Paul Smith’s College

Osgood Primitive and Homesteading Skills Club

 Constitution

Created: February 2nd, 2018 by Justin Gillen

**Article IA:**

**Mission Statement**

The Primitive and Homesteading Skills Club is an organization that engages active members in a diverse set of skills training programs as part of intimate sustainable living experience at Osgood Pond. We welcome the participation from students of all walks of life, as diversity is an integral part of developing a strong sense of community and culture within our organization. In our journey as a club, we will hone in on our primitive roots as a conscious effort to formulate a more maternal relationship with the land. With the intention of bringing food production full circle, we provide the skills necessary in order to cultivate, process, and preserve vegetables grown on-site. As a active experiential learning project, the Osgood Club aspires to become a credible paradigm for the homesteading movement. In order to articulate our values, and teach the necessary skills in order to move towards resiliency and self sufficiency we have adopted a reward system for the mastery of acquired skills. Focus skills such as; primitive fire building, shelter construction, navigation, and functional wilderness crafts. Every member who can master up to 5 or more skills will be given the opportunity to become a mentor of their newly mastered skill set. The Osgood Club plans to give back to the local community through the organization of publicized skill sessions and tours of the Osgood site, as well as functions attached to the Paul Smith’s College Sam Fest and Homesteading Festival. Our underlying mission and overall desire to stir ecological consciousness, and raise thoughtful stewards of the land who feel empowered to transition away from conventional society and live a more simplistic low-impact lifestyle. Osgood Primitive and Homesteading Skills Club works to raise the awareness of not only the Osgood Club but the Osgood Program along with the personal, environmental, and economic benefits of learning, preaching, and teaching sustainability through primitive skills and homesteading to prospective students, current students, faculty, and community members.

**Article IB:**

**Preservation of the Osgood Club and Osgood Program**

The Osgood Club and the Osgood Program are looking to bring a tradition of homesteading and primitive skills that are being lost in today’s society but still hold value on campus. By preserving these skills, we are preserving the tradition and history of Paul Smith’s College. Sustainability has been preached on this campus for decades by professors, students, and faculty. By preserving this club and program as a whole we as a school have the opportunity to show how our community on campus don’t just preach sustainability we use it in the form of primitive skills and homesteading. This club gives students the ability to practice what they preach without having to be in the program which may not fit in their schedule. By preserving the Osgood Program and improving these primitive and homesteading skills, we believe that Paul Smith’s College will be more attractive to prospective students and graduating students will leave with a set of skills to be proud of.

**Article II:**

**Officers**

The club officers will pertain to the S.G.A. requirements for each officer in the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In the event of a tie of votes for officer elections, candidates can assume positions as co-officers with the approval of both candidates, advisers, and club members

**The president** will complete the majority of paper work pertaining to events on and off campus. An attempt shall be made for one officer to attend all club functions and events planned in order to monitor the conduct of all members and the students involved in the event to make sure Paul Smith’s College rules as well as S.G.A. policy is being followed. The president shall be responsible for finding out which officers shall attend each event. The president will also maintain a roster for the people who wish to be informed of club activities and decisions and their email addresses. This list shall include at a minimum all advisers, officers, and voting members. A minimum of once a semester, the president will make an attempt to find out who wishes to remain on said list and who wishes to be removed. The president will be a representative of the club to new prospective members. The president will also keep in close contact with the club’s advisor to make sure club responsibilities are being upheld by the officers and club members. The election process each year will be run by the president for club officers as well as elections on events coordinated. The president will keep in close contact with the other officers. In order to run for the office of president, a member must have first held another office for at least one semester.

**The vice-president** of the club is to take over the responsibilities of the president in his or her absence or resignation. The vice-president will represent the club to new members in a professional manner as well as stay in touch with other officers to get accurate updated information on events and meetings. The vice-president is also responsible for assignments given to them by the president within regulation.

**The secretary** of the club will record all events at club meetings in the form of minutes. These minutes will then be typed in a professional matter and be posted in the club email. The secretary will represent the club at all S.G.A. meetings. If the secretary is not able to attend a meeting, he or she will find someone to attend the meeting and represent the club. The secretary will also, under the guidance of the president, manage any social media outlets that the club wishes to utilize.

