

Peaks and Professors AT UC SAN DIEGO CONSTITUTION - 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The organization shall be called Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego is to foster a unique environment where students and faculty connect through outdoor experiences. This organization seeks to build a community that combines a love for adventure with a passion for learning by organizing hiking trips and other outdoor activities. These experiences encourage meaningful conversations, intellectual growth, and mentorship opportunities while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Members will gain personal growth, meaningful relationships, and deeper insights into academic and professional fields.

ARTICLE III. NONPROFIT STATEMENT

Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

ARTICLE IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. **Eligibility:**
 - Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students of UC San Diego.
 - Faculty members may participate as special guests on trips but are not considered members.
2. **Dues and Fees:**
 - Fees are collected from the students participating in a hike on a per-hike basis. The fees vary. There are no annual dues to be paid to become a member of the club.
 - Additional fees may apply for participation in specific trips or activities to cover transportation, permits, or other associated costs.
 - The trip leads and people part of the P-board may only have to pay for transportation
 - Drivers will be reimbursed for their contribution
3. **Non-Discrimination Statement:**
 - Membership is open to all students consistent with the UC San Diego Nondiscrimination Policy.
4. **Membership Process:**
 - The slots for hikes fill up on a first come first serve basis. There are no membership dues.
5. **Trips:**
 - If a person cancels the trip, the next person on the waitlist will be given their slot.

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ARTICLE V. FREQUENCY OF ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

1. **General Meetings:**

- General meetings will be held once per month during the academic year.
- Meetings will serve to discuss upcoming events, plan trips, and review organizational updates.
- 2. **Executive Committee Meetings:**
 - The Executive Committee will meet biweekly or weekly (as needed) to organize events and address administrative matters.
- 3. **Minutes:**
 - Meeting minutes will be taken during all general and executive meetings and distributed to members via email.

ARTICLE VI. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HOLDING OFFICE AND METHODS OF SELECTING AND REPLACING OFFICERS

Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the organization. Only registered UC San Diego students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

1. **Eligibility:**
 - Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office or vote in officer elections.
2. **Officer Positions and Duties:**
 - E-Board Structure: 4-6 members for now
 - President and VP (2): Overall coordination, managing relationships with faculty, overseeing events, and leading the rest of the team.
 - Treasurer (1): Handling budgets, reimbursements, and financial planning. Managing communications, scheduling, and minutes for meetings. Needs to understand costs associated with trips, transportation, and equipment well.
 - Event coordinator/outreach: Planning trips, reaching out to professors, and coordinating attendance. Should work with the Treasurer to ensure plans are financially feasible.
 - Socials and website design (2): Posting frequently, updating both pages after each trip, creating write-ups about professors for interested students.
3. **Election Process:**
 - Elections will be held annually in Spring Quarter.
 - Nominations will be accepted one month before the election meeting. Members will vote anonymously.
4. **Term Duration:**
 - Officers will serve a one-year term beginning in Fall Quarter.
5. **Removal and Replacement:**
 - Officers may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the general membership for failure to perform duties.
 - Vacant positions will be filled through a special election.

ARTICLE VII. RISK MANAGEMENT

Peaks & Professors at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

Peaks & Professors at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

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1. **Risk Mitigation:**

- Members will be required to sign a liability waiver before participating in any outdoor activity.
- Trips will be planned with safety as a priority, including designated trip leaders and emergency procedures.
- Members are responsible for their physical fitness and safety during trips.

2. **Interaction with Minors or Elderly:**

- Not applicable to the organization's activities.

3. **Medical Assistance:**

- Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego will not provide medical assistance but will ensure that emergency contacts and first aid kits are available on trips.

4. **International Travel:**

- Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego does not currently engage in international travel.

Further articles, if applicable:

ARTICLE VIII. HAZING PREVENTION

Peaks & Professors is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants. Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited. The club adheres to UC San Diego's policies and California state laws regarding hazing prevention.

Definition of Hazing

Hazing is defined as any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. This includes but is not limited to physical harm, emotional distress, or forced participation in activities.

Prevention Strategies

To ensure all members understand hazing, we provide clear definitions and examples tailored to our club activities, along with training at the beginning of each academic year. Members will also have access to anti-hazing resources through UC San Diego.

Members will receive examples of prohibited conduct and guidance on identifying signs of hazing during orientations and regular club meetings. We will distribute educational materials, such as links to official UC San Diego policies, and encourage open discussions about maintaining a safe environment.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

- Requiring members to participate in physically demanding hikes or activities that exceed their stated comfort level or physical capabilities. Hikes must always align with the club's mission of fostering safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences while building connections with professors.
- Coercing members into consuming food, beverages, alcohol, or substances during hikes, meetings, or events. This includes pressure to partake in "traditions" or challenges that make members uncomfortable or unsafe.
- Activities during hikes, events, or meetings that humiliate, isolate, or degrade members. Examples include singling individuals out for ridicule, assigning embarrassing tasks, or deliberately excluding members from group activities or conversations.

Report Hazing

All members are encouraged to report any suspected hazing incidents immediately. **Reports should be directed to the UC San Diego Police Department**, and additional support is available through university channels. Reports will be treated with confidentiality to the extent possible, and retaliation against reporters is strictly prohibited. Leadership will review feedback regularly to identify and address any concerns.

Consequences of Hazing

Hazing is a serious violation of university policy, state law, and the mission of Peaks & Professors. Individuals or groups found engaging in hazing activities will face severe consequences, including but not limited to:

- Immediate and permanent expulsion from Peaks & Professors.
- Referral to UC San Diego's Office of Student Conduct, which may impose academic or university-level sanctions, including suspension or expulsion from UC San Diego.
- Legal consequences, including potential criminal charges under California's anti-hazing laws. This may result in fines, probation, or imprisonment.

