



Articles of Piracy 2023-2024

Article 1- Name:

1. The name of this non-profit organization shall be known as the "Sea SaveYours Conservation Society, Inc."; aka, "Sea SaveYours", aka, "SSCS", aka "Krewe of Sea SaveYours", aka "KOSS"

Article 2 – Mission Statement / Purpose:

Sea SaveYours Conservation, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non - profit with the mission : To Assist in building Aid and Philanthropy to accelerate local community – led change for our Veterans and other local community based charities.

We also help at the community level. By teaming with organizations such as the USO and VFW chapters we honor our veterans and needy families in our area with organized events of charitable donations of financial assistance in time of need. By hosting "FUN"d Raisers with local businesses and vendors we create high profile and dynamic ways to appreciate and give back to our community and give some relief to those in need. The smiles we receive and the help we provide make what we do so worth while!

Article 3 –Membership:

Section 1: Eligibility for Membership:

Membership shall be composed of those persons (21) twenty one years of age or older and dedicated to accomplishment and purpose of SSCS. Each applicant must have attended a minimum of (2) Full Krewe meetings and (2) Krewe events within 6 months of applying to be part of KOSS. Anyone with a felony will not be accepted.

Section 2: Admission:

- A. Invitation Only: Admission to Membership in SSCS shall be by invitation only.
- B. Applicant Recommendation: A prospective Member shall be recommended by a current SSCS member who is in good standing and who knows the candidate personally. An application form shall be completed by the prospective member, signed by the endorser and presented to the Captain.
- C. Submission Materials: All applications must be accompanied by a \$35 non-refundable application fee, a check for the current dues.
- D. Board Recommendation: All applications will be submitted to the Captain. All applications shall be considered without prejudice or discrimination.
- E. Election of Membership: Will be based on the Captains decision.

- F. Acceptance Notification: Upon Acceptance, a designated representative of SSCS shall notify the applicant of the decision of the Captain. The membership packet will be given at new member orientation.
- G. Membership Denial: A candidate denied Membership will have the Krewe dues refunded.

Section 3: Membership Status Defined:

A "Member in Good Standing: is one who is current in his/her dues and assessments, follows the articles of piracy and is not up for disciplinary actions. A new member who has paid the initiation fee and has been approved for membership, is immediately to be considered to be a Member in Good Standing.

B. Each member must donate a minimum of 20 service hours, served on work scheduled duties (at least 2 a year), complete raffle requirements and other duties listed on the participation form – all of which will be tracked. These hours can be purchased for pay out fees scheduled to be determined by the beginning of Parade Season and remain unchanged for the following year. Volunteer hours can also be purchased by selling Sponsorships or Collection Donations all of which will be listed out in the fee schedule per year.

Section 4: Duties and Benefits of Membership:

- A. Acceptance of By Laws and Articles of Piracy: Each person, by accepting Membership in the SSCS, shall agree to conform to and abide by the Bylaws and Articles of Piracy in effect at the time of such acceptance or thereafter effective.
- B. Participation at SSCS Events: Members are encouraged to participate in all activities that are sanctioned by the SSCS, each member will be required to 20 hours of services hours at certain events throughout the SSCS year, along with sales of raffle tickets and other duties as listed on the participation form, given at the beginning of the season.
- C. Members in Good Standing: are invited to all meetings and social functions of the SSCS, receive all communication, to participate in parades, listed on the private group social media pages and are eligible to vote in any elections.

Section 5: Resignation:

Any member desiring to resign from the SSCS shall present the resignation in writing to the Founding Members either in letter or email form. Any dues or other monies will not be refunded.

Section 6: Reinstatements:

Any member who resigns in good standing may be reinstated upon approval of the Captain, space allows and the payment of current dues. A member who is dropped for nonpayment of dues shall be reinstated providing the past due amount, current dues and late fees are collected at the time of application, if space allows.

Section 7: Member Conduct:

All SSCS Members will conduct themselves in accordance with the SSCS's By-Laws and Articles of Piracy. Failure of any member to comply with these provisions will result in one of the following disciplinary actions without refund of any dues or fees:

- A. A letter that the action is inappropriate.
- B. A suspension of the member from participating in SSCS activities for a specified period of time.
- C. A careful review of all pertinent information by the Captain may result in a "Black Spot" letter.
 - a. A "Black Spot" letter is a one time lifelong warning, continued inappropriate behavior after the issuance of a "Black Spot" letter may result in the termination of membership at the discretion of the Captain.

