The hold-over members may, but do not have to, continue their positions into the second year of their terms.
5. The new Management Committee shall take office immediately after the Banquet if held in May or at such time in May as the old and new committees agree.
6. Should a vacancy occur on the Management Committee, the remaining members shall, within thirty days, elect a member of the Section to fill the vacancy.

Article VI: FUNDS

1. The Section may receive funds from the Angeles Chapter, in a manner specified by the Chapter Executive Committee, but the Section itself may not assess or collect dues from its members. The Section may receive contributions directly, but since the Section is an entity of the Sierra Club, its expenditure of such contributions shall be consistent with any policy and instructions of the Board of Directors. Voluntary contributions may be accepted, however, to pay for supplies, equipment, decorations, prizes, refreshments, and to meet other incidental expenses.
2. The funds acquired by the Section shall be placed in accounts established by the Treasurer in the name of "Desert Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club". Access to the accounts shall be by the Treasurer and the Chair.
3. The Management Committee may delegate financial authority, subject to these Bylaws and Club Bylaws, to Section entities but it retains responsibility and

control. Any such entity must provide regular and satisfactory accounting to the Section Treasurer and the Section Management Committee.

4. Neither the Section nor any entity thereof shall have authority to borrow money or own real estate.
5. At the end of the section's fiscal year, the Treasurer shall submit to the Chapter Treasurer a financial report of the activities of the Section.
6. The fiscal year of the Section shall end December 31.

Article VII: EMBLEMS AND PEAK LIST

1. The Section shall establish and maintain an official Peak List which shall identify the qualifying peaks and the emblem peaks. The emblem peaks are: Rabbit Peak of the Santa Rosa Range, Mt. Montgomery of the White Mountain Range, Mt. Inyo of the Inyo Range, Telescope Peak of the Panamint Range, Signal Peak of the Kofa Range, Charleston Peak of the Spring Mountain Range, and El Picacho del Diablo of the Sierra San Pedro Martir. New editions of The Peak List shall be published in the SAGE. The Peak List will be given to new members.
2. The Section shall award emblem status to a regular member of the Section who:
 1. Has been a member for at least one year.
 2. Has climbed fifteen peaks on the Peak List, including at least five emblem peaks.
 3. Applies to the Secretary in writing listing the peaks climbed and dates of ascent.
3. The Section shall establish an emblem pin which shall be available to emblem members upon payment therefor.
4. The Section shall award list finisher status to a regular member of the Section who:
 1. Has climbed all the peaks on the Peak List in effect at the time of application,
 2. Applies to the Secretary in writing listing the peaks climbed and dates of ascent.
5. The Section shall establish a list-finishing pin which shall be available to list finishers upon payment therefore.
6. The Section shall award Leader Emblem status to a regular member of the Section who:
 1. is a qualified Angeles Chapter leader,
 2. has led or co-led 50 peaks on the DPS List,
 3. applies to the Secretary in writing listing the peaks led and dates.

Article VIII: APPEALS

1. Any member may appeal in writing to the Chapter Executive Committee for a final determination regarding actions of the Section or the Management Committee.

Article IX: COMMITTEES

1. **Standing and Special Committees** shall be appointed as required to plan and carry out the activities of the Section. These Committees shall be responsible to the Management Committee.
2. **The Mountaineering Committee** shall consist of three or more members. The Vice-Chair will be the chairman of this committee. One member will be appointed by the Management Committee Chair for a two year term, while the third member will be a carry-over from the preceding year. The Mountaineering Committee shall

carry on the work of exploring the desert mountain areas; submit proposed trips to the Vice-Chair; and make recommendations to the Management Committee for any changes in climbing requirements for membership status or emblem status. The Mountaineering Committee shall also maintain the Peak List and make recommendations to the Management Committee for changes to this list.

3. **The Membership Committee** shall assist in recruiting new members and in encouraging participation in Club and Section activities.

Article X: AMENDMENTS

1. The Management Committee may propose amendments to these Bylaws at the February and/or at the March meetings. After the March meeting, the proposed amendments with arguments for and against, if available, shall be placed on the ballot prescribed in Article V, Elections.
2. Any regular member may recommend Bylaw changes to the Management Committee by December 31. If the Management Committee does not propose these changes at the February meeting, then the member may submit a petition signed by twenty-five regular members and the Bylaw changes will be placed on the ballot.
3. Changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds majority of the members voting.

Article XI: PEAK LIST ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

1. Any regular member may submit recommendations for additions or deletions to the Peak List to the Mountaineering Committee in writing by October 31. If the proposal is not approved and submitted to the membership at the February meeting pursuant to Section 1, Article XI, then at the March meeting a member may submit a petition signed by 25 regular members and the proposed additions or deletions shall be placed on the ballot.
2. The Mountaineering Committee shall propose additions or deletions to the Peak List to the Management Committee before the regular December meeting. The Management Committee shall approve or disapprove these proposals and shall propose those changes that it approves to the membership at the January meeting and at the February meeting. The proposed changes shall be described in an issue of the newsletter that is published before the ballot appears. The proposed changes, together with arguments for and against, if available, shall then be placed on the ballot in accord with Article V, Elections.
3. No peak addition to the Peak List shall be placed on the ballot without its first being scheduled and climbed as a DPS sponsored outing and reported in the SAGE before the ballot appears.
4. Additions and deletions to the Peak List require a majority vote of the members voting.
5. On the recommendation of the Mountaineering Committee, the Management Committee may suspend a peak from the Peak List by majority vote. The Management Committee may remove such suspension by majority vote at any appropriate time. Suspension will cause a peak to be ignored in applications for list finisher status.

ARTICLE XII: THE DPS SERVICE AWARD

1. The Desert Peaks Section management committee shall annually consider giving an award, at the annual banquet, to an outstanding active member of the section. The award does not have to be given every year, but must be considered. The name of the award shall be the "DESERT PEAKS SECTION SERVICE AWARD".

Article XIII: DESERT EXPLORER AWARD

1. The Desert Peaks Section shall award a "Desert Explorer Emblem" to a member of the Section that has climbed 40 peaks on the Desert Peaks List by more than one route. To qualify as a different route, a second route should be different from the first route for a significant portion (at least 50 percent) of the route.