

Ruri-Teen & College Bylaws

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this club is the _____ Club.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

Section 1. Its form of organization, its objects, and purpose is similar to those of Ruritan National.

Section 2. It is sponsored by, but not part of the _____ Ruritan Club, which through a sponsor/mentor of not less than one (1) Ruritan with the approval of the school administration, shall advise activities of the _____ Ruri-Teen/College Club. The continued existence of this _____ Ruri-Teen/College Club shall depend upon the continued sponsorship of the sponsoring Ruritan club and the approval of school administration. Non-school clubs will be supervised by the sponsoring Ruritan club.

Section 3. Ruri-teen club financial responsibility and auditing of accounts falls to the adult sponsor and/or school administration.

Section 4. If the sponsoring club disbands the District Cabinet shall assume sponsorship of the club until another club takes sponsorship.

ARTICLE III. Objectives

Section 1. Mission Statement

Ruritan is a national organization dedicated to improving communities and building a better America through Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service.

Section 2. Objectives of the Club

A. To promote fellowship and goodwill among its members and the citizens in the community and to inspire each other to higher efforts.

B. To unify the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions in the community toward making it a more ideal place in which to live.

C. To partner with other civic groups which serve the community and contribute directly to its progress.

D. To encourage and foster the ideal of service as the basis of all worthy enterprise.

E. To create greater understanding between people on the problems of each, as well as on their mutual problems.

F. To foster respect for the flag of the United States as the foundation for citizenship.

ARTICLE IV. Emblems

The emblem, pins, banners, and flag of the club shall be approved by Ruritan National.

ARTICLE V. Membership

Section 1. Club membership is to be composed of youth representing a cross-section of the area.

Section 2. Any person of good moral character and reputation whose interests are allied with the club is eligible for membership.

Section 3. A person who accepts membership thereby accepts the principles of the club as expressed in its objectives and submits to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the Bylaws of this club and Ruritan National.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

Section 1. This club shall hold at least one (1) meeting each month of the school year. This meeting shall constitute regular meetings of the club. Special club meetings may be called when considered necessary by the president or majority of the Board of Directors. Changes in regular meeting dates or times can be recommended by the Board and approved by the club.

Section 2. Attendance of more than 50 percent of the members shall be necessary for a quorum at any meeting of the club.

ARTICLE VII. Fees and Dues

Section 1. Club membership shall consist of a yearly club affiliation fee for Ruri-Teen clubs and College Ruritan clubs. This fee shall be set by the Ruritan National Board of Directors and paid annually in October. Clubs may pay these affiliation fees with club fundraisers. The sponsoring Ruritan Club should pay the first affiliation and charter fee for the new chartering Ruri-Teen or College club.

Section 2. The members of the club shall not be assessed for contributions for any other purpose.

ARTICLE VIII. Duration

Section 1. Membership in Club

A. The resignation of a club member shall become effective upon written notice by that member to the president or secretary.

B. Any club member may be expelled from the club by due process by the sponsoring club or school administration.

Section 2. Club Existence

1. This Club shall exist so long as it functions in accordance with provisions of these Bylaws and Policies for the club as established by Ruritan National or until it is terminated as follows:
 - a. by this club upon its own determination and action, or
 - b. by the sponsoring Ruritan club withdrawing its sponsorship, or
 - c. by Ruritan National for failure to function in accordance with the National Bylaws or Policies
2. Upon termination, all rights and privileges relating to the name and emblem of the club and Ruritan National shall be relinquished by its members individually and collectively.

ARTICLE IX. Officers and Directors

Section 1. The officers of this club shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and any other office deemed necessary by the club to fulfill a necessary responsibility not fulfilled by another office.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of this club shall be composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and any other elected office, three (3) elected directors, and the immediate past president. The president shall serve as chair.

Section 3. A majority of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum.

Section 4. Each officer and director must be a member of the club.

Section 5. Officers, directors, and members of this club shall not receive any compensation for any services rendered.

