

American Mountain Men

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Methods of and Requirements for ACCEPTANCE into MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in this association is by invitation only. Invitations to join will be issued only after the prospective member has:

1. Been nominated by at least two (2) members holding Regular membership, GrayBeard membership or a combination of both, or by one (1) member holding Hiveranno membership.
2. Been interviewed IN PERSON by the member(s) making the nomination.
3. Been approved by the Territory Segundo.

B. To be eligible for membership a prospective member must:

1. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - a. Fifteen (15) years of age if the application is for a Junior type membership.
2. Have at least one muzzle-loading firearm with fixed sights or one hand made bow of a type and style used by American Indians. Said bow must have a pull of no less than thirty (30) pounds.
3. Have made at least a partial study of the lives and methods of the Mountain Men during the 1800-1840 era.
4. Show that he is willing to take an active part in the activities of this association.

C. All nominations must be in writing, listing what is known of the prospective member (interest, experience, etc.) plus any other interest which will help determine eligibility all letters of nomination must have printed on them the name, card number, membership type, and state of member(s) making nomination. At least one member making the nomination must sign the letter.

D. All nominations must be reviewed and recommended by the Brigade Booshway, then approved by the Territory Segundo. The nominee shall be accepted as a probationary member on the Territory Segundo's approval.

1. The association Capitaine may approve nominees in place of any Segundo. All Foreign members must be approved by the association Capitaine.

ARTICLE II

TYPES of MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in this association shall be divided into seven (7) types:

1. **PROBATIONARY:** Each new member must serve one year as a probationary member. During this probationary period he is expected to make or purchase all the necessary accouterments and clothing traditionally used by MOUNTAIN MEN during the 1800-1840 era, to participate in at least one primitive camp out which must last at least two (2) full days and one night, and to show by activities of his own that he has an active interest in this association. Failure to meet these requirements during the probationary period will result in the probationary member being dropped from the association. The probationary member may hold no national association office or vote in any national association election. All other activities, except where noted in these by-laws, are open to the probationary member.

2. **REGULAR MEMBER-** To become a Bossloper, a man must have completed at least one full year as a Probationary member. From the list of Hiveranno requirements (Article III, below), he must complete at least 10 requirements. The selection of which 10 requirements to do are the Pilgrim's choice, except that requirements 1 and 2 are mandatory, and requirement 16 is not applicable for advancement to Bossloper.

1. Must have a full set of hand-cut and -sewn clothing and handmade accoutrements. These must be researched for authenticity of the 1800-1840 period and be of a type which would have been seen on men in, or moving to, the Rocky Mountains. Period weapons, saddles, traps, blankets, and other accoutrements that would normally have required the work of a specialized craftsman need not be handmade, but must be as authentic as can be purchased today.