All members are to be informed of the severe consequences of hazing, including expulsion from the club, university sanctions, and criminal penalties. This ensures members understand the gravity of such actions and the responsibility to maintain a safe and respectful environment.

The safety and integrity of Peaks & Professors are our highest priorities. By joining, all members agree to uphold this hazing prevention policy and contribute to a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment.

ARTICLE IX. COMMUNITY MENTOR

The Community Mentor for Peaks & Professors serves as a cornerstone of the club's mission to connect students and professors through safe, engaging, and inclusive outdoor activities. Their role ensures that the organization operates effectively, responsibly, and in alignment with its stated goals.

Selection Process

The Community Mentor will be chosen through a thorough nomination and application process facilitated by the club's leadership team. In cases of high applicant traffic, candidates may be required to participate in interviews to assess their alignment with the club's values, expertise, and ability to contribute meaningfully to the organization. Selection criteria will prioritize candidates who demonstrate a strong interest in outdoor activities, mentorship, and fostering connections between students and faculty.

To maintain transparency and accountability, the executive board will ensure a balanced number of mentors are selected to effectively manage the organization's needs and maintain oversight, reducing the risk of misconduct or mismanagement.

Term of Service

Mentors will serve for one academic year and will need to reapply for the position annually. This ensures continued engagement and accountability.

Mentors are required to actively participate by attending at least one-third of the hiking expeditions during the quarter. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a formal notice of removal or warning. If this requirement is not met for a second consecutive quarter, the mentor will be terminated from their role within the organization.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Community Mentor will ensure the success and integrity of Peaks & Professors by advising the executive board on decisions and strategies specific to the club's mission of fostering connections between students and professors through hiking. They will assist with managing the club's budget, identifying funding opportunities, and helping with transportation logistics to ensure members can safely and equitably participate in hiking events.

Additionally, the mentor will actively support hazing prevention by contributing to related training initiatives and serving as a point of contact for concerns. By focusing on these key areas, the Community Mentor directly supports the operational and cultural integrity of Peaks & Professors.

By fulfilling these responsibilities, the Community Mentor will significantly contribute to the long-term success and impact of Peaks & Professors, ensuring a positive experience for all members while upholding the organization's mission and values.

NOTE: Community Mentors are required for certain types of student organizations, including:

1. Academic Department Affiliated
2. Health Profession
3. National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
4. Interfraternity Council (IFC)
5. Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)
6. College Panhellenic Association (CPA)
7. Pre-Professional

However, it is strongly recommended that all organizations with external affiliation or engaged in high-risk activities, such as working with minors or the elderly, medical assistance, and/or international travel, seek out a Community Mentor and formally register that individual.

Student organizations seeking official co-curricular records (see <https://myccr.ucsd.edu/home.htm>) recognition for participation should seek out UC San Diego faculty or staff Community Mentors.

Learn more about community mentors at <https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/involvement/organizations/onestop/community-advisors.html>.

ARTICLE X. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Peaks & Professors at UC San Diego is committed to maintaining transparent and effective financial practices to support its mission of connecting students and professors through outdoor experiences. The organization finances its activities primarily through participant fees for individual trips. These fees are carefully calculated to cover direct costs, such as gas reimbursements, parking permits (which support the parks visited), and essential overhead expenses like website maintenance and general club operations. Peaks & Professors keeps trips affordable and accessible, with typical day hikes costing \$8–\$10 and overnight trips costing \$50–\$80. Drivers receive reduced fees to acknowledge their contributions to transportation.

All funds collected are managed through UC San Diego's approved financial systems to ensure accountability and compliance with university guidelines. The club avoids maintaining an off-campus bank account, relying instead on university-managed accounts to handle all transactions securely and transparently. This ensures that funds are used solely to support club activities, with proper documentation for review by club leadership and university officials.

Budget planning is conducted each quarter, with the club submitting a detailed budget to the A.S. (Associated Students) or G.S.A. (Graduate Student Association) finance committee. This process provides financial oversight and ensures continued support from the university. Trip fees are designed to align with the club's principle of operating at marginal cost, ensuring members only pay for what is necessary to make each event successful and enjoyable.

By adhering to these financial practices, Peaks & Professors ensures that resources are used responsibly and sustainably, allowing for successful hikes and activities throughout the quarter while maintaining affordability and accessibility for all members.

ARTICLE XI. AFFILIATION WITH OTHER GROUPS

Peaks & Professors at UC San Diego is directly affiliated with Peaks & Professors at USC, the founding chapter of the organization. This affiliation establishes a shared mission of connecting students and professors through outdoor experiences while fostering a sense of community and academic engagement. Most of the general structure, operational guidelines, and information for the UC San Diego chapter are derived from the established practices of the USC chapter, ensuring consistency and alignment between the two organizations.

Peaks and Professors at UC San Diego will have their own website which will be based off of the USC website for Peaks and Professors.

Affiliation with Peaks & Professors at USC does not impose additional membership requirements on UC San Diego members beyond those outlined in the club's constitution. However, it does involve adherence to shared standards, including upholding the core mission, financial practices, and event structures that define the Peaks & Professors organization. Additionally, the UC San Diego chapter may collaborate with the USC chapter on joint initiatives, such as sharing trip ideas, organizational strategies, and mentorship opportunities.

This affiliation strengthens Peaks & Professors at UC San Diego by providing a foundation of proven practices, a shared identity, and a connection to a larger community while allowing the chapter to tailor its activities to the unique needs and opportunities of the UC San Diego campus.