

EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT
CHARTER BYLAWS
(Revised 7/12/2022)

ARTICLE 1. NAME

This organization shall be known as the EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT or ECOJOCS for short.

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT is organized as a not for profit organization for:

- Providing social, educational and recreational activities for its membership. ▪ To promote and support the sport of legal off-road travel and ownership. ▪ To promote the safe and responsible use of public lands and recreation areas in a manner consistent with legal off-road use (“wheeling”).
- To promote, organize and hold outings, meetings, trail runs and other events for its membership.
- This organization shall promote and practice the principles of the TREAD LIGHTLY program.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

1. Founding Members

- a. Founding members (Paul Tanner, Dave Gold, William Schmidt, and Greg Molod) shall be required to participate in one (1) event or meeting per year and will be permanent members until such time that they voluntarily leave the club barring violation of club code of conduct or policy. This is irrevocable, regardless of any future by-law revisions, or amendments. Should any Founding Member be nominated and elected to a Board of Directors position, the one (1) annual event requirement will be superseded by the requirements of the position for their tenure in that role.

2. Regular Membership

- a. Owners of JEEP vehicles are eligible for membership in the EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT.

- b. Definition of membership type: Single membership allows one individual one vehicle per club event. Family membership allows one individual and their partner/spouse living in the same household up to 2 vehicles per membership. Membership votes will be limited to one (1) vote per Single Membership and two (2) votes per Family Membership. Voting members must be 18 years of age or older.
- c. Dues for this organization shall be set by the membership each year at the November meeting. Initial membership will also include one (1) ECOJOCS club t-shirt, regardless of membership tier. Annual membership monies are due on January's first monthly meeting and good until December 31st of that year. Dues MUST be paid before or at the January meeting in order to be able to vote for Club officers. Dues shall be pro-rated at 50% for a partial year only from August 1st or any other subsequent month through January 1st.
- d. A general notice will be posted on Facebook prior to the annual membership dues renewal date. Individual notices will also be made in January if dues remain outstanding. Any members with dues that are delinquent as of February 1st will be immediately removed from ECOJOCS and all private access social sites. Reinstatement is a \$25 fee plus any delinquent dues. Members renewing after 12 months of non-membership shall be required to again meet the probationary membership requirements prior to becoming "full" members again. Those members on active duty shall have their membership intact upon their return from deployment.
- e. All members of ECOJOCS will be required to complete the Tread Lightly! 101 Online Awareness Course, within two (2) months of the beginning of the next calendar year after which they have become a full fledged member. Members must present or email completion certificate to the Secretary for documentation as part of their application. In addition, all members shall serve on at least one (1) committee every three (3) years.
- f. Current members of ECOJOCS must attend a minimum of three (3) Club events per calendar year to maintain membership in the organization. An event may include a monthly meeting, a sanctioned trail ride, or an ECOJOCS event where ECOJOCS is either sponsoring or volunteering to assist the event sponsor. Failure to attend this mandated minimum will put the individual's membership on a probationary status, and may result in denial of renewed membership for the following year.
- g. Should one separate from ECOJOCS, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, they are surrendering their club privileges including access to our private Facebook page, and shall surrender/remove any ECOJOCS logos and paraphernalia from their vehicles. ECOJOCS private radio channels can no longer be used. In addition, NOVA and the NEA will be advised of this change in the ECOJOCS roster. Members asked to leave for conduct violations or other issues, shall not be eligible to return as a member in the future. This policy includes any such instance and individuals since the inception of the

Club in 2013.

3. Probationary Members and Mentorship

- a. Individuals looking to join ECOJOCS must fill out an application, read and sign the current bylaws, pay the annual dues and complete the Tread Lightly! 101 Online Awareness Course. At that time, these members will become PROBATIONARY MEMBERS and are responsible for completing the mentorship program before consideration for full membership. Once these requirements have been met, a vote will determine membership, and privileges as a member will be granted, including full voting rights if approved. Membership shall vote in probationary members via secret ballot at the meeting following completion of requirements. Requirements must be fulfilled within a maximum of six (6) months from joining. No refund of dues will be paid for failing to meet this requirement.
- b. THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM will be led by the Director of Membership. They will be responsible for overseeing the completion of three (3) mandatory events, inclusive of two (2) meetings, and one (1) ECOJOCS event where ECOJOCS either sponsors or volunteers to assist, and a minimum of one (1) mandatory 101 trail ride. In addition, the mentorship program will include but is not limited to carrying out vehicle and safety inspections for probationary members, the communication of all current and upcoming ECOJOCS events to all probationary members, as well as providing support for all probationary members. Special consideration may be given by the board and/or mentors due to individual circumstances.
- c. Probationary members will be required to join a committee that will function to serve the club in a variety of ways; i.e. Events Committee, Safety Committee, Club Calendar, etc. This participation will involve a one (1) year minimum period.
- d. Any violation of the Code of Conduct by a probationary member will result in immediate dismissal from the Club.

