

# **GEM COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE, INC.**

## **BY LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I** **PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of this volunteer organization of Gem County, State of Idaho is to provide emergency support, assistance, community service, and search and rescue as directed by the Governor of the State of Idaho, the Sheriff of Gem County, or any and all duly qualified law enforcement agencies.

### **ARTICLE II** **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1, Any resident of Gem County in State of Idaho, twenty-one (21) years of age or over, (or 18 to 20 with the written authorization of the Gem County Sheriff) who is in good health, of good moral character, and owns a horse/mule, four wheel drive, ATV, snowmobile, watercraft, airplane or any other equipment or skills applicable to search and rescue or emergency needs, who is able to attend and contribute to Posse functions and activities, and be subject to call out for Emergencies, may apply for membership in the Gem County Sheriff's Posse (GCSP). An applicant is first to meet the approval of the executive committee, and then the applicant will be interviewed by a membership committee by appointment, said committee shall consist of not less than (2) and not more than (4) officers and/or senior members present. If applicant passed interview, the applicant will be subject to a background check by the Gem County Sheriff Department. Upon passing the background check he/she will be presented to the membership in attendance at that regular meeting, for final approval. Acceptance by the membership shall require a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot. Upon approval of membership the new member must then be sworn in by the Gem County Sheriff, obtain his GCSP identification card within 30 days, and pay their first year's dues and one-time initiation fee before receiving their GCSP badge and shoulder patches or any other equipment. The badge, shoulder patch and any other equipment issued to a member, even if purchased in whole or in part by the member, remains the property of GCSP. New members cannot hold an executive committee position for 6 months.

Section 2, All members eligible for call outs shall carry a current CPR and First Aid card and shall have completed the necessary training needed for an emergency response or be teamed with a trained member before they can be called to the field for an emergency. Training will be provided and/or organized by the GCSP. Members must remain current with training by participation in an adequate number of GCSP training sessions as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 3, Continued membership in the GCSP is at anytime subject to review by the Executive Committee who will make recommendation to the membership to either suspend or revoke membership per the Suspension/Revoking Membership Policy and Procedure. Possible reasons for membership review include but are not limited to:

1. Violation of Federal or State Law, or County or City Ordinance,
2. Conduct unbecoming of a Posse member,

1. 3. Willful violation of policies and/or procedures that put themselves and/or others at risk,

Termination or suspension of membership shall require a majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting.

Termination may also be effective by the order of the Gem County Sheriff at any time.

Members hereby agree that upon any action taken by the membership in accordance with this ARTICLE that he/she will turn over all GCSP equipment (including badges) and the Sheriff's Office issued ID card immediately after the action taken is final.

### **ARTICLE III** **DUTY OF MEMBERS**

It shall be the duty of every member of the GCSP to make every effort to be available when called out for an emergency, participate in the training needed to keep themselves prepared, and to conduct themselves at all times in a professional manner. It shall be further understood that every member shall not willfully abuse, neglect or otherwise mistreat any mount he/she shall ride.

All volunteers, through their interaction within the Sheriff's Office, will come in contact with confidential information. Volunteers shall not repeat or discuss any confidential information obtained through their affiliation with the Sheriff's Office.

No GCSP member shall consume alcohol/drugs or be under the influence of such at any time that he/she is wearing a GCSP uniform or acting in representation of the GCSP.

### **ARTICLE IV** **DUES**

Section 1, The membership dues of the GCSP shall be set by a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting. Dues shall be payable at the time of acceptance into the GCSP and each January regular meeting there after.

Section 2, The dues for new members who join during the last quarter of the year shall be applied to their first full year as well.

Section 2, In addition to the annual dues each new member shall pay a one-time initiation fee. The initiation fee shall be set by a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting.

Section 3, Any member who has not paid their membership dues by the March regular meeting shall be sent a letter to remind them they face suspension as of the April regular meeting if dues are still unpaid. The letter shall also remind them of their obligation to return all GCSP property and who to contact to do so.

Section 4, Once suspended a member can request reinstatement at any regular meeting. Reinstatement would require a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present and payment of annual dues plus a reinstatement fee of one (1) times the annual dues.