2. Must have spent at least two days and one night in a primitive camp during each season of the year.
3. Must have spent an accumulative time of two or more weeks in the wilderness under primitive conditions in the company of no more than one other member. Each stay must be at least three full days and two full nights.
4. Must have spent at least one full week in a primitive encampment in the company of other members at the Territorial AMM Rendezvous (Eastern or Western) or the National (Rocky Mountain) AMM Rendezvous.
5. Must be able to demonstrate the skills needed for primitive survival in the wilderness of his area and must be willing to teach said skills to other members when requested by a Party Boosway or Director of this Association.
6. Must be able to demonstrate trapping ability using steel traps, snares, and traps made from natural materials found in the area. As many states do not allow the use of some, or any, of these traps, the actual taking of game is not required, although it is suggested where possible and legal.
7. Must be able to demonstrate ability to track man or animal under natural wilderness conditions.
8. Must be able to demonstrate the ability to properly pack a horse, canoe, bullboat, or a man for distance travel under possible adverse conditions.
9. Must be able to properly field dress (clean and skin) a game animal under primitive conditions.
10. Must be able to start a fire in wet, as well as dry, weather using flint and steel or fire drill using tinder and wood found under natural conditions.
11. Must be able to show ability to tan or Indian-dress hides.
12. Must have spent at least five days traveling on foot, snowshoe, canoe, and/or horseback. One method or a combination may be used. Bullboat may be used in place of canoe. You are expected to gain as much distance as possible. This trip must be under primitive conditions, taking nothing that would not have been available to the mountain man between 1800-1840. Period weapon with accoutrements and knife must be along.
13. Must be able to cook a meal of meat using only the meat, fire, a knife, and materials found in nature.
14. Must be able to converse using Plains Indians hand talk. The 200 words on page 64 of Tompkin's book "Indian Sign Language", will be used as a basis for conversation. To complete this requirement, you must demonstrate your ability to read the signs for 50 words, as well as to give the signs for 50 words.
15. Must have hunted for and killed at least one game or fur animal with a muzzleloading firearm or primitive bow and must have used the skin and/or meat for food, clothing and/or accoutrements. The hunt must be made from a strictly primitive camp, the hunt accomplished under primitive conditions within the limits of local game laws.
16. Must have at least three full years of membership in AMM.
17. Must be able to properly skin an animal and prepare the skin for market.
18. Must have served as a Boosway for at least two activities of the AMM.
19. Must spend three days and two nights totally alone under primitive conditions and aux aliments du pays ["off the nourishment of the land"].
20. Must have made a study of the life style of the mountain man, frontiersman or American Indian before 1840 and must submit a report of this study to the association Capitaine.

Where applicable, multiple requirements may be completed concurrently. Requirements completed for Bossloper need not be repeated. Requirement 16 shall be interpreted to mean three years as a Regular member.

3. HIVERANNO: This is a special degree awarded to members who have held membership in good standing for no less than three years, have authentic clothing and accouterments (1800- 1840 era) and have passed a Primitive Field Test. Hiveranno members have all rights and privileges of this association.

a. Requirements for the Primitive Field Test must be covered in the Association Standing Rules. Any change in these requirements must first be approved by the Grand Council then by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members holding Hiveranno membership.

b. The Grand Council may sponsor a member for the Hiveranno membership before the three year requirement is fulfilled providing said member has performed outstanding primitive wilderness accomplishments requiring physical duress beyond the ordinary and meets all -other requirements. Acceptance must be approved by majority vote of all members holding Hiveranno membership, to be determined by special mailed ballot.

4. GRAY BEARD: This is an honorary membership, granted by the Grand Council to men 65 years of age or older who have performed outstanding service for this association or who have special knowledge and abilities needed by this association. The Gray Beard has all rights of regular membership.

5. JUNIOR: This membership is open to young boys fifteen (15) years of age through seventeen (17) years of age. Written authorization by parent or guardian for the Junior member to take an active part of association activities is required before he can be accepted. Junior members require only one sponsor, who may hold any type membership other than probationary. Junior members have the same rights as probationary members.

6. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: This membership is for persons who do not wish to take an active part in the association but wish to receive the association magazine. Other than receiving the association magazine, associate members have no participating rights.

7. FOREIGN MEMBERS: This membership is for all members outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. Foreign members have all rights of association activities except national vote or office. The association Capitaine must approve all Foreign members.

ARTICLE III

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS, Their DUTIES and TERM of OFFICE

A. Association Directors and their duties are:

1. CAPITAINE: (President). The Capitaine shall be responsible for the coordination of all national association directors, shall coordinate the activities of all staffs and committees on a national level, shall preside at any special meeting of the Grand Council when possible, shall Chairman the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous Committee, shall make decisions concerning the operation of the association when time is not available for Grand Council decisions, shall appoint chairmen to all committees (subject to Grand Council veto) and shall issue the Hiveranno membership to all qualified members. The Capitaine has the power of veto over any staff decision. Said veto may be appealed to the Grand Council, override requiring a majority vote. The Capitaine is expected to issue a yearly report concerning the progress of the association, said report to be published in the association newsletter .

