

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW MEXICO TECH STUDENT GROTTTO

- I. The name of this organization shall be the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto of the National Speleological Society and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

- II. The purposes of this organization shall be the consistent with those of the National Speleological Society and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology with the additional purpose of organizing students and National Speleological Society members in the Socorro, New Mexico area to better promote the objectives of the National Speleological Society, the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, the Cave and Karst Studies Program of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, US Forest Service, National Park Service and the US Bureau of Land Management. Members are encouraged to work with these organizations, but will not be required to.

- III. Membership
 - A. Membership in the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto shall be open to any persons who are interested in caving and have complied with the conditions of membership set forth in the Bylaws.
 - B. Membership in the National Speleological Society will not be required for membership in the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto.
 - C. Members will not be discriminated against due to sex, nationality, religion, or race.

- IV. Governing Body
 - A. The New Mexico Tech Student Grotto shall be governed by an Executive Committee as outlined in the Bylaws.
 - B. The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage the business, to formulate Bylaws, to raise funds in any manner consistent with the policies of the National Speleological Society and New Mexico Institution of Mining and Technology, and to perform all other necessary functions.
 - C. Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at a regularly scheduled meeting.

- D. Qualifications for candidacy, methods of elections, terms and duties of the offices shall be outlined in the Bylaws.
- V. Meetings shall be held regularly as outlined in the Bylaws.
- VI. The Constitution and Bylaws of the National Speleological Society and regulations of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology shall be binding on the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto. Any actions inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.
- VII. In the event of dissolution of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto, its assets shall be turned over to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and the National Speleological Society. Any assets purchased with funding provided for club activities by New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology will be turned over to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Any assets purchased by fundraising or donated to the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto will be turned over to the National Speleological Society. However, if the named recipients are not then in existence, or no longer qualified distributees, or unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, the assets of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto shall be distributed to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U. S. Internal Revenue law).
- VIII. Amendments to this constitution shall be made by a 2/3 majority vote of those members present at any meeting called by the Executive Committee expressly for that purpose.

Accepted by the New Mexico Tech Grotto, 28 March 2006

NEW MEXICO TECH STUDENT GROTTO BYLAWS

I. Dues and Membership

A. Dues shall be for one year and will be levied as needed.

1. Dues will be established by a 2/3 majority vote by members either present at regular meetings or through absentee voting.
2. Dues shall be made payable on or before the date of elections, as provided for below.

B. Classes of Membership

1. Full Member - a current National Speleological Society member or student, faculty or staff of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.
2. Associate Member - a person who is not a member of the National Speleological Society nor is a student, faculty or staff of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Associate members are subject to the same age restrictions as full members with the additional restriction that associate members may not vote on issues relating to the operation or policies of the National Speleological Society and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.
3. A person becomes a member of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto upon payment of dues.

C. Expulsion of Members.

1. Grounds for Expulsion

- a. Willful and wanton disregard for cave conservation.
- b. Willful and wanton disregard of one's own safety or the safety of others on caving trips.
- c. Misappropriation or unauthorized distribution of the organization's assets.
- d. Unacceptable club behavior, including: harassment, abuse (verbal or otherwise) of anyone, any discrimination prohibited by Article III (c) of the Grotto constitution, knowingly and willingly lying about club matters, assault, or any activity prohibited by law.

2. Method of expulsion shall be by 2/3 vote by members either present at a regular meeting or through absentee voting.

3. Possible expulsion of members will be announced one month prior to actual voting.
4. Right of appeal shall be granted to the person who has been expelled. That person may make a statement to the membership present at a regular meeting.

II. Meetings

- A. A regular meeting shall be held each month. Any additional meetings at which business may be discussed must be announced by the Chairman at a previous regular meeting.
- B. A quorum at any regular meeting of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto will be 7 members, including at least 2 officers.

III. University Funding

- A. Funding provided by New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology through the club funding programs will be used for the purchase of general equipment (e.g. helmets, headlamps, vertical equipment, rope) and transportation costs.
- B. Funding provided by New Mexico Institute of Mining and Engineering will be used to pay for full membership in the National Speleological Society for elected officers during their elected term of office.
- C. Funding provided by New Mexico Institute of Mining and Engineering will not be used for specialized training or equipment for specific members.

IV. Assessments and Gifts

- A. No special assessments may be made against the members of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto. Voluntary contributions may be solicited by the Executive Committee for specific purposes.
- B. Gifts and bequests may be made to the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto in any form or amounts and for any use compatible with the purposes of the organization. The New Mexico Tech Student Grotto may transfer such gifts and bequests or any other of its funds or property to the National Speleological Society or New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, to be administered for the benefit of the Society.
- C. A charge may be made to nonmembers for attendance at New Mexico Tech Student Grotto sponsored activities or for the use of organization equipment.

V. Executive Committee

- A. To qualify for office, a candidate must be at least 18 years of age, a full member of the Grotto, a member of the National Speleological Society and a student of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.
- B. Method of Election
 - 1. Announcement of upcoming elections shall be made during the regular meeting prior to the election date.
 - 2. Elections shall be held during the regular meeting in September.
 - 3. Offices shall be filled in the following order:
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - 4. The position of Treasurer may be an independent office or may be assumed by the Vice-Chairman or Secretary at the discretion of the voting membership.
- C. Term of Office shall be for one year with all elected officers assuming their elected positions on October 1.
- D. Full membership in the National Speleological Society will be paid for elected officers during their elected term through funds of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto.
- E. Duties of the Officers
 - 1. The Chairman shall preside at all regular meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee. He/she shall be the organization's official liaison in dealings with the National Speleological Society, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and with any local, state or federal agencies that the organization might have reason to contact. He/she will be responsible for all reports required by the National Speleological Society, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and other reports necessary to maintain the nonprofit status of the organization.
 - 2. The Vice-Chairman shall head such committees as the Chairman may designate, and preside at regular meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

3. The Secretary shall maintain the records of the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto shall record minutes at each meeting and shall carry on official correspondence as directed by the Chairman.
 4. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting dues and for dispersing of monies directed by the Chairman. He/she shall prepare and present at regular meetings a report of the organization's financial transactions and shall prepare for the Chairman an annual report of finances for the National Speleological Society.
- F. In the event of an officer being unable to fulfill his term of office, the executive committee will appoint an eligible member to fulfill the remaining term.

VI. Equipment and Training

- A. New members are required to receive training and education in cave etiquette, techniques and gear prior to caving activities, which will be conducted by qualified members within the New Mexico Tech Student Grotto because of its remote location. Training will be based on the standards of the National Speleological Society and the US Bureau of Land Management. Determination of the qualifications for a member to train other individuals and lead caving activities will be the responsibility of club officers.
- B. Proper caving equipment will be required by all club members for participation in club activities. Equipment may be borrowed from the club, if available; otherwise members will be required to purchase necessary equipment prior to caving activities. Basic caving equipment, including helmets, headlamps and vertical equipment will be available for use by members as provided by university funding.

- VII. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be made by a 2/3 majority vote by members present at a meeting or through absentee voting called by the Executive Committee expressly for that purpose.

Accepted by the New Mexico Tech Grotto, 28 March 2006