

NEBRASKACHE GEOCACHING ORGANIZATION BYLAWS

Article I-Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization is Nebraskache Geocaching Organization, which is shortened to Nebraskache or Nebraskache Group for purposes of an existing Geocaching.com account, yahoo listserve group, and general reference.

Section 2. Purpose

The purposes for which Nebraskache is formed are as follows:

The Nebraskache shall exist as an education and social society formed to promote knowledge of, and interest in, the activity of geocaching through activities such as events, workshops, public information displays, discussions about geocaching with park managers, a central listserve, an electronic newsletter distributed through the listserve. Further purposes include encouraging responsible stewardship of public lands, raising public awareness through effect use of media relations, and presenting geocaching as a family oriented activity.

Section 3. Not-for-profit

The organization shall not act for profit, but will not at this time be set up formally as a legal non-profit organization. Should the need for legal non-profit status arise in the future it may be changed as deemed appropriate by a 3/5 vote of the Executive Committee with Committee authorization to amend the bylaws.

Article II-Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Any individual shall be eligible for membership, provided they agree to abide by the bylaws and rules of the organization.

Section 2. Membership

Active Member: Any person who registers on the Nebraskache list (yahoo group) shall be deemed active members. Persons who wish to be active members without subscribing to the Nebraskache yahoo group can become members by providing the current President Elect with their full name, City & State of residence and email address. Anyone subscribed to the Nebraskache yahoo group who does not want to be considered an active member may be removed from active membership by notifying the current President Elect.

Voting Member: Voting members are any active member who is at least 18 years of age, who lives in Nebraska or within 25 miles of its borders and who has

registered membership by sending his or her full name, City & State of residence, and email address to the President Elect.

Section 3. Dues

At present, the organization has no official dues or monetary charges for membership. In the future, dues may be established as deemed appropriate and voted on by the voting members.

Article III-Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

At least two (2) general membership meetings shall be held during each year. These meetings may be in conjunction with an event. The time and place of the meetings shall be announced at least ten (10) days before each meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Additional meetings of the organization may be called, either by vote of the Executive Committee or by petition of a majority of the voting members. The time and place of special meetings shall be announced at least (7) days before the meeting. A special meeting does not include a pure event cache.

Section 3. Quorum

Those persons present at a properly called general membership or special meeting shall be designated as a quorum and shall be entitled to take action on behalf of the organization.

Section 4. Voting

A majority vote of the Voting Members present at any meeting shall be required for all action to be taken by the organization that requires a membership vote.

Section 5. Event Caches as extra meetings.

The organization may hold events listed as event caches on Geocaching.com. A regular meeting or special meeting may include a listed event cache, but listed event caches are not required to include a general or special meeting.

Article IV-Officers

Section 1. Positions

The officers of the organization shall consist of a President, President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. The term of each office is one year.

Section 2. President

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and, subject to the control of the Executive Committee and the direction of the membership, shall in general supervise and control all of the activities of the organization. The President shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and

when present, shall preside at all meeting of the Executive Committee or the membership. The President shall have the power to create Special Committees and select and appoint the chairpersons of those committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the organization. The President shall sign contracts and agreements on behalf of the organization.

Section 3. President-Elect

The President-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Committee and, in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties of the President. The President-Elect shall keep a list of active and voting members, shall have primary responsibility over membership issues, and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the President or Executive Committee. The President-Elect, after having served for one year, shall automatically become the President of the Organization.

Section 4. Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Committee. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the membership and the Executive Committee and see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws. The Secretary/Treasurer will also have charge of and be responsible for any and all funds of the organization and shall organize and keep any bank accounts of the organization. The Secretary/Treasurer shall in general perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

Article V-Executive Committee

Section 1. General Powers

The affairs, activities and operation of the organization shall be managed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall transact necessary business during the intervals between the meetings of the membership and such other business as may be referred to it by the membership or these Bylaws. It may create special or standing committees, approve the plans and work of standing and special committees, present reports and recommendations at the meetings of the membership, prepare and submit a budget to the membership for approval, and in general, conduct the business and activities of the organization.

Section 2. Membership

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and an Area Representative for each area.

Past Presidents constitute a valuable consultative resource. As such, for five years following their term of office, at their discretion, Presidents shall remain voting members of the Executive Committee. This shall be while they remain voting members of Nebraskache. They shall not be counted towards a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 2.1 Area Representatives.

