

Thurston County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol By-Laws

Updated –APRIL 27, 2004

Article I

Purpose:

Paragraph 1 – This organization is non-profit and attains to the following:

Paragraph 2 – To perfect an organization of men and women of good character and standing in the community and whose patriotism and loyalty to the Government of the United States is unquestioned.

Paragraph 3 – To provide recreation, development of physical and mental capabilities, and the promotion of health, happiness and social activities of its members relative to horsemanship and horse related activities.

Paragraph 4 – To randomly patrol areas of Thurston County as designated by the Sheriff's office.

Paragraph 5 – To provide a group of patrol members who are trained and have taken appropriate classes to enable them to provide assistance in the field of search and rescue to the Thurston County Sheriff in their efforts to find and assist lost or injured hikers, hunters, horseback riders, bicycle riders, and children or others that are lost.

Paragraph 6 –The Mounted Patrol is an all-volunteer and non-commissioned unit.

Article II

Membership:

Paragraph 1 –Applicants must be eighteen years of age, in good health, U. S. Citizens, and pass a background investigation.

Paragraph 2 –Applicants must be intermediate to advanced riders with good basic horsemanship skills.

Paragraph 3 –Applicants must provide their own horse and be able to provide their own transportation.

Paragraph 4 –New members will be referred to as members in training and will be required to attend Mounted Patrol training and horse certification within one year to receive full membership. Members in training will be required to work with full members after passing the horse certification, for both patrol and search and rescue, during their training and not individually until approved by an officer.

Paragraph 5 –Applicants who wish to participate in Search and Rescue must take all necessary courses and hold appropriate and current SAR cards.

Paragraph 6 –Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours. Meetings shall be subject to change or cancellation dependent on holidays, election/voting, special events or special circumstances.

Paragraph 7 –Appointments for officers will be held every December, with applications taken to the end of November. Persons wishing to be President should submit a written summary of their qualifications before December 1. The Sheriff, or his designee, will select from these persons after interviews have been held with all applicants. New officers shall take office at the January meeting.

Paragraph 8 –Meeting attendance is mandatory. Members are required to inform one of the officers prior to the meeting of their absence. Missing three consecutive meetings without excuse shall result in forfeiture of their membership.

Paragraph 9—Any member who does not sustain the requirements of membership will be subject to review of such behavior by the Executive board. Their recommendation for discipline shall be forwarded to the Sheriff’s advisory board for review.

Article III

Horse qualification:

Paragraph 1 –The qualifications for all horses will be approved by the liaison of the Sheriff’s office and will meet search and rescue standards.

Article IV

Officers:

Paragraph 1 –The officers shall be one president, two vice-presidents, one secretary, and one treasurer. Their term of office shall be one year with the option to serve a second year if they so choose.

Paragraph 2 –The president shall be nominated or shall volunteer from the membership. If more than one applicant applies for the office, the Sheriff, or his designee, shall interview each applicant and choose the president (see Article II paragraph 7).

Paragraph 3 –The president shall preside at meetings and appoint committees as required. Robert’s Rules of Order on Parliamentary Procedures shall be used to conduct meetings. The president shall, with the secretary, the treasurer and the two vice-presidents make monetary decisions between meetings, if necessary.

Paragraph 4 –The two vice-presidents shall be selected by the president. Interested persons shall submit a letter of application to the president. The president shall confer with the liaison prior to the announcement of the selections. One vice-president shall oversee the patrol part; the other vice-president shall be in charge of the search and rescue portion. The two vice-presidents are answerable to the president for the activities of their two branches of the Mounted Patrol. They shall discuss any decisions for their participants with the president for his/her approval.

Paragraph 5 –The secretary shall be appointed by the group, shall take minutes at meetings, answer correspondence and print minutes from each meeting for all members and for the liaison(s).

Paragraph 6 –The treasurer shall be appointed by the group and shall have control of the financial account and make receipts and disbursements subject to the approval of the majority of the members present at a regular meeting. The treasurer is able to make receipts and disbursements with the approval of the president and the two vice-presidents between meetings. The treasurer shall make a report of the treasury at each meeting and shall keep appropriate records of the finances of the group, which shall be audited, by the president, vice-presidents, and secretary each December.

Paragraph 7—The Executive board shall consist of the President, the two Vice-presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Liaison Officers.

Article V

Uniforms:

Paragraph 1 –A coat will be provided to each member if funds are available. Each member will, at their own expense, buy a khaki western-style shirt and optional Mounted Patrol hat. Jeans and boots will complete the outfit. The Sheriff’s office will provide patches for the shirts.

Paragraph 2 –Parade uniforms will be approved by the liaison of the Sheriff’s office. The cost will be at the member’s expense unless funds are approved by majority vote of the membership.

Article VI

Limitations:

Paragraph 1 –The Mounted Patrol will engage only in those law enforcement related duties authorized by the Sheriff’s office.

Paragraph 2 –The Mounted Patrol will operate within the limits of Thurston County unless requested by the Sheriff’s office to go out of county.

Paragraph 3 –All members will exercise good judgment and will not engage in any activity that might bring discredit to the Sheriff’s office or the law enforcement profession. Conduct will be exemplary at all times.

Paragraph 4 –Members are not commissioned deputies/law enforcement officers and will take no action unless specifically authorized by the Sheriff’s office.

Paragraph 5 –Liaison for the Mounted Patrol will be a two/three member advisory board that is commissioned deputy sheriffs.

Article VII

Firearms:

Paragraph 1 –Members will not be required to carry firearms. Any member choosing to do so must obtain a concealed weapons permit.

Paragraph 2 –Prior to carrying any weapon, approval must be obtained from the Sheriff’s office, which will set any/all standards/limitations regarding the weapons and related items.

Paragraph 3 –Range training and qualifications with passing score(s) will be determined by the Sheriff’s office.

Paragraph 4 –Any other weapon and/or device to be issued or carried – such as mace – will be determined by the Sheriff’s office. The Sheriff’s office will set any/all applicable training and requirement standards.