

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NORWEGIAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

With amendments made by the AGM in 1992, 1998, 2007, 2010 and 2012.

## **§1 THE SOCIETY**

The Norwegian Speleological Society (Norsk Grotteforbund, NGF) is an organization for individuals and local organisations, which practice caving.

## **§2 MEMBERS**

Membership is open to everyone.

The members of NGF are committed to:

- Comply with the aims of NGF.
- Improve one's own safe caving skills.
- Report dangerous incidents to the Society.
- Register oneself in the Norwegian Cave Rescue Service.

## **§3 AIMS**

NGF aims are:

- Safe caving.
- Provide contact between Norwegian cavers and between Norwegian and foreign cavers, primarily by publishing the Norwegian Cave Magazine and maintaining the homepage.
- Cave conservation.
- Cave registration.
- Stimulation of scientific research regarding Norwegian caves.

## **§4 CAVING ETHICS**

NGF and the members of NGF are committed to:

- Protect all caves from non-environmental visits, and to limit visits to vulnerable caves.
- Obey the laws of protected caves. These laws are to be guidelines in all caves, whether they are protected or not.
- Respect and co-operate with locals, governments and local and National speleological societies, in planning, carrying out and complementary work of caving trips, explorations, and scientific research in Norway and abroad.
- Improve one self and one's fellow cavers competence to achieve these ethics.

## **§5 THE CAVE RESCUE SERVICE**

The board is responsible for the Cave Rescue Service (NGRT) being functional at any time, including seeing that at least one rescue practice is organized every year. The board shall maintain a list of the safety equipment at disposal. Such equipment should be financed by external contributions.

## **§6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM is the major authority, taking place once a year. The time, date and place must be published at least one month in advance of the meeting. The AGM is open to all members of NGF. All participating members who have paid their membership-fee at least two weeks before the AGM have the right to vote.

The AGM shall:

- Discuss the annual report of the board, audited annual statement of account and membership fee.
- Elect chairman, cave rescue responsible, members of the board, election committee and auditor.
- Discuss received proposals.

The board must receive proposals, which are to be discussed at the AGM, before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Elections are made by simple majority of votes. Everyone is being elected for a period of two years. If someone stands aside in the middle of a period, a replacement is elected for the rest of the actual period.

In extraordinary situations, for instance violation of the constitution, embezzlement, or breach of trust, the AGM can by simple majority of votes dismiss a member of the board.

A special general meeting shall be called when demanded by at least 15 members. The time, date and place must be published at least one month in advance of the meeting.

## **§7 THE BOARD**

The board shall govern the activities of NGF between AGMs. The board is responsible for organizing the AGM. The board is responsible for co-ordinating and maintaining the Cave Rescue Service in Norway.

The board consists of: chairman, cave rescue responsible, vice-chairman, secretary and accountant.

The board can make decisions when 3 or more members of the board are present, and the meeting has been announced in advance. The chairman has a double vote when the votes are equal.

The board is drafting committee for the Norwegian Caving Magazine and for the homepage, and points out the editors of both.

## **§8 THE NORWEGIAN CAVING MAGAZINE AND THE INTERNET**

The Norwegian Caving Magazine, NGB, is an organ of contact and information for persons interested in caving. The magazine is owned and published by NGF and is distributed to all members.

NGB is to be published at least twice a year, and publication shall be in accordance with NGF's constitution.

Non-members can subscribe to the magazine.

NGF shall have a homepage with relevant and updated information on the Internet. Publishing on the homepage and other Internet forums under direction of the NGF are to be administrated in accordance with the NGF's aims and constitution and normal ethical standards.

## **§9 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

The AGM can change the constitution by a majority of 2/3. Proposals of constitutional changes must be part of the publishing for the meeting.

## **§10 DISSOLUTION**

The AGM can decide to dissolve NGF by a majority of 3/4. A proposal to dissolve NGF is to be published at least 6 months in advance.

If NGF is dissolved, the holdings of NGF are to be divided between the local organisations.