Each Area Representative will be a member of the Executive Committee, representing the Voting Members of their area on the Executive Committee. Each Area Representative must be a resident of the area they represent. The Area Representative will be elected during the annual elections and will be elected by only the Voting Members of the area they represent.

However, should the post of an Area Representative become vacant, a volunteer residing within the area shall, upon approval of the Executive Committee, serve the remainder of the term as Area Representative. In the event that there is no volunteer, the Area Representative of an adjacent area shall act as Representative for that area, retaining a single vote (not two) on the Executive Committee for both areas represented together. In the event of more than one area being adjacent, the Executive Committee shall determine by majority vote the Area Representative to assume this responsibility." The Area Representative shall represent both areas until the next election of officers.

Section 2.2 Areas

Nebraskache areas are entirely within Nebraska and are further defined by the following:

Area 1: From the Western border of Nebraska extending East to Highway 183.

Area 2: From Highway 183 extending East to Highway 81.

Area 3: From Highway 81 extending East to Highway 77.

Area 4: From Highway 77 extending East to the Eastern border of Nebraska.

For clarification of towns divide by the Highways used to create the area boundaries the following towns are listed in the area they are considered part of:

In Area 1: Basset, Holdrege, Sargent, Springview & Taylor

In Area 2: York

In Area 3: Beatrice, Columbus, Cortland, Fremont, Lincoln, Norfolk, Osceola, Princeton, Stromsburg & Wahoo

In Area 4: Oakland, South Sioux City & Winnebago

Within three months following the election of officers, the Executive Committee shall evaluate Nebraskache areas for approximately equal representation among the Nebraskache voting membership. Area boundaries shall be redrawn so that each area has no more or no less than 10% of the number of Nebraskache voting members divided by the number of areas. If the latter condition is currently met, the Executive Committee will maintain current boundaries. The new boundaries shall be published online in a location readily accessible by Nebraskache members and the members notified of the change.

The number of areas is four.

Section 3. Meetings

The Executive Committee shall hold a minimum of three (3) regular meetings during the year, the time to be established at the first meeting after each new election. The first meeting after an election will be held within one (1) calendar month. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Committee. Adequate notice of all meetings shall be given to all members of the Executive Committee and, in the absence of an emergency, at least seven (7) days in advance. When possible, notice of the meetings should be announced to all regular members of the organization. Any active or voting member may attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote on matters before the body.

When necessary, meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (10th Edition), a copy of which shall be maintained by and brought to all Executive Board meetings by the Secretary/Treasurer. (Reference: <http://www.robertsrules.org>)

Section 4. Quorum

A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. *In determining a quorum, Past Presidents shall not be counted.*

Section 5. Voting

The act of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required for all action to be taken by the Executive Committee.

Article VI-Elections

Section 1. Procedure and Selection

The election of officers shall take place each year during the month of March. The new officers will assume their positions on April 1st following the election. All voting Members of the organization may participate in the election. No less than twenty (20) days before the General Membership Meeting, a slate of names nominated for each position shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and presented to the membership via the yahoo listserve for election. Additional nominations may be received from the membership for a period of ten (10) days. Nominations from the membership must have been an active Nebraskache member for at least four months before nomination or have attended a Nebraskache event. The election of the slate will be in two parts: 1) Online Vote and 2) Meeting Vote (vote taken during a Nebraskache General Membership Meeting). . Online voting will be conducted as a poll on the Nebraskache Yahoo group and will be open for at least 14 days. Online polling will cease at 11:59 PM Central Time the day preceding the Nebraskache geocaching event at which the election will be held. The results of both the online vote and the meeting vote will be announced after the meeting vote. The sum of the Online Vote and of the Meeting Vote shall constitute the Election Vote. Votes taken at the General Membership meeting will not require identification by name on the ballot, but will

require each voting member to sign or check a list using the registered voting membership names showing that he or she has voted. Votes by proxy will be accounted for in the same manner. A majority of the Election Votes (Online and Meeting Votes) cast by the voting members shall be necessary for election. Should no person receive a majority of votes cast, a run-off election between the two (2) persons who received the largest number of votes shall immediately be held. Voting members who live further than one hundred (100) miles from the location of the election meeting may vote by proxy. The proxy must attend the election meeting and vote in person. The person voting and the proxy must each notify the President-Elect within five (5) days of the election of the intention to vote by proxy and provide their full names, City & State of residence, and email addresses.

