

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

WESTERN RESERVE Y-INDIAN GUIDES

ROLLING PLAINS LONGHOUSE

ARTICLE I — PURPOSE AND NAME

SECTION 1

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- A. First and foremost, to foster the companionship of father and son and to strengthen that relationship in that they will become “Pals Forever”;
- B. To promote and support the purposes and objectives of the National Longhouse of Father and Son Y-Indian Guides of the United States;
- C. To sponsor and promote the expansion of the Y-Indian Guides program in the Western Reserve YMCA area;
- D. To plan program activities, to promote leadership training for tribal chiefs, and share program ideas with individual tribes;
- E. To plan an educational and media program to better inform the public of the Y-Indian Guides program.

SECTION 2

The name of this organization shall be “Western Reserve Y-Indian Guides, Rolling Plains Longhouse.”

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

The Rolling Plains Longhouse shall consist of all Y-Indian Guides tribes in good standing within the communities of Hudson, Kent, Munroe Falls, and Stow, Ohio, and affiliated with the Western Reserve YMCA in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

SECTION 2

The nations that comprise the Western Reserve Y-Indian Guides, Rolling Plains Longhouse, shall be (1) Hudson Nation, (2) Kent Nation, and (3) Stow/Munroe Falls Nation (for the communities of Stow and Munroe Falls). Tribes and the Nation Chief(s) shall be a member of the nation in which they are geographically located.

SECTION 3

Membership in a tribe shall be limited to boys (Little Braves) who are at least 5 years old as of October 1 of their enrollment year and their fathers (Big Braves).

SECTION 4

A member is considered in good standing provided that dues for the year have been remitted by October 15 of each year (or thereafter by paying the fee plus the penalty fee). Dues (and penalty fees) are established by the Executive Committee and approved by the Longhouse Council.

SECTION 5

Membership of the Longhouse Council shall be comprised of one representative from each tribe (Tribal Chief or his designate) and the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III — LONGHOUSE COUNCIL

SECTION 1

The Longhouse Council shall be the governing body of the Longhouse.

SECTION 2

Meetings shall be held each month on a date to be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee at the beginning of each Longhouse year. Meetings shall begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

SECTION 3

Each tribal representative, each elected member of the Executive Committee, and the Sachem is entitled to one vote on Longhouse business. Except where otherwise stipulated in this Constitution and Bylaws, a simple majority vote will rule and a vote shall be satisfactory unless a roll call is demanded by any member of the Longhouse present.

SECTION 4

In order for business to be conducted, a quorum consists of the members of the Longhouse Council present and voting.

SECTION 5

Voting is limited to those voting members of the Longhouse Council present; proxies are not allowed.

ARTICLE IV — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1

Elected members of the Executive Committee shall be:

Longhouse Chief
Medicine Man
Tallykeeper
Wampum Bearer
Sandpainter
Rainmaker
Webspinner
2 Hudson Nation Chief(s)
2 Kent Nation Chief(s)
2 Stow/Munroe Falls Nation Chief(s)

SECTION 2

Advisors to the Executive Committee shall be:

Sachem (Immediate Past Longhouse Chief)
YMCA Indian Agent (Non-Voting Member of the Executive Committee)

SECTION 3

The Executive Committee shall be a planning and administrative body for the Longhouse.

SECTION 4

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the discretion of the Longhouse Chief and should be held at least prior to the Longhouse Council meeting. Executive meetings will be held on the day of and prior to all Longhouse meetings.

SECTION 5

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing and submitting an operating budget for their term of office for approval by the Longhouse Council.

SECTION 6

The nomination of the members to the Executive Committee shall be made by a Nominating Committee, chaired by the Sachem, consisting of all Nation Chiefs (with input from their respective Tribal Chiefs). A minimum of one nomination per elected office shall be submitted to the Longhouse Council's regularly scheduled May meeting. Nominations may also be made by any Longhouse Council member.

SECTION 7

The election of officers shall be held at the Spring Camp. The Sachem or (in his absence) another member of the Nominating Committee shall conduct the election by (a) presenting the slate of candidates, as submitted to the Longhouse Council under Article IV, Section 6, to a meeting of the Big Braves of the Longhouse just prior to the Spring Camp raffle (or immediately following dinner on Saturday night if no raffle is held), (b) calling for any nominations from the floor, and then (c) closing nominations and taking a vote. Candidates for each office shall have the privilege of making a brief statement in support of their candidacies to the Big Braves of the Longhouse immediately prior to the election.

