

Constitution and By-laws for the _____
_____ Teen Age Republicans (TARS)

Location: _____

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be the _____
Teen Age Republicans, herein and after to be referred to as TARS.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this organization shall be:
To bring young people into the **Republican Party** and to provide opportunities for them to find political expression and recognition;
To foster and encourage the activities of the **Republican Party** and to promote its ideals;
To collect, analyze, discuss, and disseminate information concerning political affairs and political philosophy; and
To advise, coordinate, and promote the activities of **Teen Age Republicans**.

ARTICLE III

Membership in this organization shall be limited to those teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19 who are willing to support the goals of **TARS**.
Active members shall be those who have paid current club dues.
Only active members shall have voting privileges at any club meeting.

ARTICLE IV

This organization shall have the following elected officers: **Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary** and **Treasurer**. There is no term limit placed on any elected officer, but it is recommended that no one person hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

The **officers** of the organization shall be elected for a term of one year and shall serve until their successors are duly elected.

The powers and duties of the elected officers shall be:

The **Chairman** shall be the chief officer of the organization and shall conduct all meetings of the general organization and the Executive Board. He/she shall make all committee assignments with the approval of the Executive Board, and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees. He/she shall have general supervision over all the organization's programs.

The *Vice Chairman* shall in the case of the resignation, disqualification, or absence of the Chairman, perform the duties of the Chairman. He/she shall be the Chairman's chief assistant, and shall be responsible for such additional duties as may be prescribed for him/her by the Executive Board.

The *Secretary* shall keep the records and proceeding of the organization. He/she shall be responsible for the minutes of all meetings of the club and the Executive Board. He/she shall keep a record of all projects and official actions taken by the club.

The *Treasurer* shall be responsible for the funds of the club and shall keep a record of its receipts and expenditures. He/she shall submit reports on the financial condition of the club to each Executive Board meeting and shall submit an annual report in writing to the annual meeting each year.

ARTICLE V

Election of officers shall take place in the spring of each year at the annual meeting.

Vacancies in any office shall be filled by elections of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI

The Standing Committees of this organization shall be: Newsletter, Membership, Publicity, Social, Campaign, Program & Finance.

The Newsletter Committee shall be responsible for publishing a regular newsletter to serve as a vehicle of communication to all club members.

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for recruitment and orientation of new members.

The Publicity Committee shall be responsible for publicity on all activities and projects of the club.

The Social Committee shall be responsible for arranging and setting up all social functions for the club.

The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for coordinating all campaign activities of the club with other Republican groups.

The Program Committee shall be responsible for arranging and setting up programs, speakers, etc. for club meetings.

The Finance Committee shall be responsible for setting up fund-raising projects for the club and preparing a budget.

ARTICLE VII

The Executive Board shall conduct the affairs of the club between regular meetings. The members of the Executive Board shall be the elected officers, and the chairmen of the standing committees.

Meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the Chairman or by a majority of the members of that Board.

A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum necessary to conduct business.

ARTICLE VIII

The club is encouraged not to endorse (but not prohibited) any candidates for Public office prior to the **Republican Party** primary or nominating convention; however, this does not prevent the club from distributing campaign literature from the individual primary candidates and other third party literature comparing the candidates' positions on various issues.

ARTICLE IX

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern all proceedings of the club, except when inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE X

This constitution may be amended by a **9/10** vote of the delegates at any annual meeting or by a **9/10** vote of the members present at a special meeting called for the purpose of amending this constitution provided that all members of the club receive at least **10** days notice from the Secretary of the club stating the intention to amend the constitution.

No amendments shall take effect until the adjournment of the convention adopting them.

