

Fostering Abyssinia Constitution

Article I- Name

Fostering Abyssinia

Article 2- Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to help the children at Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage in Ethiopia by sending materials. We hope to be the hand that feeds and cleans, the disadvantaged. The Kibebe Tsehay orphanage is government funded and takes in children from infancy to 8 years of age. Our organization aims to have frequent fundraisers and events in which we collect donations. Donations received by this organization will be used to purchase essential goods that will be sent to the orphanage. Our driving purpose is the survival of these children who are at a delicate age and are in need of as much aid and nurture as possible.

There is no organization on campus solely based to help the young children of Ethiopia. We chose this specific organization and Ethiopia because we want to empower and motivate young students to take interest and passionately fight towards making the African continent develop economically and socially. We believe that this can be accomplished by students putting all the knowledge and experience they have acquired at James Madison University to bring hope and encouragement to those that are less fortunate. This would not just be a philanthropy of the organization but it's driving purpose. Other organizations on campus that focused on this region mainly focus on cultural diversity and bringing awareness, whereas 'Fostering Abyssinia' wants to not only bring awareness but also, bridge a gap between the people who are aware and want to help and the ones who so desperately need it. We have joined several clubs on campus but have yet to find an organization that satisfies the needs of young orphans in dire need.

This organization will have different committees in charge of setting up activities on and off campus each month. For example, our fundraising committee will have bake sales or a cappella concerts to collect donations to purchase and send materials to Ethiopia. We will have social events, like trivia nights and scavenger hunts, as a fun way to raise awareness of the conditions of the purpose of our organization. We hope to bring speakers to JMU to inform the community about orphanages, foster care system, African culture, and the concept of service-learning. We plan to raise money to send a team to Ethiopia to interact with the children and help build the school they need within the premises.

Article 3- Membership

Qualification for membership

- i- Membership in this organization is open to all JMU students and will not be restricted on the basis of age ability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or political affiliation.

- ii- Members must be willing to educate JMU and the Harrisonburg community of the conditions in developing countries like Ethiopia. Intentions of members must be to help disadvantaged children.

b. Active members

This organization recognizes active members as those who pay dues, attend a majority of Fostering Abyssinia events. Active members will be granted one vote per person in elections. It is strongly recommended that active members attend at least 75% of events in relation to the organization per semester.

c. Membership Discharge

i- Members who do not uphold the organization's and JMU standards including but not limited to :

- 1- Treating other member without respect
- 2- Not fulfilling requirement
- 3- Dishonouring the reputation of the organization and not upholding to the standards in person or on social media.

ii- Membership discharge will be voted on by exec with a 2/3 majority to pass.

d. Membership rewards

i- This organization will use a Point System to allocate points according to event attendance, participation and dedication to Fostering Abyssinia's mission. The top two members with the most points will receive a prize.

ii- Those member who go above and beyond their requirements will be awarded and recognized by this organization.

Article 4 - Officers

President

- Serves a year long term
- Presides over all meetings
- Represents the organization on campus
- Ensure that the organization is operating in conformity with the standards set forth by James Madison University and the office of Student Activities & Involvement
- Cosigns organization checks with Treasurer
- Maintains communication with this organization's advisor
- Meets with each executive member one-on-one at the start of each semester

Vice President

- Serves a year long term
- Presides over meeting in the absence of the president
- Schedule meetings/events with appropriate university offices
- Presents a monthly report to this organization's advisor
- Communicates with outside organizations for promotion and publicity events
- Maintains communication with Director of the orphanage in Ethiopia
- Facilitates communication within this organisation's executive members

Treasurer

- Serves a semester long term
- Presents a proposed budget to executive members for voting at the beginning of every semester
- Presents Budget reports to all members at the end of each semester
- Maintains accurate records of organizational transactions
- Collects dues
- Cosigns organization checks with the President
- Keep track of any potential grants or funding from Student Government Association or other organizations along with Fundraising Head

Secretary

- Serves a semester long term
- Nuts and Bolts certification required
- Takes attendance at Executive meeting and General Body meetings
- Maintains an accurate record of all organization meetings and communicates with members
- Maintains membership directory
- correspond when necessary with university administration and other recognized organizations.
- Sends weekly updates informing all members of upcoming events
- Schedules and books event spaces and meeting rooms