2. WESTERN SEGUNDO: (Western States Vice' President)

3. EASTERN SEGUNDO: (Eastern States Vice President)

4. GREAT NORTHERN SEGUNDO: (Canadian Vice President)

a. The duties of all Segundos are to coordinate association activities in their territory, to encourage the formation of Parties (Chapters) of Mountain Men, to plan and oversee a yearly rendezvous for their territory, to promote and assist instruction of the knowledge and abilities needed by the original Mountain Men, to promote research into the lives and ways of the original Mountain Men, to form special committees when needed, to advise and assist new members, to give all possible assistance to Brigade Booshways and to assist the Capitaine in any way possible. The Segundo shall review the nominations, and Booshway recommendations for all new members in their territory, accepting or rejecting them.

b. The office of the Great Northern Segundo shall be filled when the Grand Council determines that there are enough members in Canada to warrant doing so.

5. CHIEF CLERK: (Secretary). The Chief Clerk shall answer all mail not directed to a specific director, maintain an up-to- date file of all members, compile and mail the Grand Council Bulletin with necessary ballot attached, count the Grand Council Ballots when received and maintain all other necessary files. The Chief Clerk is expected to keep all Segundos informed of any new members in (or any members dropped from) their territories.

6. CHIEF PURSER: (Treasurer). The Chief Purser shall receive dues and issue membership cards, maintain an up-to-date dues file of all members, inform the Chief Clerk when a member is dropped because of non-payment of dues, maintain a consistent and accurate record of all association monies, properties and other assets, advise the Grand Council on all monetary affairs, assist with the yearly audit of the association treasury and records, make said audit available for printing in the association newsletter, and to make a yearly budget for the efficient operation of this association.
7. BRIGADE BOOSHWAYS: (Territory Representatives). Each Brigade Booshway shall represent a specific territory granted to him by the Grand Council. He shall promote activity in his territory, help with the formation of Parties of Mountain Men, represent the association through the media, etc. , review nominations for all new Members in his territory and write his recommendations for the consideration of the Segundo, assist new members in any way possible, inform the Segundo of any planned activities in his territory, and write a yearly report of the progress of his territory for the consideration of the Grand Council.

B. Additional duties may be assigned to directors by the Grand Council.

C. The term of office for all directors shall be three years.

1. The term of office for Parties Booshways shall be determined by the individual Parties of Mountain Men.

D. No director may concurrently hold two or more positions of office or serve as a member of any staff.

E. Removal of an officer will require:

1. A petition to that effect signed by at least ten members holding the degree of Hiveranno.
2. This petition shall require the Grand Council to issue a special ballot to all members holding voting rights.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required for removal from office.

F. No Party Booshway may concurrently serve as a director of this association.

ARTICLE IV

THE GRAND COUNCIL Its DUTIES and POWERS

A. The Grand Council shall be the governing board of this association, all powers (except as listed in these by-laws) residing therein.

B . The Grand Council shall consist of:

1. The Capitaine (President).
2. All Territory Segundos (Vice Presidents).
3. Chief Clerk (Association Secretary).
4. Chief Purser (Association Treasurer).
5. All Brigade Booshways (Brigade Representatives).
6. The immediate past Capitaine.

C. Only members holding the Hiveranno type of membership may serve on the Grand Council.

D. Powers not held by the Grand Council are:

1. Election of directors.
 - a. Offices vacated may be filled by the Grand Council during the last third of the term of office.
2. By-laws changes. Any change in by-laws must have a majority vote of all members eligible to vote.
3. Dissolution of this association. Dissolution of this association shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members eligible to vote.
4. Affiliation with any other association, corporation, foundation and/or club wherein the other organization can or will assume controlling power.
5. Demand of the member ship anything which would be in violation of the law of the land, the objectives and/or Code of this association or the morals and honor of any member.