#### **ARTICLE V** **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Honorary Members are members who have contributed many years of service to the GCSP. Honorary members are to be elected by the posse as a whole, and pay no dues, and retain the rights and privileges of membership. Nominations for Honorary Membership can be presented to the membership at any regular meeting for consideration with vote taken at the next regular meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VI** **INACTIVE MEMBERS**

Any member who desires to place his/her membership in an inactive status must submit a letter to the GCSP explaining the reason for this request. A majority vote by the Executive Committee is necessary for approval. This status may exist for one year from the date of the letter and will be re-examined on a yearly basis. The member loses all voting rights while inactive

#### **ARTICLE VI** **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms shall be decided upon by a majority vote of active members at a regular meeting. Final approval of the uniform by the Sheriff. The uniform shall consist of proper material and be the same for every member. The uniform dress shall be worn only at posse functions, funerals and when public appearances are made. Members shall not be allowed to participate without uniform in the above events, and said uniforms shall be kept clean at all times.

#### **ARTICLE VII** **MEETING OF MEMBERS**

A meeting of the membership (known as a regular meeting) shall be held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for the assembling of the GCSP as a whole.

The above meeting schedule may be changed to meet the specific activities of the posse as agreed upon by the membership attending a regular meeting.

\

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

Section 1, The officers and Executive Committee of the GCSP shall be composed of: Chief, Two (2) Foreman, Three (3) Top Hands, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2, The Chief shall preside over all meetings of the GCSP. The Chief shall appoint any such committees as may be necessary and appropriate to conduct the business of the GCSP subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. In addition the Chief is the chief administrative officer and legal head of the GCSP and will exercise supervision over the GCSP and its activities.

Section 3, The Foremen shall assist the Chief in conducting the business of the GCSP and shall preside over any meeting of the GCSP in the absence of the Chief.

Section 4, The Top Hands shall assist the Chief and the Foremen, take charge in their absence, or at their request, of any and all activities and/or functions of the GCSP.

Section 5, The Secretary/Treasurer shall work under the direction of the Chief. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep clear and accurate records of the business transacted at all meetings of the GCSP, and maintain a book of minutes for the GCSP. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also keep accurate records of the income, expenses, disbursements, and maintain the GCSP bank account(s), as well as records of membership dues paid, and produce monthly financial reports for the Chief, and render periodic financial reports for the membership.

Section 6, In the event that an Officer is deemed to be unfit for his/her position or is to be terminated in accordance with Article III of these By Laws, status as an Officer can be terminated by majority vote of membership at a regular meeting. Membership status of a disqualified Officer shall be determined at the meeting at which he/she has been disqualified. The Sheriff will also be notified.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section 1, Election of officers shall be held at the November regular meeting by secret ballot. The nominee(s) receiving the most votes for each position shall be elected.

Section 2, A nominations committee of up to three (3) members shall be formed no later than the September regular meeting and charged with finding at least one (1) nominee for each office. Nominations from the floor will be accepted up to the time of voting. All Nominees must be members in good standing.

Section 3, In the event an officer shall resign, or otherwise not serve out their term, the vacancy shall be filled by an election at the first possible regular meeting after notice of vacancy. Voting will be done by secret ballot with a simple majority required to win.

Section 4, The term for all officers shall be one (1) year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **ARTICLE X** **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chief to review matters of the GCSP in preparation for regular meeting, functions and/or activities. However any member of the Executive Committee may call a meeting of the committee to handle any such matter of importance that cannot be held for either a scheduled meeting of the committee or a regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI** **HOUSE KEEPING**

Section 1, Business year and membership year shall be the calendar year of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 2, Robert's Rules of Order is adopted as a guideline for conduct of all meetings as long as consistent with these By Laws and applicable. A simple majority vote of those present and voting at any meeting may suspend the rules of procedure. The Chief may serve as Parliamentarian, or may appoint a Parliamentarian. The decision of the Parliamentarian shall be final in all questions of procedure.

Section 3, Wherever the masculine gender is used herein the feminine shall be deemed included. Wherever the singular form is used herein the plural shall be deemed included to aid in interpretation of sense intended.

Section 4, After the close of each business year, there shall be an audit of the year's financial business by an audit committee of not less than two (2) members selected at the November regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII** **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1, Proposed amendments to these By Laws shall be submitted in writing to either the membership at any regular meeting or the Executive Committee, who shall report of the submission within no more than two (2) regular meetings from time of submission.

Section 2, The membership shall be notified in writing of a proposed change to the By Laws at least thirty (30) days but not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change shall be voted on. By Laws changes shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**ADOPTION**

These By Laws as adopted on this 14 day of May 2009, hereby supersede all previous By Laws (Constitutions) of the Gem County Sheriff's Posse, Inc. In witness whereof, the undersigned, as per the resolution duly passed by the membership in the May regular meeting, do make these Amendments to the existing By Laws of the CGSP.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chief

\_\_\_\_\_ Sec/Treas

Approval of the Gem County Sheriff,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Rolland