

CONSTITUTION of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc.

Article II – Purpose

The Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be an independent organization established for the purpose of honoring and recognizing outstanding 4-H Club members and/or associates who have displayed characteristics of service, character and leadership.

Article III – Objectives

This organization shall serve to encourage initiative and service on the part of the 4-H Clubs of Maryland and or associates through both individual and cooperative efforts. It shall strive to recognize those 4-H Club members and associates who have maintained high ideals and who have obtained the “four-fold life” through unselfish service to others. The motto of this organization is SERVICE and it shall stand ready to lend its aid to any worthy cause. Each member shall be expected to make personal application of this motto.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – The general qualifications for membership in the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be that the candidate must be a person of sterling character; maintain high ideals and ethics pertaining to the home and his/her life therein; be loyal, resourceful, responsible, with a sense of understanding the viewpoints and needs of others; have a record of leadership and service; be one who through sincere interest and participation in support of 4-H Club work and community activities works for the progress of the group as a whole and not for self gain; and be one who demonstrates a practical application of the personal motto, “I serve.” Membership in the Maryland 4-H Club All Stars may be revoked upon proof and conviction of gross misconduct or illegal activities.

Section 2 – No prospective nominee may seek the honor of membership, but (s)he must have it conferred upon them.

Section 3 – The classification of membership in the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be four (4) in number. They shall be entitled Regular Membership, Honorary Membership, Associate Membership, and Extension Agent Membership.

Section 4 – Regular members must have completed at least two (2) years of 4-H Club work. They must be fifteen (15) years of age before January 1st of the year of their candidacy; or they must have been a member in good standing of another 4-H Club All Star chapter; in addition to meeting those qualifications as stated in Article IV, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 5 – Honorary members must have given voluntary and outstanding service to 4-H Club work on a county, district, state, regional or national level for at least seven (7) years in addition to meeting those qualifications in Article IV, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 6 – Associate members shall be the spouses of Regular or Honorary 4-H Club All Stars and shall be entitled to enjoy all the privileges of Regular and Honorary membership except they may not make a motion, vote, stand for or be elected to executive office.

Section 7 – Extension Agent members shall be the Maryland 4-H and Youth agents who do not hold either a Regular or Honorary membership in the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. They shall have all the privileges of an Associate member.

Section 8 – There shall be no numerical restrictions as to the number of nominees that may be recommended for Regular or Honorary membership.

Section 9 – The procedure for the nomination of individuals for Regular and Honorary membership shall be set down by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the guidelines developed by the Membership Committee.

- a. This procedure must be in the hands of the respective County chairperson 120 days prior to the Semi-Annual meeting.
- b. All nominations forms for Regular or Honorary membership must be in the hands of the chairperson of the Membership Committee postmarked on or before 30 days prior to the Semi-Annual meeting.

Section 10 – The procedure for voting on nominees for Regular and Honorary membership shall be:

- a. The Membership Committee shall present a list of acceptable candidates at the Semi-Annual meeting.
- b. A nominee for Regular membership must receive a seventy-five (75%) percent affirmative vote of all active members present.
- c. A nominee for Honorary membership must receive a ninety (90%) percent affirmative vote of all active members present.

- d. The Chairperson of the Membership Committee must inform the Big Chief and the Executive Committee of the results of the vote before the Annual Conference.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – Two conferences shall be held each year for the purpose of conducting the business of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc.

Section 2 – These conferences shall be known as the Semi-Annual meeting and the Annual Conference.

Section 3 – The Semi-Annual meeting shall be held at a time and place decided upon by the Executive Committee for the purpose of accepting and voting upon nominations for new members together with whatever other business may require action for the good of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc.

Section 4 – Annual Conference shall be held at a time and place decided upon by the Executive Committee for the purpose of Consecrating and Initiating new members, election of officers, and conducting whatever other business may require action for the good of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc.

Section 5 – The Chapter's year will run from Annual Conference to Annual Conference.

Section 6 – Seventy-five (75%) percent of the active Regular and Honorary members in attendance at any formal meeting or conference shall constitute a quorum for that specific formal meeting or conference.

Article VI – Ceremonies

Section 1 – The Big Chief, upon receipt of the tally of votes from the Chairperson of the Membership Committee as stated in Article IV Section 10(d) of this Constitution shall send to each nominee who has been elected to Regular or Honorary membership a letter of invitation to the Annual Conference for the purpose of consecration and initiation into the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc.

Section 2 – Each nominee elected to membership shall be received in the circle in accordance with the ritual of the Consecration Service.

Section 3 – Each nominee who has been consecrated must be initiated at the first Initiation Ceremony conducted after consecration in accordance with the ritual of the Installation Ceremony.

Section 4 – The retention of copies of the Consecration and Initiation Ceremonies shall be the responsibility of the Consecration, Initiation and Installation Officers.

Article VII – Officers

Section 1 – The executive officers of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be known as Big Chief, Lesser Chief, Scribe, Medicine Man, Scout, Lower Shore representative, Central Shore representative, Upper Shore representative, Southern Maryland representative, Northern representative, Central representative and Western representative. All officers and representatives must be active members during their terms of office.

Section 2 – The executive officers of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be elected bi-annually during the Annual Conference by ballot, and a plurality of those ballots cast shall be sufficient to elect. Those officers shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in one office. The district representatives shall be elected by a caucus of those 4-H Club All Stars residing in that respective district; and the result of the caucus shall be given to the Scribe no later than the next Semi-Annual meeting.

Section 3 – A vacancy in the office of Big Chief shall be automatically filled by the Lesser Chief.

Section 4 – A vacancy in the offices other than Big Chief shall be filled by appointment by the Big Chief with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Article VIII – Committees and Non-Executive Officers

Section 1 – Executive Committee

- a. Shall be composed of the Big Chief, the Lesser Chief, the Scribe, the Medicine Man, the Scout, the seven district representatives and a State 4-H representative, and the Immediate Past Big Chief, who shall serve a term of one year immediately following his/her term of office.
- b. May contract an Executive Administrator with advice and consent of the membership.
- c. Shall be responsible for transacting all business that should arise between the formal meeting and Annual Conference.
- d. The following shall be Standing Committees of the organization and their chairperson(s) shall be considered non-executive members of the Executive Committee.
 - a. Constitution Committee, Future Plans Committee, Audit Committee, Membership Committee, Installation & Consecration Committee.
 - b. The duties of these Committees shall be directed by the Executive Committee.

Article IX – Dues

Section 1 – The membership year for which dues shall be collected in the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars, Inc. shall be from Annual Conference to Annual Conference.

Section 2 – Active regular and active honorary All Stars are those members current in annual dues. Inactive regular and inactive honorary All Stars are those members not current in annual dues.

Section 3 – Annual membership dues for both regular and honorary members shall be decided upon by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4 – Life membership shall be available and these amounts shall be decided upon by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 – All dues are to be paid only to the Medicine Man or the Medicine Man's designated representative.

Section 6 – The membership shall be notified at Annual Conference of the dues and life membership amounts; and this information shall be published in each edition of the Maryland Trail.

Article X – Amendments

Section 1 – An amendment to this Constitution must first be presented to the Constitution Committee for their discussion and interpretation.

Section 2 – The amendment must be presented by the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee in writing to the membership at the next formal meeting or conference for a vote.

Section 3 – A quorum number as stated in Article V Section 6 of this Constitution shall be required for approval.

Section 4 – If approved, copies of the amendment must accompany the announcement of the next meeting or conference.

Section 5 – The amendment must be presented to the membership by the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee in writing at this next conference or meeting for a final vote.

Section 6 – The amendment shall become immediately operative.

*Constitution approval – Fall Conference 1981
Revised 27 June 2015*