4. Honorary Membership and Guests

- a. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: This type of membership may be awarded through nomination by any member in good standing and approved by vote of the Club. This membership is granted to a Person, affiliated with an Organization that the Club acts in partnership with, in supporting the sport of recreational off-roading, the values and objectives of the Club, and its activities.
- b. Honorary Members will not pay dues nor have a vote but will be entitled to a voice at meetings they attend and the monthly calendar.

- c. Honorary Members may drive their Jeeps at an off-road event if:
 - I. The Honorary member has met the requirements of Article 3 #2e (but will not be required to serve on a committee)
 - II. Their vehicles have met club requirements (see Article 11 #4).
 - III. They have met all the safety requirements for a member (Article 11 #8, #10)
- d. Honorary Members may also elect to pay membership dues to become regular club members entitled to a vote, following the successful completion of the standard probationary membership requirements.
- e. The ECOJOCS Charter and Bylaws apply equally for Honorary Members as they do for regular club members. Honorary Membership may be revoked at any time through the vote of the club membership for violations. Any revocations of Honorary Memberships will be conducted in accordance with Article 13, item #6 of the bylaws.
- f. GUESTS: Legally registered and insured Jeeps owned by guests shall be allowed on Public Access Road trail runs when space is available and there are no objections from members in attendance. Further, guest-owned vehicles may participate, at most, in one (1) trail ride per twelve (12) month period. All guest vehicles must pass a routine safety inspection administered by the designated safety officer or Board Member in attendance and must meet local state registration requirements.

ARTICLE 4. MEETINGS

1. Meetings shall be conducted monthly at such times and places designated by the members, The Board, or the President.
2. Club monthly business may be approved by a majority of those voting members in attendance. A quorum is defined as those members present.

ARTICLE 5. BYLAWS

1. The Club Bylaws will stand as written. Any approved changes to the Bylaws will supersede all prior versions. All members must sign the most recent Bylaws, including the Code of Conduct and Liability Waiver without exception.
2. A committee will be formed by the Board of Directors, as needed, to review any Bylaws and will consist of four or more active members. This committee will be overseen by the Vice President.
3. A majority vote of the elected Board of Directors, and Founding Members is required for

approval of any changes to the Bylaws. Once approved Bylaws will be voted in by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority approval of the membership body in person or proxy.

ARTICLE 6. ELECTIONS, ADMINISTRATION, AND OFFICERS

1. This organization shall be administered by a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, and a Director of Membership, hereinafter referred to as the ECOJOCS Executive Board, or Board of Directors. One (1) Board-Member-At-Large will be appointed at the discretion of the board by method of a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
2. No member may hold two office positions. In addition, multiple members of the same membership and/or household will not be eligible to run for an office position. Nominees for President must have at least one (1) complete year of experience in another ECOJOCS executive board position.
3. Nominations for Officers will be held starting at the November monthly meeting. Members in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year may nominate multiple people for the same position. Only members with a minimum of twelve (12) months of good standing membership will be permitted for nomination. Nominations for President, Secretary, and Director of Membership will take place for odd numbered years, while nominations for Vice President, Treasurer, and Events Coordinator will take place for even numbered years. Nominations will remain open for one (1) month. All nominees will be posted both on the private Facebook page as well as via email, as they are realized, by the Board Member at Large. Nominations for all officers will be closed at the end of, and posted the day after the December monthly meeting.
4. At both the December and January meetings, both of which shall be mandatory for all nominees to attend, all nominees must make a presentation as to why they are running for their position; a vote by secret ballot will immediately follow the January meeting presentations. Candidates for uncontested positions must make their presentations. Presentations may be given in absentia, email, or to the Facebook page only if a nominee is excused from the January meeting. The Board Member at Large will collect all secret ballots at the meeting, as well as those submitted via e-mail. In such cases where the Board Member at Large is seeking an office, another member of the Board of Directors that is not seeking reelection or otherwise participating in the election, may be designated as the person responsible for collecting said ballots.
5. Executive Board officers shall be elected by the voting members of the organization; a majority vote of members is required for election to any office. Absentee voting will be allowed, with submission to the Board Member at Large, or other BOD member as noted in item #4 above.
6. Voting will remain open for five (5) days following the January meeting. In the event of a tie, the Board Member selected to collect ballots as noted previously, shall cast the deciding vote. Newly elected officers shall take office once the votes have been tallied.