ARTICLE X. Elections, Installation, Terms, and Appointments

Section 1. The officers and directors are elected as follows:

- A. Three (3) months before the end of the club's school year, the president will appoint a Nominating Committee composed of three (3) to five (5) members who will nominate officers and a director.
- B. Two (2) months before the end of the club's school year, the Nominating Committee will report its nominees for office to the club after which the floor will be open for further nominations from the members. The club shall then proceed to election. The person receiving the most votes cast for each office will be declared elected.

Section 2. Officers shall be installed at the last meeting of the club's school year. All officers and directors shall hold office for a term of one (1) year, or until a successor to the office has been elected and installed.

Section 3. The newly elected president shall announce the appointment of a sergeant-at-arms, chaplain, song leader, reporter, and committee assignments. The persons so appointed shall take office immediately.

ARTICLE XI. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The president is chair of the Board of Directors and presides at all meetings.

Section 2. The vice president shall serve as chair of the Finance Committee, the Objectives Committee and is an Ex Officio member of all Community Service Committees.

- A. If for any reason the president is unable to perform his or her duties, or the office of the president shall become vacant, the vice president shall succeed to this office. If the vice president is unable or unwilling to succeed to this office the club Board of Directors should recommend a name to the membership after which the floor is open for nominations. A new president will be elected by majority vote.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in any other office the club Board of Directors shall elect a member to fill the unexpired term.

Section 3. The secretary will keep minutes of each meeting, a correct list of all members, and attend to all correspondence, will make the required reports to Ruritan National, and perform such other duties that pertain to this office or as may be imposed by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The treasurer under supervision of the adult sponsor will collect all funds due the club and hand over to the adult sponsor/school administration. If Club sponsored by a school is not under the school's Federal EIN – the club should file for an EIN of their own and file annual 990 forms.

Section 5. The sergeant-at-arms shall help maintain order in the meetings and carry out any other duties as directed by the president.

Section 6. The song leader leads the singing at club meetings.

Section 7. The reporter is to give publicity of club meetings and accomplishments.

Section 8. The Board of Directors is charged with the following duties:

- A. They are responsible for the execution of the authorized policies of the club.
- B. They will hold regular monthly meetings on a day other than a regular club meeting and special board meetings may be called upon request of a majority of the Board of Directors or when called by the president.
- C. They will elect a member to complete the remainder of the term, in the event of a vacancy in the office of vice president, secretary, treasurer, or director.

ARTICLE XII. Committees

Section 1. The president should appoint the following Standing Committees for the year:

- A. Finance
- B. Membership

Section 2. The president should appoint the following Community Service Committees:

- A. Community Engagement (formerly Business and Professions)
- B. Citizenship and Patriotism
- C. Environment
- D. Social Development
- E. Public Service

Section 3. The chair of each Community Service Committees shall constitute the Objectives Committee with the club vice president as chair.

Section 4. The president may appoint special committees as needed.

ARTICLE XIII. Duties of Committees

Section 1. Finance – This committee is to study ways and means of raising money to meet the financial requirement of the club and make their recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Membership – This committee is responsible for developing programs to recruit members.

Section 3. Community Service Committees – To survey the needs of their community and work to meet some of those needs. Each committee shall transact such business as is delegated to it in the Ruritan Club and District Officers' Handbook and such additional business as directed by the president.

ARTICLE XIV. Politics

This club shall be nonsectarian and nonpartisan and shall take no action endorsing or condemning any candidate or measure which is being submitted to the vote of the people.

ARTICLE XV. Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained within the Club Bylaws, Policies and Procedures shall govern this organization in all cases. In the absence of guidance in the Club Bylaws, Policies and Procedures the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order will apply.

ARTICLE XVI. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular club meeting, where a quorum is present, by two thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided

1. The amendment is not in conflict with the Bylaws of Ruritan National.
2. Written notice of all amendments is given at least two (2) weeks in advance to all members.
3. The amendment has been approved in a meeting of the club Board of Directors where a quorum was present.

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