Fundraising Head

- Serves a semester long term
- Nuts and Bolts certification required
- Presents an event timeline at the start of each month
- Arranges fundraising opportunities for the organizations
- Informs members of future events
- Keeps track of membership attendance at fundraising events
- Documents all donations given at events and reports to the Treasurer
- Collaborates with Treasurer on drafting budgets.
- Organizes at least one fundraising event each month and one big event each semester.
- Coordinates with other organizations for possible collaborating opportunities
- Oversee advertising and marketing efforts
- Delegates tasks to Fundraising committee

Fundraising Committee

- Serves one semester long term
- Minimum of 2 members required in this committee
- Works with Fundraising Head, and carries out assigned tasks
- Collaborates with marketing head and advertising assistant

Marketing Head

- In charge of organization's official website

- Update all social media and public profile for the organization
- Collects pictures from all events held by the organization and saves them on the website, social media sites, and in an archive on organization's drive
- Plan out social media accounts on Hootsuite at the beginning of every semester

Advertising Assistant

- Keep track of events and deadlines
- In charge of informing the JMU community of all fundraising events
- Collaborates with Marketing Head for event advertising
- Creates fliers, posters, banners, and any other forms of advertising for events

Executive Elections

If a member wants to run for an executive position they are to fill out an application and give a short introduction speech.

Elections: There will be a formal meeting which members are required to attend at the end of the semester. If a person can not attend then their voting rights will be revoked. If a person wants to run for an office position, they must attend the voting process. The candidate with the majority vote wins.

Officers qualifications: Member of the executive position must be willing to meet every week. Time/date of meeting will be voted upon by the executive member by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Why an officer would be removed:

- Not fulfilling responsibilities.
- If the exec members want to discharge another member, it will be determined by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

Article 5 - Organization Advisor

Advisor selection: majority vote from exec and then presented to the rest of the members for a majority vote. Advisor gets voting rights when there are any changes to be made for the constitution. He/she also gets to approve the semester budget reports. $\frac{2}{3}$ of exec vote is required in case an advisor needs to be replaced. Up to two associate advisors can be appointed, with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in exec. The associate advisors have the same requirements and voting rights as the advisor.

Article 6 - Group Meetings

Frequency of group meetings: twice a month for the whole organization, time and date shall be determined upon majority vote of the general membership.

Attendance policy for exec members: there are up to three excused absences per semester; under all circumstances, the secretary needs to be notified 24 hours in advance. One unexcused absence will be allowed per exec member. Each absence above the allotted amount, will be required to pay a fine of \$5.00 and will be donated to Fostering Abyssinia.

Article 7 - Dues

All members are required to pay \$5 in dues per semester. It must be explicitly stated to all members that dues will only be used for social activities of the general body, and not for fundraising purposes. Changes in dues has to approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote by the exec board.

Article 8 - Hazing

Fostering Aby, in keeping with JMU's expectations for a positive academic and social environment, unconditionally opposes hazing. No individual member of our group or the group itself may engage in or plan any activity that may be defined as hazing.

Fostering Abyssinia opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule to its members or potential members. In addition, no individual nor recognized organization may by physical or mental stress or by subtle or covert technique, impair, make captive, or destroy an individual's freedom of thought and choice.

Hazing, under Virginia law, is defined as activities for the initiation or induction into an organization which include calisthenics or other strenuous physical activity; exposure to inclement weather; consumption of food, liquid, beverage, drug or other substance; confinement in any room or compartment; spraying, painting or pelting with any substance; burying in any substance; burning, branding or tattooing or another activity which may result in physical injury or endanger the health or life of the individual being hazed.

J17-101 Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, which declares hazing illegal, establishes conditions for civil and criminal liability and outlines the duties of the university when a student has been found guilty of hazing.

It is hereby incorporated as part of this constitution and will serve as a guide for action by the university and Fostering Aby if there is an instance of hazing by this organization or any of the members of this organization. It will be the duty of the officers of Fostering Aby to educate the membership of this policy.

Article 9: procedure for proposing and approving amendments to constitution

To amend the constitution, there must be a majority vote by the general body.

Article 10 - Ratifications

This Constitution shall become effective upon approval by a simple majority vote of the membership. Ratified constitutions must be submitted to the Student Activity and involvement office with 10 days for final approval.