7. A Webmaster and/or Social Media director(s) will be appointed by the Board and is (are) responsible for maintaining the ECOJOCS Internet website and/or social media sites. These positions may be appointed either from within or outside of the ECOJOCS membership.
8. A Google calendar, or similar platform editor will be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for layout and quality of this monthly published update. He or She will also be responsible for the updating and distribution of this calendar.
9. Executive Board Members are expected to submit an Officers Report each month.
10. Calendar (per #8 above) articles are to be submitted to the appointed and designated editor no less than one week after each meeting and the calendar will be published no later than the end of the month.
11. The Board of Directors may elect individuals to fulfill committee roles in accordance with their respective areas of responsibilities.

ARTICLE 7. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. PRESIDENT – presides over all meetings and events. The President will represent the organization at events and to the media.
2. VICE-PRESIDENT – shall assist the President and serve in their stead if the President is absent. The Vice President will also Chair the Bylaws Committee should one be appointed.
3. SECRETARY - shall keep and preserve all records, minutes of regular meetings, membership records and be responsible for all Club merchandise/property. They shall receive and answer all general correspondence of the organization.
4. TREASURER - shall keep and maintain all financial records of the organization. The Treasurer shall collect all dues, fees, and make such disbursement as is directed by the membership. They will also be required to submit a monthly financial report.
5. DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP – is responsible for overseeing the mentorship program in addition to working alongside the events coordinator to schedule events for new members. They are responsible for tallying all membership participation on an annual basis, and maintaining up to date Club rosters for NOVA, and the NEA.
6. EVENTS COORDINATOR – is responsible for planning and coordinating events, including monthly meetings. They are responsible for being the liaison with other clubs for setting up

cooperative club events. They are responsible for reviewing new trails for club use and shall serve as the head of the trails committee.

7. BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE – The Board Member at Large shall serve as a liaison between the Board of Directors and general membership and is appointed by the BOD. The Board Member at Large performs a variety of functions as delegated by the BOD and is required to fulfill Club obligations.

8. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times a year.

ARTICLE 8. TERM LIMITS

1. Executive Board Members will serve a two (2) year term. Board members will not be permitted to run in an election for a different role one (1) year into their two (2) year term.

2. All Board Members will be limited to two (2) consecutive terms; i.e. four (4) years.

3. A mandatory one (1) year break will be required following two (2) consecutive terms, with the only exception being if no other members are nominated or elected into the respective position. At that time, the outgoing Board Member may be offered their position for an additional two (2) year term, by a majority vote of the general membership and approval of the Founding Members.

ARTICLE 9. EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE

1. All monies collected by this organization shall be immediately turned over to treasurer and placed in the organization's bank account.

2. The Board will receive an annual budget of \$600 annually. Additional board funding must be approved by the organization's membership at the regular meeting, with the exception of the quarterly reimbursement to one (1) only Club delegate to attend NOVA and NEA meetings. Reimbursement for mileage for such meetings shall be made at government standard rate, as well as a \$10.00 meal allowance. Reimbursements for all expenses other than those listed, will be made by the Treasurer upon a receipt being presented to the Treasurer plus approval by membership present. All receipts will be kept in a ledger.

3. A ledger of the organization's funds shall be maintained by the Treasurer and this ledger shall be open to inspection by any member in good standing at monthly meetings, with seven (7) days advance notice to the Treasurer or other Board member.