Article 4 – Dues, Fees & Assessments

Section 1: Payment and Increases:

Current dues shall be paid at the time of application (checks, cash or money orders). Dues shall be increased by the Captain based upon budgetary requirements only.

Section 2: Renewal Date:

Dues shall be payable annually between May 1st and September 30th of each year with reminders being posted no later than August of each year.

Section 3: Payment of Dues:

- A. Total membership dues are to be completed by October 1st.
- B. A member of SSCS who's dues and other charges are not paid in full are considered to be delinquent as of October 1st and will be notified by the Captain. Suspension from SSCS related activities will be enforced until payment is rendered.
- C. No refund of dues or any portion of dues shall be refunded, failure of any members to participate in any of the SSCS activities shall not be entitled to a refund in any form, portions or dues or initiation fees.
- D. Any act of natural disaster, government (state or federal) rulings or restrictions or any other items out of KOSS' control – a refund or credit will not be issued or applied.

Article 5 – Duties of Officers:

All officers shall perform the duties described in these Rules of Piracy.

Section 1: The President/Admiral shall:

- A. Preside over meetings of the SSCS
- B. Sign official documents
- C. Co-sign checks
- D. Submit for Founding Member approval, the budget for the upcoming calendar year
- E. Always strive to increase funds and recruitment of new members
- F. Represent SSCS at public functions
- G. Perform any other duties as may be assigned

Section 2: The Vice President/Captain shall:

- A. Perform all duties assigned to the Admiral during an absence
- B. Carry out all special assignments
- C. Co-sign checks
- D. Always strive to increase funds and recruitment of new members
- E. Attend public functions
- F. Perform any other duties as may be assigned

Section 3: The Secretary/Boatswain shall:

- A. Record the proceeding of all general membership meetings of SSCS, make minutes of these meetings available to the general membership
- B. Keep the corporate seal, a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, the articles of Piracy and other assigned papers
- C. Maintain the minutes of all general meetings in a corporate book
- D. Conduct any correspondence that shall be requested by the Admiral and/or Captain
- E. Keep a file of correspondence between all aspects of SSCS and other bodies of interest.
- F. Always strive to increase funds and recruitment of new members
- G. Perform other duties as may be assigned

Section 4: Treasurer/Purser shall:

- A. Be responsible for the collection of the assessments and the placing of funds in a bank
- B. Be custodian of all funds and keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements
- C. Disburse money only at the authorization of the Captain either by specific action or by adoption of budget. Any disbursement over \$250 must be considered and approved by the Captain whether budgeted or not

- D. Prepare all checks for payment and pay bills promptly
- E. Prepare statement of assessments to each member prior to the annual meeting
- F. Notify members whose assessments are delinquent
- G. Make financial reports to the general membership
- H. File any necessary forms with the IRS, State of Florida and Hillsborough County
- I. Always strive to increase funds and recruitment of new members
- J. Perform other duties as may be assigned

Article 6: Conduct

Section 1: Respect

Each member of SSCS shall pledge to respect the confidentiality as it pertains to other SSCS members. Every member will respect the diversity of each person involved and shall work for the greater good of all. Each member shall understand that the SSCS membership is invitation only. Membership carries with it certain responsibilities – dress like a steampunk pirate, have fun, throw beads and do what you can to help the non-profit be successful and fulfill the mission.

Section 2: Costumes

As a SteamPunk group as far as SSCS activities are concerned all SSCS members are allowed to wear any costumes they prefer as long as it is steampunk fashion, does not offend anyone and no private or offensive areas of the human body are showing.

Section 3: Volunteer Services

Each SSCS member is expected to participate in fundraising activities and recruitment. Each member is required to do at least 20 community service hours as deemed by the Captain each SSCS fiscal year.

Section 4: Conduct

All SSCS members shall keep a good public image and maintain proper personal decorum at all times, especially while at a SSCS function. All members are expected to attend social and ceremonial functions of SSCS and in costume if listed, conduct themselves in such a manner as to not disrespect SSCS, sponsors, attendees and/or hosts. Failure at any level will result in discipline from rationing parades and drinking to a full suspension.

Section 5: Parade Safety

Krewe patches are required for all members

Safety on parade routes is pinnacle. Drunk and disorderly conduct, fighting, cursing and sexual conduct will not be tolerated. Insurance for parades is high and SSCS will not forfeit money due to poor conduct. Parades are a privilege not a right.