E. Only members of the Grand Council shall be considered or directors of this association.

ARTICLE V

BALLOTS and ELECTION of OFFICERS

A. A general election of directors shall be held every three years, starting in the year 1977, new directors to assume office the first day of 1978.

B. Nominations for new directors must be received during the first quarter of the election year. All such nominations must be published in the association newsletter following receipt of the last accepted nomination.

C. Ballots must be sent to all members eligible to vote during the third quarter of the election year. All such ballots must be returned to the election committee within two months after the date sent.

D. Ballots shall be counted by an election committee appointed by the Grand Council. NO association director, Chief of any Staff or head of any committee may sit on this committee. This committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members or less than three (3) members.

1. If at all possible at least two (2) members shall hold Hiveranno or Gray Beard membership.

F. Only ballots received on time to be counted shall be used to determine the necessary majority or two-thirds (2/3) majority required to pass. This shall be the consideration for the election of directors or any other propositions on the ballots.

G. Ballots must be kept on file a minimum of four (4) years.

H. Term of office shall start the first calendar year after election.

ARTICLE VI

DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

A. Any member who endangers the good and welfare of this association by purposely disrupting activities, failure to abide by the code and/or objectives as stated in these by-laws and the association Articles of Incorporation, stealing from other members or purposely cheating at any contests of a type relative to this association's activities, or any unlawful act while engaged in association business or activities may be dismissed from this association by the Grand Council.

1. Any dismissed member may request and on so doing shall receive a hearing and vote concerning reinstatement by the Hiveranno membership. Reinstatement shall require a majority vote.

B. Any member who has not paid his dues within 60 days after the expiration date on his current membership card shall be automatically dismissed from this association.

1. On presentation of a valid reason for late payment, the Chief Purser may accept a member's dues and reinstate him. The expiration date shall remain as if his dues had been paid on time.

ARTICLE VII

ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

A. There shall be a permanent staff appointed to manage the association educational magazine, the association newsletter, educational booklets, etc.

B. The Chief of the Publications Staff or Chief Editor must hold Hiveranno membership. He shall be appointed to this position by the Grand Council.

C. The Chief Editor shall appoint all other members of his staff.

D. The Publications Staff may consist of as many members as are needed to edit material and print assemble and mail the magazine and newsletter.

E. Within the Publications Staff there shall be an editing committee appointed by the Chief Editor. This committee shall edit and filter out all modern innovations from any article dealing with authenticity and historic correctness.

ARTICLE VIII

ASSOCIATION MUSEUM and RESEARCH CENTER

A. This association shall establish a museum and research center.

B. The Museum Staff shall consist of not less than seven (7) or more than eleven (11) members, none of which may be probationary members.

1. Although not counted as part of the Museum Staff, the Capitaine and Chief Purser shall have voting privileges at any and all Museum Staff meetings.

C. The Chief of the Museum Staff (Factor) must hold Hiveranno membership.

D. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the purchase of and/or receipt of artifacts, documents and related materials to be housed or used by the Museum and Research Center.

E. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Association Library, and shall be responsible for the Purchase and/or receipt of all books and related materials to be used by the Library.

1. One (1) member of the Museum Staff shall be appointed by the Factor as Librarian.

F. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the appointment of Museum Lecturers. Said Lecturers shall not be members of the Museum Staff.

1. Museum Lecturers shall be talks and classes concerning early Mountain Man history and related subjects to schools, scout organizations, other historical organizations, etc.

G. A special fund shall be established for the maintenance and operation of the Museum and Research Center and its activities. This fund shall be administered by the Museum Staff.

H. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for keeping an accurate file system of all museum, artifacts, books and related materials. This system shall be in accord with established systems used by other museums.

I. A quarterly report listing all museum activities, new artifacts, books, etc., expenditures, income and amount of monies in the Museum Fund shall be submitted to the Grand Council for their information.

J. The Museum Staff may publish announcements of special museum activities, etc. Books, pamphlets, etc., concerning individual artifacts or a collective series of artifacts shall be submitted to the Publications Staff for publication.