ARTICLE 10. SPECIAL ELECTIONS

1. In the event of a vacancy of an officer; a special election will be called to elect a successor. The secretary, or president in the secretary's absence, shall notify all voting members at least thirty (30) days in advance of such an election. For two (2) or more vacancies, former board members in good standing may be asked by the elected board to temporarily intercede to keep the club running until an election can be organized.

ARTICLE 11. MEETINGS, EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

1. All events and functions shall be subject to approval of the Events Coordinator.
2. All events are to be conducted in an orderly manner with safety as the primary consideration.
3. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLEGAL DRUGS are permitted during any event or function of this organization under penalty of expulsion from the organization as defined in Article 13, Section #6. Exceptions to the ALCOHOL rule, however, includes particular social events that do not involve the act of off-roading, or other activity deemed acceptable by present Executive Committee members.
4. All members and guests shall obey all traffic laws of the state. All vehicles shall be insured to the extent required by the State and shall be registered. All vehicles operating in Massachusetts, MUST display the required, and current, MA OHV sticker. A trailered rig must meet the requirements of the property it is attending. The Club requires wearing safety restraints while participating in events.
5. Participation in club events/functions shall be limited to members, guests and potential members unless otherwise decided by vote of membership present. Guests may attend a maximum of one (1) trail ride a year.
6. Any Officer present shall have the authority to cancel or postpone any event if conditions exist which prohibit the event from being held safely.
7. No one under the age of 18 years of age shall be allowed to drive in a sponsored event.

8. Again, for safety considerations, ALL members are **required** to have the following items in or on their vehicles while out on the trails and during club events: Basic First Aid Kit, Fire Extinguisher, Seat Belts in use, Tow Strap, Fixed Recovery Points (front and rear), a spare tire sized within 2" of the tires in use on their Jeep, a jack capable of lifting their Jeep safely, and a Club Radio with our proprietary itinerant channels. Carrying an FRS/GMRS radio, or a Citizens' Band (CB) radio for a back-up is encouraged as well.
9. All dues, past and present must be brought up-to-date before a member can be reinstated. (refer to Article 3 section 2-d)
10. Off-roading is an inherently dangerous sport; ECOJOCS shall not be held responsible or liable for any damage to personal property or injury to persons or personal property as a result of off-roading activities during ECOJOCS events. Signing the attached liability waiver is a requirement of membership in ECOJOCS.

ARTICLE 12. DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

1. The ECOJOCS website (<http://www.ecojocs.org>) and ECOJOCS Community Facebook Page are the primary on-line sources for information regarding the EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT. These websites will be the only web addresses provided on official ECOJOCS documents including brochures, membership recruitment materials, and in publicity. The ECOJOCS Facebook page will serve as the primary source of media postings such as event photos and club videos. Only events and information posted on the ECOJOCS website and ECOJOCS Facebook page are considered official and representative of ECOJOCS. The ECOJOCS website or any social media platform using or representing the ECOJOCS name may be terminated by majority vote of the membership.
2. The ECOJOCS website will provide a link to the ECOJOCS Community Facebook Page while it remains current and moderated.
3. The ECOJOCS Website and public-facing Facebook pages are public sites and are viewed by many from outside of the ECOJOCS organization. Members, visitors, and guests will refrain from using profanity and vulgar language on any ECOJOCS social media site. Interactions and postings will be respectful and non-threatening. No photos or videos containing offensive, obscene, or inappropriate content such as nudity are allowed to be posted on ECOJOCS websites. If a member, visitor, or guest does not follow this policy, the Club President or their designee will contact the user and remind them of the ECOJOCS Social Media Policy. The ECOJOCS Executive Board can decide by majority vote to remove any member, visitor, or guest from the ECOJOCS social media outlets or from ECOJOCS social media websites for violations of this policy. Violation of this policy can also result in termination of club membership.

ARTICLE 13. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. EAST COAST OFFROAD JEEPERS OF CONNECTICUT is a family-oriented organization. All ECOJOCS club members, family members, and their guest(s) must conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with club standards and ideals and must abide by the rules of this organization. All ECOJOCS members, their family, and guest(s) must abide by all local, state, and federal laws during club sponsored events. All members, family, and guests must adhere to the specific rules and regulations posted at parks or event sites.

