

Torrington High School Teenage Republicans Constitution

Article I: Name and Affiliation

- a) The name of this organization will be the Torrington High School Teenage Republicans hereinafter referred to as the "THS TARS".
- b) Collectively with the Oliver Wolcott Technical School Teenage Republicans, the group will be called the Torrington Teenage Republicans, or "Torrington TARS".

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this club will be, as defined by our mission statement...

- a) To inform members of recent political issues.
- b) To allow students to get involved with their community.
- c) To share opinions in order to expand individual political perspective.
- d) To improve political awareness among teenagers.
- e) To help develop political skills.
- f) To help develop critical thinking skills.

Article III: Membership

Section I – Eligibility

- a) All students of Torrington High School and Oliver Wolcott Technical School are eligible to be in the "Torrington TARS".
- b) One must be within the ages of twelve and eighteen.
- c) All "Torrington TARS" members must fully understand this constitution and agree to the clubs policies.

Section II – Policies

- a) All members are expected to be mature, responsible, and interested in learning.
- b) All members shall not be discriminated against because of race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.
- c) No member shall use the "Torrington TARS" name in any publications unless approved by the Executive Board or Advisor.
- d) No member shall advocate or endorse a candidate of another political party, or a split party ticket.
- e) No member shall "pick-on" or "bully" another member for their political beliefs.
- f) It is the goal of the "Torrington TARS" to offer a safe and friendly environment in which young politically and non politically-minded teens can come together as one Republican group. If this goal is interrupted by any member, that member may be recommended for suspension or expulsion from the club.

Section III – *Member Suspension/Expulsion Procedures*

- a) If the need shall arise, the suspension and/or expulsion of a member will be brought up at a general meeting.
- b) The accuser(s) and the accused must fill out an impeachment form, which can be obtained from the club Secretary.
- c) A two-thirds majority of club members must first approve of the suspension/expulsion.
- d) A three-fourths majority of the executive board must approve of the suspension/expulsion
- e) The executive board has the power to pardon any of the peoples accused.
- f) In such a case, a unanimous executive decision is necessary.

Section IV – *Dues*

Members are not required to pay dues.

Article IV: Executive Board/Leadership

Section I – *Executive Officers*

- a) The executive board shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b) To be acceptable for the executive board you must be an active participant in club activities, and have been a club member during at least one election season. Any officer not fulfilling these requirements qualifies to be impeached.
The duties and requirements of each executive board member are as follows...

Chairman – The Chairman supervises the entire club. The Chairman ensures that the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer fulfill their duties. The Chairman is responsible for creating the meeting agenda and any other club publications. The necessary skills are efficiency, productivity, organization, charisma, and responsibility. The Chairman is the head of the Activity/Election committee.

Vice Chairman – The Vice-Chairman assists the Chairman with executive decisions. The Vice-Chairman is to take the place of the Chairman in case of absence, resignation, or expulsion. The Vice-Chairman is the executive assistant to the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman is the head of the School Relations/Membership committee.

Secretary – The Secretary is responsible for all club documentation, meeting minutes, and club proceedings. The Secretary will keep a record of all club projects and proposals. The Secretary takes attendance and reviews membership eligibility. Necessary skills include organization, hand writing, communication, and fluency in writing and journalism. The Secretary is the head of the Press/Publicity/City Relations Committee.

Treasurer – The Treasurer is responsible for all club funds; including record of receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer is expected to keep a close watch on the financial condition of the club. The Treasurer watches the intake of money, and manages the bank

account. Necessary skills include basic knowledge of mathematics and business, Communication, and writing. The Treasurer is the head of the Fundraising Committee.

Section II – *General Committees*

- a) Committees and sub-committees will be used for specific projects and are to have specific goals.
- b) A general committee can consist of 1-5 members each.
- c) At the first meeting of the year members will choose which committees they will be on. During that same meeting the executive board will decide which members will be on each committee.
- d) Each Committee is headed by an Executive Board member and is not included in the number of members. Each committee is expected to fulfill their responsibilities to the fullest of their potential.
- e) Committees include...

Election/Activities Committee – The Election/Activities Committee is responsible for organizing everything to do with the Election. Rallies, volunteering, door-to-door, canvassing, sign delivering, lit drops, and Election Day assignments are some of the committees' duties.