ARTICLE IX

OTHER STAFFS and SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Staffs may be formed by-the Grand Council at any time their formation is deemed necessary.

B. Duties, etc., of said staffs shall be written into the Association Standing Rules as they are formed.

C. Chiefs of Staff shall appoint the members of their staff.

D. Special committees may be formed at any time by the Capitaine, any Territory Segundo, Brigade Booshway, Party Booshway or Chief of any Staff.

E. Special Committees shall be automatically terminated as soon as their function is completed.

ARTICLE X

FINANCE

A. The fiscal year of this association shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

B. At the end of each fiscal year the Chief Purser shall outline a financial statement to be published in the association newsletter.

C. The Chief Purser shall present the Grand Council with a proposed budget for the new fiscal year within one month after the beginning of the fiscal year.

D. Donations to this association may be accepted, but any such donations must not indebt this association to the donor.

E. This association may rent or purchase land, buildings, livestock and equipment for use as necessary for the activities and objectives of the association.

F. Salaries or wages may be paid by this association to:

1. Any member of any staff working at least eight (8) hours each week to accomplish the objectives, activities and operation of the staff.
2. Individual members or non-members for building projects, special instruction classes, lecture tours or other special activities required by the Grand Council or any staff.
3. No association director may receive any salary or wage from this association or any staff of this association.

G. Salaries and/or wages may be paid only on signed agreement between receiving member or nonmember and the Grand Council. Such agreement must fully outline the work or duty to be performed, the amount of salary or wages to be paid and the method of payment.

1. Salaries and wages must be paid in accord with existing federal, state and local laws.

H. Any officer or member may be reimbursed for actual costs incurred during the duties assigned to him by the Articles of Incorporation, these by-laws, or the Grand Council.

1. A detailed report of any such costs must be presented to the Grand Council for approval. A copy of this report must remain on file with the Chief Purser.

I. All association checks must be signed by two (2) officers authorized by the Grand Council to do so.

1. Whenever possible one (1) officer must be the Chief Purser.
2. In the case of special funds for the operation of staffs, two (2) authorized staff members must sign.

J. The Chief Purser may use any system of bookkeeping he is acquainted with providing such system gives adequate information for the efficient management of this association.

K. Record of all financial transactions must be kept on file with the association's Chief Purser for a minimum of seven (7) years.

L. Association dues shall be established by the Grand Council.

1. Dues must at all times remain as low as efficient management of this association will allow.

ARTICLE XI

CHAPTERS of this ASSOCIATION

A. Association chapters (called Parties of Mountain Men) may be formed by four (4) or more members, one (1) holding membership other than probationary, junior or associate.

B. One (1) member holding membership other than probationary, junior or associate must be elected Party Booshway (Chairman).

C. The Chapter charter must be signed by the association Capitaine and Chief Clerk.

D. Chapters may meet as often as necessary to accomplish their objectives, but must meet at least once a year.

E. Any other regulations concerning chapters shall be outlined in the Association Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XII

ASSOCIATION LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

A. This association shall maintain a continuous educational program of American history, especially where such history concerns the original American Mountain Men. This program shall:

1. Make available to states, museums, and other organizations and interested persons, any or all information gained through our research, such as books, pamphlets, bulletins and research papers giving the history of the original Mountain Men and/or showing the construction of their equipment and ways of using it.
2. Hold educational field trips in which members will be required to dress and live as the original Mountain Men did.
 - a. Some of these trips will be for members only, the public or select organizations (Boy Scouts, etc.) will be invited to others and will not necessarily be required to have authentic dress.
 - b. Give instruction concerning American history and primitive methods of living (American Indian, Mountain Men, etc.) to or at schools, scout groups or other public groups.