2. “Legal wheeling” is more than just a buzz phrase to this group. As an ECOJOCS member, you are expected and required to ALWAYS set an example in a setting where you represent the club, are wearing or displaying the club colors and/or logo. To do otherwise is to cast not only yourself, but the Club in a poor light. Follow the laws of the land during any Club event or activity.

3. Any member who does not conduct himself or herself appropriately will be directed to leave a club event by the President or the ranking Board Member present and may be subject to a formal complaint (see subsection 5). Any family member or guest who do not conduct themselves appropriately will be asked to leave the club sponsored activity.

4. Individuals whose behavior warrants action shall face the Executive Board, in partnership with the Founding Members to explain their behavior. By majority vote, after discussion, the decision of this group is final regarding how to deal with any situation that is encountered. Those offenses that warrant such action are found below in subsection 6, and throughout Article 13.

5. Any club member may bring a formal complaint, in writing, to any officer of the club. The complaint will be forwarded to the club president within seventy-two (72) hours. The club president will then call a special meeting of the Executive Board within one (1) week of receiving the complaint to determine if the complaint has merit. If a majority of the Executive Board present believe the complaint has merit, a vote will be taken on appropriate action to remedy the complaint. Any sanctions imposed must be approved by majority vote of the officers present. If a club member is dismissed for any reason, they forfeit all member privileges and any dues/fees/monies paid to the club. Members who have been sanctioned or dismissed will be formally notified of such action by certified US Mail.

6. In addition to the rules previously outlined, the following activities or conduct is prohibited:
 - a. Any unlawful use or possession of illegal drugs or controlled substances is strictly prohibited and will be cause for termination of membership.
 - b. Fighting, as defined as any physical altercation, with any person at a club event is prohibited and may be grounds for termination of membership.

- c. Displaying, brandishing, or using a weapon of any type to threaten, intimidate, assault, or injure any person is strictly prohibited and will result in termination of membership.
- d. Unruly or disrespectful behavior by club members during club sanctioned events will not be tolerated. This includes extreme and constant profanity or disparaging remarks about members, their families, or club sponsors.
- e. Inability to maintain harmonious relationships with other club members during club events, or while participating in on-line or Forum activities may be grounds for termination of membership.
- f. Members will not knowingly trespass. While trail riding, if a member ventures on private land or a closed area and an officer of the law issues a citation, arrest or confiscates the vehicle; liability is bore solely by the owner or the person doing the action. Members are to follow rules and regulations of property and/or its owners.
- g. Littering at club events or during trail riding is prohibited.
- h. All codes of conduct and bylaws also apply to any passenger or non-member guest. Club members will be held responsible for any and all passengers or guests that accompany them to an event. Remember that we ALL represent ECOJOCS to our communities and conduct consistent to our bylaws is paramount.
- i. If at any time an ECOJOCS member’s personal conduct or activities whether at a ECOJOCS sponsored event or not, rises to the level of bringing discredit, embarrassment, or discontent to the ECOJOCS as an organization, or otherwise is not in keeping with the standards or values of the ECOJOCS, said member’s membership may be terminated.
- j. It is the policy of ECOJOCS not to discriminate in its policies and practices with respect to Membership and Activity Participation because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, height, weight, marital status, political belief, genetic information, disability or handicap which does not impair an individual's ability to perform adequately in that individual's particular position or activity. Any inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy should be addressed to the ECOJOCS standing Secretary.

Ratified on this day BOD Initials

Signature Printed Name

Family Member Signature Printed Name

Release Form, Waiver of Liability and Indemnity

I, _____, fully understand that there is some inherent risk associated with participation in trail riding and other events, including vehicle damage and personal injury. By signing below, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless ECOJOCS, Inc., all club officers, and participants of any liability for damage or personal injury while participating in a club sponsored or sanctioned event. I also agree to be filmed or photographed at any event and my image may be used. I agree that this waiver of liability will remain in force for all club sponsored events for the duration of 20____ as a member of ECOJOCS, Inc. Jeep club. By signing below, I am also verifying that my vehicle is fully equipped with the following mandatory items; a basic first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, tow strap(s), fixed recovery points (front and rear), a spare tire sized within 2" of the tires in use on the Jeep, a jack capable of lifting the Jeep safely, and a club radio.

Signature for Single and Family Memberships Must be 18 years of age or older	License Plate and State

Board Member Signature _____ date _____