

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PARK DIRECTORS

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I: Name

The name of this organization will be the **National Association of State Park Directors**. For the purposes of this document, the term “State” shall take on a more generic definition to include the fifty states of the United States plus any territories of the United States that request full membership and are granted that status through a vote of the membership of the organization.

### Article II: Purpose and Objectives

The mission of the Association is to promote and advance the state park systems of America for their own significance and for their important contributions to the nation’s environment, heritage, health and economy.

Section 1. To provide a common forum for the exchange of information regarding state park programs

Section 2. To take collective positions on those issues which affect state park programs.

Section 3. To encourage the development of professional leadership in the administration of state park and recreation programs.

Section 4. To establish and maintain a working relationship with other agencies involved in park and recreation programs.

Section 5. To enhance the ability of the individual state park directors to perform their responsibilities for administering state park programs of the highest quality for the benefit of both the state park resources and the public.

### Article III: Regions

Section 1. To insure adequate geographical distribution in the election of officers and representatives and for other administrative purposes, the Association shall be organized into regions composed of reasonable groupings of members.

Section 2. Six regions are established as follows:

**Northeast Region** (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont).

**Southeast Region** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia)

**North-Central Region** (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin).

**Central Region** (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas).

**Northwest Region** (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming).

**Southwest Region** (Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah).

#### **Article IV: Membership and Voting**

Section 1. Active membership shall be defined as and limited to the administrative head of each state park agency.

Section 2. Only active members, or that person's designee, shall have voting privileges.

Section 3. Honorary membership is authorized, but shall be limited to former active members of the Association. The Association shall establish requirements and conditions for honorary membership by promulgation in the Association's By-Laws.

#### **Article V: Officers and Board of Directors**

Section 1. Election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting on odd-numbered years. Officers of the Association shall consist of a President and a Vice President, who may not succeed themselves in the same office, and a

Secretary-Treasurer, who may serve no more than three successive terms. All officers shall be elected from different regions of the United States.

Section 2.a. Only active members, as defined in Article IV hereof, shall be eligible for election to any office or to membership on the Board of Directors of the Association.

b. Members must have served at least one year on the Board of Directors prior to running for the office of President or Vice President.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall appoint all Committees of the Association.

Section 4. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the president during the latter's temporary absence, and shall assume the office of the president in the event of a permanent vacancy in that office.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association and its Board of Directors. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the day-to-day financial affairs of the Association.

Section 6. In the event of a permanent vacancy in the office of Vice President and/or Secretary-Treasurer, an officer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at their next meeting or by special election by the membership attending the next annual meeting, whichever takes place first after the vacancy occurs.

Section 7. The direction and management of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors of ten persons, representing the several regions of the United States. The members of the Board of Directors shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the immediate Past President and six members at large. The at-large members shall be elected from six regions of the United States (Northwest, Southwest, North-Central, Central, Northeast, and Southeast). The at-large members shall be limited to one member per region.

Section 8.a. Two of the six at-large Board of Directors members shall be elected at the annual meeting of the NASPD Membership and shall serve terms of three years beginning in 2005.

b. Unexpired terms of at-large members leaving the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors at their next meeting or special election by the membership attending the next annual meeting, whichever takes place first after the vacancy occurs.

Section 9. The three (3) elected officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer) and immediate past president shall serve as members of an Executive Committee. Excepting the power to amend the Articles of

Incorporation, Constitution, and By-Law; the Executive Committee shall have all powers and authority of the Board of Directors in the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall annually review the performance of the Executive Director

Section 10. Members of the Board of Directors and Officers are officially instated and begin service to the membership on the date elected by the membership. Board of Director or Officer positions filled due to a vacancy shall begin service upon date of Board appointment. The terms of out-going Board Members and Officers are terminated upon the election of their replacements.

#### **Article VI: Finances**

Section 1. The Association may receive, administer, and disburse gifts or bequests for the furtherance of the goals and objectives of the Association.

Section 2. Dues may be levied against the several states as determined by a quorum at the annual meeting and as specified by the By-Laws.

Section 3. Under no circumstances shall the Association obligate itself for more than its liquid assets.

Section 4. A three (3) member Audit Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, will be responsible for auditing the financial records of NASPD annually and reporting the results of that audit to the Board of Directors. Members of the Budget Committee shall not serve on the Audit Committee. A private, contracted audit will be conducted a minimum of every four (4) years, at the time a new Executive Director is appointed, or at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1. An annual meeting of the Association and any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be at a time and place selected by the Board of Directors.

#### **Article VIII: Amendments**

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended at an annual meeting by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present, provided the membership was notified of the recommended amendments in writing thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

**As amended by the membership on September 6, 2007, during the Annual Business Meeting held at the Woodlands Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA.**

NOTE: During the 2004 Annual Conference, the membership voted to implement the following process to provide an orderly transition from two-year to three-year terms for at-large members of the Board of Directors beginning in 2005.

- In 2005 three at-large positions (northeast, northwest, and southwest) are scheduled for election.
- In 2005 two of these positions will be randomly (lottery) selected to stand for election. The directors elected to serve in these terms will serve from 2005-2008.
- In 2006 the remaining position from 2005 and one randomly (lottery) selected position from 2006 will stand for election. The Directors elected to serve in these positions will serve from 2006-2009.
- In 2007 the two positions remaining from 2006 will stand for election. The Directors elected to serve in these positions will serve from 2007-2010.