

STARTING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE GOOD SAM CLUB

So now that you have found a group of people to start a Chapter, here are some common guidelines in starting a Chapter.

1. In the past, each Chapter was required to draft a Constitution and Bylaws. This is no longer the case. The Good Sam Club has only one Constitution and Bylaws for the entire United States and Canada and all States and Provinces are required to operate within the confines of this Constitution and Bylaws. With that said, your Chapter may decide to draft a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) specifically for your Chapter. If you would like an example to go by please contact me, Rick Stahurski at georgiagssd@yahoo.com and I will be glad to send you a sample format.
2. Your Chapter does not have to elect Chapter Officers however if you do not, your Chapter will forfeit the right to vote at the state level. If you elect Chapter officers the following would apply:
3. Electing Chapter Officers - You can hold meetings as often as you like but at a minimum should hold at least one meeting a year. Your officers should be able to attend this meeting. It is recommended that your officers not be all from the same family. If size of your group would prohibit this, the President and Treasurer should not be held by the same person.
 - i. President - During the formation stage this can be a temporary position. The president will preside over meetings, be a member of the State Committee and according to the State SOP, is expected to attend the State Committee meetings (or send a representative) that are held three times a year, once in January and at each of the Georgia Samborees.
 - ii. Vice-President – You can choose whether you want to fill this position or not. If you do, it will provide someone to preside over your meetings should the president be unavailable.
 - iii. Secretary – This person will take notes (minutes) during your business meetings and insure that all Chapter members are provided a copy of same. Additionally, they will be responsible for maintaining the Chapter roster and submitting it to the State Director at least once a year when called for.
 - iv. Treasurer – The treasurer would be responsible to collect and maintain any dues or donations and to distribute same in accordance with Chapter SOPs.
4. Membership – All Chapter members must be Good Sam members and in possession of a valid membership card. If they are not at time of formation of the Chapter they may join the Good Sam Club for \$25.00 for one year by calling Member Services at 1-800-234-3450 or going to www.goodsamclub.com.
5. Choose a name for your Chapter – Choose something that may describe your interests or your members. For instance you may have a group of doctors and nurses and could be called the “Medic Sams” or something of that nature.
6. Decide how often your Chapter may want to camp – The main purpose of your Chapter should be to camp and HAVE FUN. As a group decide how often and when you want to camp, i.e. once a month, only on weekends, during the week, only on holidays or maybe even only at Samborees. You can camp together as often or as little as you want. It is your Chapter.
7. Decide if your Chapter will maintain a treasury – Your treasury can be maintained to cover your Chapter operating expenses or donations for your various charities you may decide to work with as a philanthropic action. It also may hold money for flowers, etc. for sickness and death of

Chapter members. Your treasury can also hold the money for State/Provincial dues established by the State Committee.

8. Dues – The Georgia State Committee has established that each Chapter, once a year pay \$5.00 per rig to the State Treasurer as dues for members claiming that Chapter as their home Chapter. If a member belongs to more than one Chapter, dues will be paid only one time for the Chapter they call their home Chapter. Examples of Chapters that may or may not have members calling it their home Chapter are the Golden Circle Sams made up of current and past state officers, the Crimson Circle Sams made up of Lifetime members , and the Georgia Veterans Chapter made up of military veterans.
9. Chapter patches, vests, banners, etc. – Your Chapter may elect to design a patch to wear on a vest. This patch is normally designed to represent your chapter name. Your State Director can show you examples of patches and have information on where you can have them designed and manufactured.
10. Complete the Chapter's Charter application roster and the recognized format State Roster and submit them to your State Director. Your State Director will then forward the Charter Application to Headquarters for you to receive your official Chapter Charter.