

Jedediah Strong Smith - Chapter Constitution and Bylaws

Article I: Organization

The name of the organization shall be the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (revised March 1990). The Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship shall be an auxiliary organization of the Royal Rangers.

Article II: Formation of the FCF Chapter

The New Mexico District Chapter of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship was officially formed on August 11, 1972. The officials in charge of the first Phase I and Phase II held in the District were: Paul Johnson, Territorial Representative; David Franklin, National FCF Scout; Rev. Don Franklin, National Training Coordinator; and Alan Gell, Regional Coordinator.

The inducted chapter members were: Windy Brumfield, Dean Garrison, Duane Garrison, Travis Keeney, Robert Keister, C. Eddie Lee, Otis Morehead, Robert O'Conner, Dee Oldham, Raymond Ruane, and Bill Spurgeon.

Article III: Chapter Name

The name of the New Mexico District Chapter of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship shall be the Jedediah Strong Smith Chapter. Approved April 1973.

Article IV: Organizational Purpose

1. To give recognition to men and boys who have shown exceptional interest and outstanding achievement in the Royal Rangers program and in Royal Rangers campcraft.
2. To build a brotherhood of 'top-notch' boys and men who will, over the years, continue to be Royal Ranger program and camping enthusiasts
3. To emphasis the importance of involvement in the advancement program, development of campcraft skills, and continued leadership training.
4. To develop a corps of proven Royal Rangers who will strive to be the very best in Christian example and leadership.
5. To encourage the boys and men of Royal Rangers to always prefer others above themselves and to let their leadership be by example.
6. To show a spirit of servant-hood, willing to give time and energy above and beyond what is expected for Royal Rangers.

Article V: Organizational Tenets

Organizational Motto: 'To Give and to Serve' (*Latin – Ad Dare Seuire*)

Organizational Pledge: I share with you the warmth and glow of this campfire. These crimson flames are a symbol of our fellowship and adventures in camping. I promise to share with you the warmth of Christian friendship, and with others, the light of my Christian testimony. I promise to keep alive the spirit of FCF in my personal life and to observe at all time the principles of Royal Rangers.

Organizational Symbol: The Fire. The flame of the FCF Fire represents Light, Warmth, and Usefulness. The five logs of the FCF Fire stand for Courage, Achievement, Friendship, Leadership, and Woodsmanship.

Article VI: Nature of FCF

The Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF) was founded during the summer of 1966 to recognize boys and men who had distinguished themselves in advancement, training and camping. Based on the lore and traditions of the early American frontiersmen, FCF endeavors to instill the characteristics of the FCF Campfire in today's Royal Rangers.

Article VII: Chapter Officers and their Duties.

The chapter will be served and administered by an FCF Chapter Staff, including the following positions:

Chairman: The District Commander will serve as the Chairman of the Chapter. He is the senior officer in the chapter and will chair all business meetings and staff meetings, and will be responsible for coordinating FCF activities into the overall District Royal Rangers Program. The Chairman's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.1 Chapter FCF Chairman (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

President: The Chapter President's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.2 Chapter President (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*)

Vice President: The Chapter Vice President's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.3 Chapter Vice President (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Scribe: The Chapter Scribe's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.4 Chapter Scribe (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Company Clerk: The Chapter Company Clerk's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.5 Chapter Company Clerk (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Historian: The Chapter Historian's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.6 Chapter Historian (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Buckskin Representative: The Chapter Buckskin Representative's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.7 Buckskin Representative (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Wilderness Representative: The Chapter Wilderness Representative's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.8 Wilderness Representative (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Junior Field Advisor: The Chapter Junior Field Advisor's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.9 Junior Field Advisor (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Chapter Scout: The Chapter Scout's duties are outlined in, but not limited to, document 4.10 Chapter Scout (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

All FCF Staff members should be willing to promote Royal Rangers whenever necessary and to aid the District Commander as deemed necessary by him. The FCF is a brotherhood, and all FCF Staff members must do their utmost to perpetuate the brotherhood.

Article VIII: Selection of Officers

Chairman: The District Commander is Chairman by virtue of his office and is not elected by the Fellowship.

President: He shall be selected by the FCF Chairman in consultation with the Assembly of God District Executive Committee. The term of service is indeterminate in that the President will hold the position until he chooses to vacate the position.

Vice President: He shall be appointed by the FCF President from among the active adults of the fellowship. The term of service is indeterminate in that the Vice President will hold the position until he chooses to vacate the position.

Scribe: He shall be appointed by the FCF President from among the active adults in the fellowship. The term of service is indeterminate in that the Scribe will hold the position until he chooses to vacate the position.

District Scout: He is selected from among the Royal Ranger boys in the fellowship (less than 18 years old at time of chapter scout testing event). He must have been a member of FCF for at least one year. His term of office shall be two years. The scout competition shall be held in the same year as the Territorial Rendezvous and will conform to document 4.10.1 Scout Testing Guidelines (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Assistant District Scout: He is selected from among the Royal Ranger boys in the fellowship (less than 18 years old at time of chapter scout testing event). He must have been a member of FCF for at least one year. His term of office shall be two years. The scout competition shall be held in the same year as the Territorial Rendezvous and will conform to document 4.10.1 Scout Testing Guidelines (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*).

Historian: He is appointed by the District FCF Staff. He is not required to attend National or Regional council meetings.

Black Powder Rep: He is appointed by the District FCF Staff.

Sectional FCF Reps: He shall be appointed by the Sectional Commander of his section with the approval of the District FCF Staff.

Pins of office will be paid for by the chapter. However, if the pin should be lost for some reason, then the officer must pay for the replacement

Article IX: Membership Requirements

Both Boys and Leaders

1. Earn the following Merit Awards: Ropecraft, Firecraft, Cooking, Compass, Toolcraft, Camping, Lashing, First Aid Skills
2. Explain the plan of Salvation
3. Explain the meaning of the Four Red, Four Gold, and Eight Blue points of the Royal Rangers Emblem

Boys Only

1. Be at least 11 years old and at least an Adventure Ranger
2. Be recommended by the Outpost Commander

Leaders Only

1. Complete the RR Basics module of the LTA
2. Be a RR leader in good standing with his church.

After earning all eight required merits, a candidate for membership will have earned the Grizzly Trail FCF Merit Award. The candidate for membership is now eligible for the Frontier Adventure. After successful completion of the Frontier Adventure, the candidate will receive the Frontiersmen Pin and will have earned membership in the FCF chapter.

Article X: Frontier Adventure

The Frontier Adventure is the event in which a candidate for FCF membership must complete successfully in order to gain entrance into the chapter. The Frontier Adventure will be held on an annual basis and should be available to all eligible Royal Rangers in the District Royal Rangers organization. The Frontier Adventure will be conducted using guidelines conforming to document 5.2 Frontier Adventure Procedures (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*)

Article XI: Entrance Fees

The chapter shall assess a \$50 entrance fee for all candidates participating in the Frontier Adventure. This entrance fee includes first year's dues, event supplies, membership patch or medallion, and event fees.

Article XII: Public Recognition Ceremony

A public ceremony should take place but is not limited to taking place during the District Pow-Wow. It should include: an explanation of the FCF Symbol (The FCF Fire) and the 6 purposes of FCF, and an explanation of some aspect of frontier history or the life of Jedediah Strong Smith, and a listing of the names of those candidates who have successfully completed the Frontier Adventure and have been approved for membership into the Chapter.

Article XIII: Membership Activity

An active member is one who participates in at least one annual chapter-wide FCF event (Spring Trace, District Pow-wow, Fall Trace, etc). Participation in an event is defined as paying registration fees for the attended event. An active member must also be a chartered member of a local Royal Rangers outpost. Any member who has been inactive for three successive years will be dropped from the membership list. He may become an active member again by attending an annual chapter-wide FCF event and being an active member of a Royal Rangers outpost. A member that is at the Frontiersmen level of advancement and has been inactive for five (5) or more successive years will lose their Frontiersmen name. Frontiersmen names re-acquired by the chapter from inactive members can be reused in future induction ceremonies.

An active member may obtain a lifetime membership by paying \$150. Benefits of obtaining a lifetime membership include reduced registration fees, non-ending active membership, retirement of FCF name, and other additional approved benefits.