ARTICLE XIII

NATIONAL and AREA RENDEZVOUS

A. This association shall hold one national rendezvous in the Rocky Mountains each year.

1. The association Capitaine and a committee appointed by him shall be responsible for the planning, location and conduct of the national rendezvous.
2. The annual meeting of members for the purpose of establishing association priorities will be held.
3. Members will be required to dress and live much as the original Mountain Men did.
4. Field classes, lectures, etc. , covering as many aspects of Mountain Man life as possible will be held.
5. On days selected by the committee the rendezvous may be open for public visitation and education.

B. Territory Segundos may call rendezvous for their territory at any time they feel desirable. They shall be responsible for the planning, location and conduct of their rendezvous, but may delegate part of this responsibility to a committee appointed by them for this purpose.

1. Reasons and other criteria for a territorial rendezvous shall be the same as those of the national rendezvous.

ARTICLE XIV

ASSOCIATION STANDING RULES

A. Any rules or regulations which are not covered by the Articles of Incorporation or these by-laws, any special rules or regulations covering the management and operation of Staffs or committees, or anything in these by-laws stated to be covered in the Standing Rules must be fully covered by the Association Standing Rules.

- B. Association Standing Rules may be changed or new rules adopted by majority vote of the Grand Council.
- C. No Standing Rule may be at any time adopted which can in any way change the meaning or purpose of the Articles of Incorporation or these by-laws.

ARTICLE XV

ASSOCIATION MOTTO and COLORS

- A. The motto of this association shall be "Aux Aliments de Pays."
 - 1. This is interpreted to mean "To live from the land"
- B. The colors of this association shall be: Sky Blue, Grass Green and Earth Brown.

ARTICLE XVI

ASSOCIATION CODE

(The Code of the Mountains)

- A. The following shall be the standard code to be used during all rendezvous, field activities or other special activities:
 - 1. I shall at all times consider a man's private life none of my business unless he wishes to make it so.
 - 2. I shall at all times strive to be a self-reliant individual, asking help only if and when it is absolutely needed.
 - 3. I shall at all times consider my word a sacred trust, a bond which is not to be broken.
 - 4. I shall at all times respect the personal property of other members, considering thievery an act deserving contempt.
 - 5. Before entering any camp or lodge I shall first make my presence known, then enter only if invited.
 - 6. I shall at no time fire any firearm in camp or give any other false warning of impending danger.
 - 7. During any survival situation I shall be willing to divide any food and water I have and give any other assistance to people found in need.
 - 8. I shall take from nature only what I need or can actually use, practicing good conservation of our native wilderness and wildlife.
 - 9. At any association activity I shall follow the rules set forth by the Booshway in charge or leave of my own free will.
 - 10. I shall at all times Strive to it improve myself, my wilderness abilities and my knowledge of nature's law.
- B. Any member consistently breaking this code or any part of it shall be asked to resign his membership by the Brigade Booshway or Territory Segundo. Should said member fail to do so the Grand Council may be asked to dismiss him as per Article VI, these by-laws.

ARTICLE XVII

GAME LAW COMPLIANCE

- A. Any game taken by any member for any association test or taken for any association activity must be taken in full compliance with any and all game laws of the area.
- B. In accord with the ideals of fair chase, at no time may game be taken from any motor vehicle or aircraft, nor may any type of radio communication be established between members during any hunt.

ARTICLE XVIII

AMENDMENTS or ADDITIONS to these BY-LAWS

- A. After approval by the Grand Council, any amendment or change to these by-laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership.
 - 1. Any proposed amendment or change presented to the Grand Council on a petition signed by twenty (20) or more voting members shall be presented to the voting membership with or without, Grand Council approval.
- B. Any proposed amendment or change in by-laws shall be presented to the voting membership by special ballot, accompanied by a special bulletin listing arguments both in favor and against the proposal.
- C. Ballots shall be counted by a committee of three (3) appointed by the association Capitaine.

- D. All ballots shall be counted the 21st day after the date sent, postmarked to be the determining factor.
- E. All returned ballots must be kept on file with the Chief Clerk for a minimum of four (4) years, said file to be open to any voting member wishing to personally view it.