**The treasurer** will develop the year’s budget with aid from the club advisor to be submitted to the S.G.A. on or before the required deadline. All of the clubs spending during events and functions will be recorded by the treasurer in a professional typed matter for records to be accurate. The club’s fundraising money will be collected and submitted to the S.G.A. by the treasurer. The treasurer will also keep records of the receipts collected from these submissions. The treasurer shall also keep inventory records of current merchandise the club possesses.

If an officer wishes to step down from their position, they must submit a letter of resignation to the current advisor. The duties of that officer shall be divided among the remaining officers, with the exception of the resignation on the president, whose duties shall go to the vice president. If the officers cannot fulfill the duties, a special election maybe held to fill that position.

The term of the officers shall run from their election in the fall semester to the new elections in the next fall semester. All officers shall need to be reelected each year. An office can be held by the same student as many terms as elected to that office as long as the officer is still a full time student.

**Article III:**

**Election Processes**

New officers will be elected during the first month back to the academic year. The president and/ or vice-president from the year before will run the election for officer positions. The description of each officer position, as stated in this constitution, shall be read at a meeting of the club before an election. Whoever is interested in an officer position, can express interest in a meeting or via email to the officer running the elections. This election process is to be done via paper voting during club meetings and then it will be expressed to the club advisors.

**Article IV:**

**Voting Rights and Responsibilities**

Decisions are made with the final approval being made by the club’s advisor, with the initial decision being made by members of the club. All ideas for events and community service projects can be made by any and all members within the club. The decisions on an idea for a club event or project will be discussed within the meeting and decided on by all members present at the meeting in which the motion is made, even if those members present represent less than fifty percent of the total club members, unless the decision involves money. If the item being voted on is to allow the club or a club member to spend money less than $100.00, then the decision can be made at the meeting by those members present. If the amount of money that is requested to be spent is $100 or more, then the item must be put to a vote, either at a meeting or via email voting, where a quorum of fifty percent plus one member vote.

If a circumstance arises where approval of spending money of a value of or less than $100.00 and there is not adequate time for the proposal to be put in front of the club, the officers have the permission to authorize the spending of that money as long as the majority of officers vote in favor of the proposal. The officers must report this approval in the next meeting of the club.

A voting member is defined as a student who has attended 3 or more events as designated by the club president in a given semester. Voting rights of a member will be carried over for the first month of the following semester

**Article V:**

**Voting Process**

In order for an item to be voted on by the club, it must be proposed in a meeting. A club member must make a motion and have the motion seconded by another member. There shall then be time given for a discussion of the motion and changes made as needed. Then a vote shall be taken a quorum of members present as described in Article IV of this constitution. If there is not a quorum present of members present at the meeting to vote, a vote shall be taken via email. This can be done using any officers’ email or the advisors email.

**Article VI:**

**Club Events**

Club members are encouraged to attend events both within the college community and beyond to promote both the Paul Smith's College Osgood Program and the Osgood Club. The event must be acknowledged as a club fundraiser by the end of the meeting prior to the event. Conversely, if the club is not to be receiving the profits from an event the club name cannot be used in the advertisement for the event. Additionally, the club’s name cannot be used in the procurement of profits nor may its members be the sole means of procuring profits at the event.

If the club is to cover the cost of members to attend an event only those who are voting members may be paid for by club funds. All other members are encouraged to attend but must pay for themselves.

**Article VII:**

**Hazing**

Paul Smith’s College define hazing as “any action taken or situation created, whether on or off College premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule for the purposes of initiation into, affiliation with, admission to, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group, team, club, or other organization.”

The Osgood Primitive and Homesteading Club shall not engage in hazing or hazing-type behavior, whether required as a condition for membership, expected as part of a group tradition, or carried out as a spontaneous action. Hazing is defined as: any activity or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the physical or mental health of anyone, this involves, but is not limited to the forced or coerced ingestion of alcohol or any other substance or drug, or that interferes with anyone’s academic obligations. New York State law prohibits hazing.

**Article VIII:**

**Amending the Constitution**

The constitution should be reviewed at the beginning of every academic year by the president of the club with suggested amendments made to the advisor. The amendments shall then be discussed by the officers and wording on amendments decided. The amendments will then be presented to the club and a two week comment period will be allowed so club members can voice their opinions. The comments shall be taken into account and the amendment will be voted on by the officers. The advisor will have final say over the acceptance or rejection of the amendments. If the document is changed, the amended document will be dated under the initial dates and the name of the president amending the document placed next to it. The document shall then be submitted to SGA.