**Charter Constitution Example/Template**

*\*Sections may be added, deleted, or modified to fit a particular university’s requirements* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Article I - Name of Organization**

The official name of this student organization is [INSERT SCHOOL] Backcountry Hunters & Anglers club (hereinafter “club” or “[ENTER SCHOOL ACRYNOYM] BHA”) and is a student group of the non-profit organization Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, hereinafter called “BHA.”

**Article II - Purpose of Organization**

This club will be part of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Collegiate Program, and the club will be affiliated with [INSERT STATE] Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers so that the two organizations may jointly participate in projects, share resources, and interact with one another under Backcountry Hunters & Anglers’ guiding mission to protect the sportsmen and women’s voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife.

The purpose of the club is to promote engagement in and around: backcountry hunting and angling, the conservation of wilderness, backcountry, and public lands, the protection of fish and wildlife that relies on clean water and wilderness, and the public’s access to these recreational opportunities. The club should serve by creating a community bringing together students, faculty, and staff and providing an environment conducive for both the veteran and novice backcountry hunter and angler learning. Clubs are organized consistent with and will abide by the BHA’s mission, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Chapter Leader Service Agreement, Club Manual and any subsequent positions and policies. BHA and the club are organized for the following shared purposes:

1. to educate hunters, anglers, decision makers and the public about the importance of publicly accessible, wild and undeveloped backcountry public lands and waters for fish and wildlife, hunting and fishing and America’s outdoor recreation economy;
2. to promote the conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in North America and to address conservation issues from watershed and landscape perspectives;
3. to educate the public about the many benefits of North America's free-flowing rivers and streams and about the importance of non-motorized boating and floating opportunities;
4. to support the responsible use of motorized vehicles on public lands and waters and advocate for the protection of special places where non-motorized recreation is the most appropriate use;
5. to promote and support fair chase hunting and angling principles and outdoor practices that respect the land, wildlife and public at large;
6. to support the management of fish and wildlife as a public resource, based on the best available science;
7. to encourage the physical health and vigor of North Americans through wholesome outdoor exercise and sustainably harvested food;
8. to engage in other activities directly or indirectly related to, or which may assist in the accomplishment of, such purposes; and
9. to engage in any lawful activity permitted of an IRS 501(c)(3) organization and for which Public Benefit corporations may be incorporated pursuant to Chapter 35, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated.

**Article III - Membership**

Membership in this organization is open to all [INSERT SCHOOL] students, faculty, and staff and will not be restricted on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation or political affiliation. Membership is defined as participation in club activities and does not necessarily imply paid membership through the national organization. Membership is open to all, however, if dues are required full benefits may not be awarded to those who do not pay. Membership will be revoked by ½ vote of officers plus ¾ vote from the general membership if actions are deemed inappropriate by the membership.

**Article IV - Officers**

**Section 1**. *Qualifications.* Members of the Club Leadership Board shall be conservation-minded individuals who will commit to actively uphold our hunting and fishing heritage and the ecological health of our wild public lands, waters and wildlife. Club officers must be active BHA members.

**Section 2.** *Composition.* The Club Leadership Board (hereinafter “Board”) shall consist of a minimum of four Officers. The Board shall be the voting body of the club. The Board shall seek recommended nominees from current Board, and existing club membership. A current list of the names and addresses of each Officer shall be maintained in the files of BHA. Any changes to Officers or other leadership positions, elected, appointed or otherwise, shall be immediately communicated to the Collegiate Program Coordinator (hereinafter “Coordinator”). Board positions are open to all [INSERT SCHOOL] students, faculty, and staff and will not be restricted on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

**Section 3.** *Elections.* Election of officers will require a majority vote from the general membership. Officers will be nominated by the general membership and are required to be members in good standing within the organization. The election of officers will be held during a regular meeting where “Election of Officers” is listed as an item of business on the agenda and the agenda has been distributed to the general membership at least one week prior to the meeting date. If a candidate fails to receive a majority of votes, a run-off election will be held between the top two candidates that received the most votes. The term of office will be one full year. In the event that an officer is unable to complete their term of office, a special election can be held to replace them for the remainder of their term. The Chapter Secretary shall be responsible for tracking chapter leader terms of service.

Section 4. *Resignation and Removal.* Officers may be removed from office by ½ vote of the other officers and ¾ of the general membership if actions are deemed inappropriate by the membership. An Officer may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Club Leadership Board.

**Article V. - Committees**

The Club Leadership Board may form individual and specific committees if it so desires. Each committee must have two or more club members who serve at the pleasure of the board. The creation of a committee and appointment of members to it must be approved by a simple majority of the Club Leadership Board at any meeting. Committee members must be active BHA members and must sign the Chapter Leader Service Agreement.

**Article VI - Advisor**

The advisor shall be a full-time faculty or staff member at [INSERT SCHOOL]. The advisor will assume those responsibilities as outlined in this constitution and/or found in College/University Policies. Advisors not fulfilling responsibilities or abiding by the organization’s purpose may be removed from the position by a ½ vote of the Club Leadership Board. The advisor shall be actively involved in club activities and meetings, and conform to the general goals and principles of the club as listed in the purpose statement.

**Article VII– Meetings**

The club shall hold regular meetings during the academic term except when holidays, examination periods or other events make meeting impractical. Organization meeting day/time will be determined in the beginning of each semester by the Club Leadership Board. Attendance at organization meetings is expected but not required.

**Article VIII– Finances**

**Section I.** *Dues.* The organization may establish reasonable dues that must be paid by all members. The amount of the dues will be determined in the beginning of the academic year by the Club Leadership Board and presented to the general membership for a ¾ vote. Dues must be paid by a date determined at the beginning of each semester. The treasurer shall maintain all financial records and shall countersign with the president for all organization transactions. Dues are separate from membership purchased through the national Backcountry Hunters & Anglers non-profit organization.

**Section II.** *Bank Accounts.*All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through the [INSERT STATE] chapter bank account or if utilizing university awarded funds, through the appropriate university-designated financial institution.

**ARTICLE XI. Club Operations**

The Club will abide by all policies outlined in the College Club Manual.

The Club will undertake activities or take positions to further the mission of BHA provided that club activities or positions are approved by the Coordinator or State Policy & Field Operations Director and conform to the following:

1. Uphold and are consistent with BHA North America’s mission, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, purposes and North American Policy Statements and Club Manual;
2. Are consistent with the BHA’s branding and communications policy and are nonpartisan in nature;
3. Do not promote, endorse or oppose any political party or the candidacy of any person seeking election to public office or coordinate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

The Club shall follow policy, development, communications and branding support provided to help further the goals and objectives of chapters.

**Article VIII– Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the organization. Said amendment(s) will be voted on at a subsequent meeting. In order to adopt the amendment, a vote of 2/3 of the general membership is necessary. Amended constitution will be submitted within 10 days to the governing body of student clubs at [INSERT SCHOOL] for approval.

**Chapter Officers Certification:**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Bylaws were duly adopted by the [INSERT SCHOOL] Club Board during a meeting at which a quorum of the Club Board was present and a motion duly made, seconded and adopted.

Chair Name: Date:

Vice-Chair Name: Date:

Treasurer Name: Date:

Secretary Name: Date: