

Constitution

Article I- Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

Section 1: Name:

Garden Club

Section 2: Purpose:

This organization intends on educating members about gardening, houseplants, plant care and diseases, and environmental issues relating to plants and food production. Garden Club will do this by holding educational meetings in which members or the leadership board will give short, informal presentations. Garden Club will also plan activities relating to our educational goals, such as visiting related local organizations and planting houseplants.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy:

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Garden Club expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

Article II- Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

In order to become a member of Garden Club, one must be a currently enrolled undergraduate at the Ohio State University, attend at least one meeting per semester, and pay dues of five dollars per semester. Members will be able to attend meetings and participate in all events without paying extra fees. They will be added to an email list where a biweekly newsletter about Garden Club happenings will be sent out. Nonmembers will still be able to attend meetings, but may need to pay additional money for certain events and activities.

Article III- Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers.

III.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor

Article IV- Organization Leadership

Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.:

President: The President shall oversee the overall functioning of the organization.

Responsibilities include planning and presiding over meetings, creating agendas, ensuring that

the constitution and goals of the club are upheld, coordinating with the advisor, approving events and activities, and serving as the primary point of contact with the university and outside organizations.

Vice President: The Vice President will support the President and assume their duties in their absence. They will assist with meeting planning, manage communication among officers, and oversee internal affairs such as attendance and event logistics. The Vice President may also serve as the chair of any standing committees created during the term.

Treasurer: The Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining accurate financial records, collecting dues, managing the club's bank account, creating a semesterly budget, submitting any funding applications, and ensuring that all spending is aligned with university policies and club priorities.

Advisor: The Advisor will be a full-time Ohio State faculty or staff member. They will provide guidance to the officers, attend occasional meetings, assist in long-term planning, and sign necessary university forms. The advisor is not involved in the daily operations but serves as a resource for organizational development and conflict resolution.

Social Media Chair: The Social Media Chair is responsible for maintaining the club's digital presence. This includes managing social media accounts, creating promotional content for events, and helping engage new and current members online. They may also assist in documenting club activities through photography or posts.

IV.a The board of officers will be referred to as "The Weeds". Members of The Weeds will devote time outside of regularly scheduled club meetings to plan meetings and events. All executive offices will be held from May 1st following elections until May 1st of the following year after that year's round of elections.

Article V- Election/Selection of Organization Leadership

V.a. New members of The Weeds will be chosen based on a vote held by the current membership on the first meeting of the month of March. If not enough members reside in the current membership to hold a proper vote, then the President shall appoint new members themselves.

V.b. If the President can no longer fulfill their duties due to health, family or other unforeseen issues, then the Vice President will be granted the role of “interim President” and will hold that position until The Weeds can hold a vote on appointing a new permanent leader.

V.c. If The Weeds decide that the primary leader is not fit to lead then the executive board can conduct a vote among themselves to hold a new election and the club as a whole to have them removed from office. If successful, duties of the primary leader will be assigned to the Vice President (who may appoint a new VP) until the executive board can hold a vote on a new permanent leader.

V.d. If the general body sees a member of the council as unfit to lead, the general body can hold a vote by petition to choose a member to replace that council member. If the petition is successful (with signatures from 2/3 majority of the general body voting to replace) they will be removed from office and the remainder of the executive board will appoint a new leader.

Article VI- Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.

The Executive Committee represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership. This Committee is composed of the organization leaders and sometimes ex officio positions from related student organizations.

Article VII- Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.

Standing Committees are not needed at this time. As standing committees are needed they will be organized by the President and Vice President with a specific purpose and chairperson.

Article VIII- Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria

Advisors of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. If a person is serving as an advisor who is not a member of the above classifications, a co-advisor must be chosen who is a member of these University classifications. Advisors should provide guidance to the organization leadership, complete training as needed, and approve projects if needed.

Article IX- Meetings and events of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

Meetings for the general body will occur weekly on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM. For the purpose of retaining membership in the club participants must attend at least one meeting each month. We recognize that college life can be busy and this attendance policy will be upheld by the honor code.

Article X- Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency.

The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution. If a member or event attendee behaves poorly, they will be asked to leave and depending on the severity of the behavior, asked not to return.

Article XI- Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at the general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should require a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently. All amendments to the constitution will be passed with a necessary $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the entire membership. By-Laws will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of only the executive board.

Article XII- Method of Dissolution of Organization

Should this organization need to be dissolved for whatever reason, the primary and secondary leader at the time must contact Student Activities staff to remove information from the website and settle any other administrative duties. The standing Treasurer in conjunction with the President and Vice President must decide what to do about any debts or assets the club has. The leadership must notify the remaining organization members of the club's dissolving. Dissolution may be enacted if the club's membership drops below requirement, the executive officers see no future for the club, or any other reasonable motion for the club's disbandment.