The Nominating Committee may conduct the election of officers in the exercise of its sound discretion by any reasonable means appropriate under the circumstances, including (without limitation) voice vote, show of hands, and secret ballot. The Nominating Committee may determine that different methods of voting should be adopted for the election of various officers. The decision of the Nominating Committee in determining the method(s) of voting may be reversed prior to the election only upon a two-thirds vote of the Big Braves of the Longhouse present and voting.

Each Big Brave of the Longhouse shall be entitled to one (1) vote in the election of each of the officers. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

A candidate shall be elected if he receives a majority of the votes cast in the election for his office. Abstentions and votes for candidates other than those formally nominated in one of the methods provided in this Article IV shall not be counted in determining the total number of votes cast in the election of any officer. Any ties shall be broken by a toss of a coin in such manner as the member of the Nominating Committee who conducts the election shall determine in the exercise of his sound discretion.

SECTION 8

Special elections shall be held to fill any vacant offices that may occur during the year. The vacancy shall be published in the next "Longtalk" and the election shall take place at the next Longhouse Council meeting.

SECTION 9

Elected officers shall be formally inducted at the Fall Induction Ceremony with their terms of office being from October 1st through September 30th.

SECTION 10

If an officer is not performing the duties of his office, then he can be removed from the office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Longhouse Council.

SECTION 11

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the yearly Longhouse activity calendar and the appointment of sponsoring tribes for the various events.

SECTION 12

The Executive Committee (and the individual officers) shall be responsible for training their successors of the respective offices and the procedures of the Longhouse.

ARTICLE V — DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SECTION 1

The duties of the Longhouse Chief shall be:

- A. To preside at all Longhouse Council meetings;
- B. To see that the Constitution and Bylaws are followed;
- C. To preside over all Longhouse ceremonies;
- D. To be Chairman of the Executive Committee;
- E. To install all other elected Executive Committee members.

SECTION 2

The duties of the Medicine Man shall be:

- A. To assist the Longhouse Chief with his duties;
- B. To preside in the absence of the Longhouse Chief;
- C. To maintain all award participation figures and determine those Little Braves who qualify for awards;
- D. To determine the Tribe of the Year Award;
- E. To design, order, and distribute patches.

SECTION 3

The duties of the Tallykeeper shall be:

- A. To keep minutes of all Longhouse Council and Executive Committee meetings and provide copies of the same to all members of the Executive Committee;
- B. To edit the monthly Longhouse Newsletter "Longtalk" and coordinate its publication and distribution with the YMCA;
- C. To handle all Longhouse correspondence;
- D. To handle all publicity to the local newspapers with regard to Longhouse activities, including photographs and news copy.
- E. To assist the Wampum Bearer.

SECTION 4

The duties of the Wampum Bearer shall be:

- A. To handle all financial obligations assumed by the Longhouse Council;
- B. To handle all monies for the Longhouse, including collections and disbursements, and to maintain an accurate record of all transactions, reporting the same at each Longhouse Council meeting.

SECTION 5

The duties of a Nation Chief shall be:

- A. To organize and coordinate all recruitment within the community for the nation;
- B. To assign tribes for new members and organize new tribes;
- C. To assist all tribes in the nation;
- D. To be responsible for all Longhouse property and see that it is properly maintained and stored;
- E. To contact any tribes within the nation who are not present at a Longhouse meeting and/or have not been attending Longhouse events.

SECTION 6

The duties of the Sachem shall be:

- A. To serve the Longhouse Council and Executive Committee in an advisory capacity;
- B. To install the new Longhouse Chief.

SECTION 7

The duties of the YMCA Indian Agent shall be:

- A. To serve as a liaison between the Longhouse Council/Executive Committee and the YMCA;
- B. To serve in an advisory capacity to the Longhouse.

SECTION 8

The duties of the Sandpainter shall be:

- A. To assist the Medicine Man;
- B. To obtain and distribute participation awards.

SECTION 9

The duties of the Rainmaker shall be:

- A. To work with the Longhouse Chief, Wampum Bearer, and Executive Committee to develop a proposed budget for the Longhouse.
- B. To plan and coordinate Fund Raising events as directed by the Longhouse Council or the Executive Committee to meet the budget needs of the Longhouse.

SECTION 10

The duties of the Webspinner shall be:

- A. To create and maintain a web site for the benefit of the Rolling Plains Longhouse.
- B. To post notices, Longtalks, event listings and changes, and any other material or links as shall be directed by the Longhouse Council or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI — LONGHOUSE ACTIVITIES

SECTION 1

A minimum of one activity per month (optional for the months of July and August) shall be sponsored by the Longhouse.