School Relations/Membership Committee – The School Relations/Membership Committee helps make the club look appealing to students at Torrington High School and Oliver Wolcott Tech. The School Relations/Membership Committee is in charge of recruiting new members by means of signs, club fair, and various other methods. The School Relations/Membership Committee is also in charge of school connections with administrators, teachers, and other clubs. The School Relations/Membership Committee works on strategies to broaden the club in the best way possible.

Publicity/City Relations Committee – The Publicity/City Relations Committee is responsible for everything pertaining to press and publicity outside of the school campus. The Publicity/City Relations Committee create press releases and keeps in contact with newspapers, radio stations, and T.V. stations. The Publicity/City Relations Committee is responsible for making the club look good to the citizens of Torrington.

Fundraising Committee – The Fundraising Committee is responsible for everything pertaining to raising money for the club. The Fundraising Committee keeps in contact with all donors and/or potential donors. The Fundraising Committee organizes any sort of fundraiser. The Fundraising Committee checks to make sure everything has been recorded by the club Treasurer to prevent any sort of mishap.

Section III – *Secondary positions/Sub-Committees*

- a) Sub-committees can be formed at any time by any committee. Sub-committees can last a maximum of two months and must be pertaining to a very specific topic within the committee.

- b) Appointed positions are positions in which a person does not need to be voted on. The Chairman can appoint any member to these positions. Secondary positions include...

Webmaster – The primary caretaker for the website. May be a member already holding a position.

Educator – The position of educator can be held by more than one member. Educators are responsible for educating club members about the Republican party and its values.

Section IV – *Election/Nomination*

- a) To be nominated to be on the Executive board you must fill out the club nomination form, which requires some basic information, a set of signatures, and a set of statements. The nomination form can be obtained from the club Secretary. Information on this form must be accurate and truthful. Two club member signatures are required. The candidate cannot sign this part himself. Members can only sign for one candidate per position. The club advisor signature must be obtained after the club member signatures.
- b) The nominating process will begin in March. Then, in April, all nominated members will give a speech to the club as to why they are the best candidate for the position. Members will then vote during that same meeting. Tallying will then be conducted by the club advisor, who will then present the results.
- c) Terms will begin on the first day of the next school year.

Section V – *Advisor*

- a) The Torrington TARS is a student-run organization.
- b) The advisor is there to advise and not to mediate, he/she has the ability to voice their opinion, but the Chairman officially chooses the course to be taken.
- c) If an advisor is deemed inadequate by two-thirds majority of a club meeting, he/she may be asked to step down. Another Advisor has to be ready to take his/her place.
- d) Multiple advisors are encouraged.

Section VI – *Officer Impeachment*

- a) Any officer not fulfilling the requirements outlined in Article I, Section IV, part B qualifies for impeachment.
- b) Any member can call for the impeachment of an executive board member if the said officer meets impeachment requirements.
- c) A written statement from both the accuser and the accused is to be submitted to the Chairman for review. The impeachment form can be obtained from the club Secretary.
- d) The Chairman will then conduct a special executive board meeting to discuss the impeachment. In order for the process to continue, three-fourths of the executive board must approve of the impeachment.
- e) After the impeachment has been approved by the executive board, a two-thirds majority of club members must also show approval of the impeachment.

- f) If the preceding actions are successful, the accused officer is to be impeached immediately.
- g) The accused member can not appeal his/her impeachment, and is not to attend any club meetings or events until the next school year.
- h) The accused can still participate in city events, like Election Day, but can not associate with any club members, or affiliate themselves with the Torrington High School Teenage Republicans.

Article IV: Meetings

- a) There will be a minimum of two in-school meeting for each quarter grading term.
- b) Executive Board meetings are called at the discretion of the Executive Board; they should be held no more than once a month.
- c) Committee/sub-committee meetings can be called at any time.
- d) Meeting will follow basic parliamentary procedure.

Article VI: Amendments

- a) Changes to this constitution can be proposed by any member. This member is to propose any changes to the Chairman, who will then discuss the changes with the Secretary. A unanimous executive decision is necessary in order for the changes to progress. The entire club will then discuss and vote on the proposed changes. A two-thirds majority of club approval is required for ratification of the proposed changes.
- b) Amendments will take place one month after being ratified by the club.