Section 2. Term of Office

The term of each officer shall be one year, beginning on April 1st and ending on March 31st of the following year. With the exception of President and President-Elect, a person may be elected to the same or other office for more than one consecutive term. After the first election for the office of President, there shall be no election for the office of President because the President-Elect will automatically assume the position of President at the completion of his or her term.

Section 3 Vacancies

Any vacancies in office because of death, resignation or inability to serve shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term. However, should a vacancy occur in the office of the President, the President-Elect shall immediately assume the office. Should a vacancy occur in the Office of President- Elect for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting of the membership.

Article VII-Finances

The organization does not intend to handle large amounts of funds at this time. Should the handling of funds occur, the Executive Committee shall prepare and present a budget to the membership and shall amend these Bylaws as necessary. Any funds in the amount of less that \$100 may be held by the Secretary/Treasurer as petty cache. Funds in excess of \$100 shall be deposited in an organization bank account. Should the need arise to create a separate office of Treasurer, the Executive Committee is authorized to create and fill the position for the remainder of the existing term and amend the Bylaws accordingly. The position will then after be filled through the election process.

Article VIII-Amendment

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by the voting members at any Regular or Special Meeting or by on-line vote of the

voting members. A draft of the proposed amendment will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee for content, it will then be posted online for voting for a period of 14 days on the Nebraskache Yahoo Group web site. If a meeting coincides within the period of the on-line voting, voting may also take place in combination with the on-line vote; the results of the voting would be announced after the 14 day period has expired and the online voting is closed and the voting at the meeting has taken place. The sum of the online vote and the meeting vote shall constitute the vote and determine if the amendment shall be adopted into the bylaws or rejected. The Executive Committee has authority to amend these Bylaws where specifically authorized.

Article IX-Non-Discrimination Clause

The organization shall not discriminate against people on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any legally protected characteristic.

Article X-Disciplinary Action

As determined by the Executive Committee, any member whose actions are deemed to run counter to the best interests of the organization shall be subject to removal from membership. Should the Executive Committee feel that disciplinary action is necessary the committee will inform the member, schedule a vote and provide notice to the member to be disciplined to ensure the member can have an opportunity to speak in his or her defense if he or she chooses.

Article XI-Logo

The development of any official Nebraskache logo will be a trademarked of the organization and may not be altered or used in any manner except as approved by the Executive Committee.

Article XII-Statements of Policy

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to amend these Bylaws to include and remove statements of policy.

Article XIII-Dissolution

Dissolution of the organization may occur by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. In the event of dissolution, all remaining assets, if any, shall be transferred to the nearest geocaching-related organization approved by the Executive Committee.

Amendment History

Amendments to Bylaws approved on 09/13/08 at Annual Nebraskache Meeting during Kearney Picnic. Amendments are shown in italics in these bylaws. Bylaws revised by Harlan Seyfer (Twinstars), Nebraskache Secretary-Treasurer.

Location	Change
Article II Membership	Requirements to voting membership changed from within 100 miles to within 25 miles of Nebraska.
Article V Executive Committee, Section 2 Membership	Clarify each Area has a Representative on the Executive Committee. Added past Presidents remain voting members of Executive Committee for five years
Article V Executive Committee, Section 2 Membership, Section 2.1 Area Representatives	Portion of Section 2 on Area Representatives made a separate subsection (Section 2.1) Added procedure for vacant Area Representative position.
Article V Executive Committee, Section 2 Membership, Section 2.2 Areas	Portion of Section 2 on Areas made a separate subsection (Section 2.2) Added procedure for redrawing area boundaries after election of officers.
Article V Executive Committee, Section 3 Meetings	Added that <i>Robert's Rules of Order</i> will govern meetings.
Article V Executive Committee, Section 3 Quorum	Added past Presidents will not be counted for quorum.
	Removed italics indicating previous revisions.
	Reformatted this section on amendment history

Amendments to Bylaws approved on 2/28/07. Bylaws revised by David Therrien (DTHT), Nebraskache President Elect 2/28/07.

Article V – Executive Committee, Section 2. Membership, Area Representatives	Added description of Area Representative and defined area boundaries.
Article VI - Elections, Section 1. Procedure and Selection	Added section stating when officer election will be held and when officers assume positions.
Article VI - Elections, Section 2. Term of Office	Define start and end dates of term for officers.
Note: All amendments approved on 2/28/07 to these bylaws are shown in Italics.	