SECTION 2

A yearly activity summary listing covering the period October through September shall be prepared by the Executive Committee prior to the September Longhouse meeting.

SECTION 3

Each tribe of the Longhouse shall accept the responsibility of sponsoring at least one activity per year to remain in good standing.

SECTION 4

Specific responsibilities required for each activity shall be published by the Executive Committee and given to the sponsoring tribe(s).

SECTION 5

For any participating awards, patches, or feathers, the sign-in sheet provided by the sponsoring tribe at the activity shall serve as the official attendance and participation record and shall be returned to the Medicine Man by the sponsoring tribe.

ARTICLE VII — AWARDS, PATCHES, AND FEATHERS

SECTION 1

An Awards Banquet shall be held each year to recognize Little Braves for their participation in Longhouse sponsored activities of the previous year.

SECTION 2

Participation awards shall be purchased by the Longhouse and shall be based on the number of years that a Little Brave has qualified for such an award, as determined by Article VII, Section 4, of this Constitution and Bylaws (and not based merely on the number of years of Longhouse membership), through the last year such Little Brave shall have qualified to receive an award.

SECTION 3

Each year, the Executive Committee of the Longhouse shall determine the specific participation award to be distributed at each award level.

SECTION 4

Unless specifically altered by a vote of the Executive Committee at the first organizational meeting following the election of officers, the Longhouse year shall commence on October 1st of the calendar year of such officers' election and shall end on September 30th of the following calendar year.

Not later than the date of the first Longhouse sponsored activity in any given Longhouse year, the Executive Committee shall recommend a schedule of Longhouse sponsored activities that may qualify Little Braves for participation awards during that Longhouse year. Such recommendation shall be submitted to a ratification vote of a majority of the members of the Longhouse Council present and voting at their first regular meeting for that Longhouse year. If the recommendation of the Executive Committee is not ratified by the Longhouse Council, then the first order of business of the Longhouse Council shall be to set the schedule of Longhouse sponsored activities that may qualify Little Braves for participation awards during that Longhouse year. Each activity included in such schedule shall be considered as a "qualifying activity" during the ensuing Longhouse year.

From time to time during a Longhouse year, and by a majority vote of the members of the Longhouse Council present and voting at one of their regular meetings, other Longhouse sponsored activities may be added to or substituted for those included in the schedule adopted by the Longhouse Council for that Longhouse year. Any such substitute activity shall stand in the place of the "qualifying activity" it replaces and any such additional activity shall be considered as an "additional approved activity" during such Longhouse year only.

To qualify for a participation award in any given Longhouse year, the total number of “qualifying activities” and “additional approved activities” attended by a Little Brave during such Longhouse year must be equal to at least six (6) events out of the total number of “qualifying activities” approved by the Longhouse Council in setting the schedule of Longhouse sponsored activities at the beginning of such Longhouse year.

In the event a Little Brave joins the Longhouse after the first “qualifying activity” takes place during any given Longhouse year, he nevertheless shall qualify for a participation award for such year if and only if he attends not less than four (4) “qualifying activities” and/or “additional approved activities” during the balance of that Longhouse year and such number of activities attended is not less than 50 percent (50%) of the total number of “qualifying activities” he was eligible to attend during the Longhouse year from and after the date he joined the Longhouse. The Wampum Bearer’s determination of the date a Little Brave joined the Longhouse shall be final for purposes of determining such Little Brave’s eligibility for a participation award under this paragraph of this Section 4.

SECTION 5

Patches symbolizing a Longhouse sponsored activity shall be provided by the Longhouse Council to those Big and Little Braves who participate in the activity. On an activity-by-activity basis, the Executive Committee, in exercise of its sound discretion, shall determine whether members shall be charged for such patches and shall set the price(s) for such patches.

SECTION 6

Special feathers shall be provided by the Longhouse Council to all members of the Executive Committee and their sons.

SECTION 7

Feathers (or other suitable awards as may be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time) may be distributed to participants in Longhouse sponsored activities at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 8

Special service or participation awards may be made to individuals upon approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII — AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1

This Constitution and Bylaws can be amended by approval of two-thirds of the voting members present at a regularly scheduled Longhouse Council meeting.

SECTION 2

All proposed amendments must be presented to all members of the Longhouse by inclusion in the “Longtalk” or by notification through the “Longtalk” so that the members can obtain a copy of the amendments prior to being voted upon at the Longhouse Council meeting.

ARTICLE IX — ADOPTIONS

This Constitution and Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon the unanimous vote of the Longhouse Council present.