ARTICLE XI

The club will have a platform or statement of beliefs on **why I am a Republican** that shall be promoted by the officers. This does not require that all club members have to agree to every item in the platform below to be a member, but the club is required to have such platform or statement of beliefs based on conservative and Godly principles. The platform or statement of beliefs for **why I am a Republican** is tantamount to keeping the club focused on true Republican values and keeping it a true **Republican** club. The platform or statement of beliefs for **why I am a Republican** is as follows:

1. I BELIEVE that God is the only true foundation of our national strength.
2. I BELIEVE that our national stability can stem only from the basic constitutional principles that unite us.
3. I BELIEVE in the original intent of our **Constitution** and **Bill of Rights**, which according to our founding fathers such as **Alexander Hamilton** (1st U.S. Secretary of the Treasury from 01/11/1775 to 07/12/1804) should only be interpreted by the specific, self-evident wording—that is, the original intent. As a result, only strict constructionist (synonym for “originalism”) judges should be appointed. Any federal, state or local judges flagrantly

- disregarding the [Constitution](#) and [Bill of Rights](#) in deciding cases should be **impeached**.
4. I BELIEVE in our **Republic** form of government as stated in the Constitution and the **Electoral College (Article II)**, which gives citizens of smaller states a voice in government that would otherwise not exist with a pure Democracy that our founding fathers did not believe in and rejected. A **Republic** is rule by law, not by majority feeling (which the founding fathers call “mobocracy”)—the United States is a **Federal Republic**.
 5. I BELIEVE in the **2nd Amendment** [the right of gun ownership that includes the right-to-carry, possession of handguns, shotguns, rifles, and so-called assault weapons (semi-automatic rifles)] and that it is an individual right and not a collective right and its main purpose was to protect citizens from **tyranny** in the government as enunciated by our Founding Fathers.
 6. I BELIEVE that any federal “hate crimes” plan to criminalize speech or thoughts critical of homosexuality are an assault on freedom of religion and the **1st Amendment** and should never be legislated.
 7. I BELIEVE that free enterprise and encouragement of individual incentive have given this nation an economic system second to none on earth, which includes the right of private property.
 8. I BELIEVE in fair trade and that trade policies should be based on the best interests of the United States and we should never have trade policies that destroy our national sovereignty or our manufacturing base. Conservative presidents of the past (1865 to 1929) such as **President John Calvin Coolidge (R)** [1923-1929], a small-government conservative and big supporter of the middle class who imposed tariffs, were all protectionists. **President Ronald Reagan (R)** [1981 to 1989] also believed in tariffs and import quotas. He put tariffs and import quotas on the Japanese motorcycle companies to protect Harley-Davidson and on the foreign steel industry.
 9. I BELIEVE, as **President Abraham Lincoln (R)** did, that the proper function of government is to do for the people only those things that have to be done, but cannot be done by individuals for themselves.
 10. I BELIEVE that sound economic growth can be generated only by sound money and avoidance of inflationary deficits.
 11. I BELIEVE that **human-caused global warming** hypothesis (based on pseudo-science) is without scientific validity and that government action on the basis of this hypothesis would unnecessarily and counterproductively damage both human prosperity and the natural environment of the Earth.
 12. I BELIEVE in less government regulation on the energy industry so that our domestic sources of energy, such as offshore oil fields, the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, nuclear power, and coal can be developed to help meet our nation’s energy needs.
 13. I BELIEVE in equal rights and equal justice for all regardless of race, creed or color because man (female and male) is created in God’s image ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)).

14. I BELIEVE that **marriage** is between a man and a woman and is a creation ordinance for all mankind ([Genesis 2:24](#); [Matthew 19:4-6](#)).
15. I BELIEVE in the sanctity of life and that abortion is morally wrong except in the case when the mother's life is in danger ([Psalm 139:13](#); [Exodus 21:22-25](#)).
16. I BELIEVE that Americans have an obligation of making hard decisions unflinchingly when the security of the nation and our free world allies are threatened by aggression.
17. I BELIEVE that Americans should be promoting or demanding basic human rights in all countries around the world, which would include
 - Freedom of religion;
 - Free speech;
 - Lawful assembly;
 - The right of self-defense (gun ownership);
 - Private property, etc.
18. I BELIEVE the **Republican Party** is a party of vision, retaining those things from the past that are worth retaining and always receptive to new ideas in the task of building a better America.
19. I BELIEVE our mission is to win on merit and philosophy as we appeal to all segments of the population—not as separate groups but as part of the whole with equal but never superior claims on the progress we can generate.
20. FINALLY, I BELIEVE that only through the **Republican Party** (if it adheres to its conservative principles) can these ideals become active and successful principles of government.

Modified sample of Constitution and By-laws extracted from **Teen Age Republicans (TARS)** Organizational Manual—website: www.republicanteens.org