

BYLAWS
ARKANSAS GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE



ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the “Arkansas Geographic Alliance.”

Section 2. The Arkansas Geographic Alliance (hereafter “Alliance”) is organized to improve geography education and awareness in the State of Arkansas.

Section 3. The Alliance is organized for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. It is the policy of the Alliance that discrimination or harassment will not exist in any area, activity, or operation of the Alliance on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion, age, or ability.

ARTICLE II – MISSION OF THE ALLIANCE

Section 1. The Mission of the Arkansas Geographic Alliance is to advocate and advance geographic literacy in Arkansas by: 1) reforming P - 16+ geographic education across the state, 2) providing high quality professional development opportunities for, among others, practicing teachers and teacher candidates; and 3) disseminating vital information about geography and geographic literacy to the public, businesses, educational institutions, and public and private organizations.

ARTICLE III – VISION OF THE ALLIANCE

Section 1. Individual citizens, businesses, educational institutions, and public and private organizations in Arkansas, realize that a geographic literate population is essential and critical for economic competitiveness in an interdependent, global society, for the preservation of quality of life, and for environmental sustainability. These persons, institutions, and organizations will promote the need for, assist in the advancement of, and provide financial support for geography education and geographic literacy. Therefore, by 2025, geography will be a preeminent component of the school curriculum at all levels and supported by all stakeholders.

ARTICLE IV – VALUES OF THE ALLIANCE

Section 1. In alignment with the Vision and Mission, the Arkansas Geographic Alliance values: 1) P - 16+ geographic education that abides by core and national standards and promotes geographic literacy at all levels and disciplines of instruction; 2) professional preparation and development that produces teachers well educated in geographic knowledge and pedagogy; and 3) public awareness and support of geographic literacy

through the involvement of state policy makers, all schools and school districts, businesses, communities, parents, and families.

ARTICLE V – ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP

Section 1. The Alliance Leadership shall consist of an Alliance Coordinator and a Board.

ARTICLE VI – ALLIANCE COORDINATOR

Section 1. The Alliance Coordinator shall serve as duly appointed by the National Geographic Society.

Section 2. The Alliance Coordinator may be removed at the pleasure of the National Geographic Society. Members of the Board may recommend removal of the Coordinator to the National Geographic Society.

Section 3. The Alliance is committed to a Coordinator structure. The Coordinator does not necessarily have to be affiliated with a university. The Coordinator and location depend on the decision of the Board with National Geographic approval.

Section 4. In the event of a leadership change in the Alliance, the Coordinator asking to step down, shall, under normal circumstances, give notice at least six months in advance, preferably by March 1 of the program year.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy of a Coordinator, nominations for a new Coordinator shall be made by the existing Coordinator in consultation with the Board. Nominations shall take place at the meeting of the Alliance Leadership following the announced vacancy. At that meeting, the Board shall recommend a candidate and forward the name to the National Geographic Society for approval.

Section 6. The final decision for the appointment of the Coordinator rests with the National Geographic Society.

Section 7. The length of appointment for the Coordinator is indefinite and is subject to a biannual (every two years) review by the Board. A more frequent review may occur if requested by at least three (3) members of the Board.

Section 8. The National Geographic Society, after consulting with the Board shall appoint the new Coordinator.

Section 9. The Alliance Coordinator and the Board function as the Executive Officers of the Alliance.

Section 10: Duties of the Coordinator consist of the following: acting as liaison to any consultant working for the Alliance; administering the operation of the Alliance; managing the Alliance budget; organizing fundraising activities; communication with

regional representatives, and Educational Service Coops; encouraging the use of and adopting modern technology; and initiating policy.

ARTICLE VII – ALLIANCE BOARD

Section 1. The Board has no specified size, but each member of the Board, as it is constituted, has voting privileges.

Section 2. New members of the Board will be appointed at any time by the Alliance Coordinator after consultation with the existing members of the Board.

Section 3. The new members of the Board will begin serving immediately following their appointment.

ARTICLE VIII – ASSIGNMENTS OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Board members have responsibilities as outlined on the Alliance Organizational Chart.

Section 2. Each Board member may draw upon other Alliance members to fulfill their assigned responsibilities.

Section 3. Each Board member serves as the chair of their assigned responsibilities.

Section 4. Committees of the Alliance, when formed, meet as needed and maintain frequent contact.

Section 5. Assignments

1. Teacher candidates, conferences and workshops, curriculum and assessment
2. AP Human Geography, Symposia, Conferences and Workshops
3. Community Liaison
4. State Education Policy and Community College Consultant
5. Charter School Consultant and Liaison
6. Graduate Assistant, Assistant to the Coordinator, Grant Research and Writing
7. Social Studies Methods Consultant, Teacher Leadership Development
8. Practicing Teachers, Conferences and Workshops, Private School Consultant and Liaison
9. Geography Bee, Geography Awareness Week, Teacher Consultant Development
10. Geography Student Liaison, Step Up for Geography Campaign

11. Business Community Consultant and Liaison
12. Partnership Cooperation and Development
13. Parent, Family, and Home School Consultant and Liaison
14. Social Studies Teacher Candidate Consultant and Liaison

ARTICLE IX – MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALLIANCE

Section 1. Membership of the Alliance may consist of any person interested in supporting the Vision, Mission, and Values of the Alliance and promoting the Alliance and geography education in Arkansas.

ARTICLE X – MEETINGS OF THE ALLIANCE BOARD

Section 1. The Alliance Coordinator and Board shall meet at least quarterly.

Section 2. Additional meetings of the Board may be called as needed by the Alliance Coordinator or by any member of the Board.

ARTICLE XI – CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS, AND DEPOSITS

Section 1. The Board may authorize the Coordinator to enter into and contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on the behalf of the Alliance. Such authority may be in general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Alliance and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued by the Coordinator except by the resolution of the Board.

Section 3. All checks, drafts or other orders of payment of money shall be signed by the Alliance Coordinator in such a manner as shall from time-to-time be determined by resolution of the Board.

Section 4. All funds of the Alliance shall be deposited in the Alliance checking and/or savings accounts.

ARTICLE XII – INDEMNIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. Each officer now or hereafter serving the Alliance and each person who at the request of or on behalf of the Alliance is now serving or hereafter serves, whether for profit or not for profit, and his or her respective heirs, executors, and personal representatives, shall be indemnified by the Alliance against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him or her in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in the which he or she is made a party by the reason of being or having been an Alliance Coordinator or member of the Board, except in relation to matters as which he or she shall be adjudged to be liable for the negligence or misconduct in the

performance of duties; but such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may otherwise be entitled.

ARTICLE XIII – MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The end of the fiscal year of the Alliance shall be August 31.

Section 2. The rules and procedure at the meetings of the Coordinator and Board may follow the rules contained in Roberts' Rules of Order on Parliamentary Procedure newly revised, so far as applicable and when not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Section 3. The Alliance shall keep current and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings. All books and records of the Alliance may be inspected by any member, his or her agent or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The power to alter, amend, or repeal these Bylaws or adopt new Bylaws shall be vested in the Alliance Coordinator and/or the Board.

Section 2. The Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed or new Bylaws adopted at any meeting called for that purpose, upon due notice of its object, by a majority vote of the Board.

Version #1 – December 14, 2010

Version #2 – September 22, 2011

Version #3 – October 17, 2011

Version #4 – May 17, 2012