Any person who is an active member of another chapter, who moves to New Mexico and wishes to become an active member in this chapter, will be accepted for membership. It is necessary for the transferring member to have an official Letter of Confirmation sent from a qualified member of his former District's staff to the New Mexico District Commander. This letter must include confirmation of the transferee's membership in FCF, a statement of his good standing in the group, a statement of his level of advancement, a transcript of any points he may have earned towards Trapper's Brigade, and a copy of any official records kept by the chapter from which he is transferring. Failure to provide this letter will automatically result in a non-member status being conferred on the transferee in this chapter. The District FCF Staff must approve the transfer of an inactive member from another chapter.

Any member who becomes inactive due to transferring out of the District by the military or because he is attending school, is considered excused inactive. They will remain a member of the chapter in an 'excused inactive' status. There is no limit to the number of years a member may be excused inactive; but if he elects not to return to the District or becomes active in another chapter, he should request a transfer of his membership.

Article XIV: Special Events

The Chapter shall plan a special event for the FCF members sometime during the year. This event shall be called a Trace. The Chapter is not limited to one annual chapter-wide event. Additional chapter-wide events can be scheduled at the discretion of the District Chapter FCF Staff and the District Commander.

Article XV: Advancement

Buckskin: The Buckskin advancement level was developed to encourage advancement in the Royal Rangers Program.

Requirements for boys: complete one additional step in advancement or earn the Gold Medal of Achievement.

Requirements for men: tutor a boy into FCF.

Requirements for boys and men:

1. Participate in at least on initiation
2. Be active in the Chapter for at least on year.
3. Make or purchase a complete FCF outfit and wear it at FCF functions
4. Recite from memory the FCF Pledge
5. Explain the meaning of the FCF Symbol.
6. State the purposes of FCF
7. Make an FCF ID Staff
8. Make your stalking stick into an FCF necklace.
9. Select a frontier related craft or skill that you plan to develop.
10. Select an FCF name for yourself.
11. Complete the Buckskin Prerequisite Course.
12. Complete the Buckskin Sponsor Checklist.
13. Complete Buckskin Testing as outlined in document 6.2 Buckskin Testing Guidelines (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*)

Sponsors: An FCF member wishing to advance to Buckskin must obtain a sponsor. The sponsor may be a Buckskin or Wilderness. They are responsible for seeing that the candidate has met the requirements.

Wilderness: The Wilderness advancement level was developed to encourage advancement in the Royal Rangers Program.

Requirements for boys: complete one additional step in advancement and earn the Survival Award or earn the Gold Medal of Achievement.

Requirements for men: attend and complete a National Training Camp.

Requirements for boys and men:

1. Boys must participate in at least 2 initiations and men at least four.
2. Be an active member in the chapter for at least two years.
3. Be sponsored by the Chapter.
4. Tutor another boy into FCF
5. Carry a Wilderness Pouch for at least 3 months.
6. Pass a pre-vigil testing session.
7. Complete an all-night vigil.

Sponsors: An FCF member wishing to advance to Wilderness must obtain a sponsor. The sponsor must be an existing Wilderness member in good standing with the chapter. They are responsible for seeing that the candidate has met all the requirements to advance to Wilderness.

Trapper's Brigade: The purpose of the Trapper's Brigade is to promote Christian service among FCF members by encouraging their involvement and participation in service to their church and fellow man.

Service points are accumulated when an FCF member volunteers his time (with no consideration for wages) in church, in community projects, in special needs organizations, or in humanitarian acts. He will receive one point credit per hour of service including travel time. Projects are approved by the Chapter FCF Staff.

The three steps of recognition and the accumulated points necessary to attain the level are as follows:

- Company Trapper – 50 total points
- Bourgeois – 100 total points
- Free Trapper – 150 total points

The Trapper's Brigade program will be administered in adherence to document 7.1 Trapper's Brigade Policies and Procedures (*Chapter Officer's Procedures and Guidelines*)

Article XVI: Constitutional Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended, but only at a business meeting of the general membership. A majority vote is required to change, add, or remove any article in this Constitution and Bylaws with one exception.

In April 1973, the chapter elected to follow the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity. In May 1988, the chapter elected to automatically adopt, without a vote, any suggestion or recommendation made by the National Office. The change will automatically be incorporated into the current Constitution and Bylaws and each member will be notified of the change.

Constitution and Bylaws revised December 2008.