



Make checks payable to:  
**GOC National**  
6811 Wurzbach Road  
San Antonio, Tx 78240

**PLEASE FILL OUT APPLICATION AND BRING TO NEXT MEETING**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I understand my actions, lawful and unlawful, are my responsibility and not the responsibility of Guardians of the Children (GOC) or its Officers and/or Directors. I will not hold GOC responsible for any accident, injury, including loss of life, limb or property damage. I willingly agree to refrain from the use of alcohol, controlled substances and illegal contraband before and during any event involving GOC children.

I have read and fully understand the Constitution/ by-laws and if I should act outside the scope of GOC, I understand I will be held completely and solely accountable for my actions at the discretion of the Officers and Directors of GOC. This may include termination of my status as a member or prospective member.

I submit to a criminal history background check for the purpose of discovering any conviction for crimes that might make me unsuitable for participation in GOC. (Note: Your family, neighbors and employer will NOT be contacted. If you feel you cannot pass the background check, please discuss your concerns with the Chapter President.) I agree to donate **\$35.00** to GOC to cover the cost of the background check.

I understand that my participation in GOC will require a time commitment, and failure to participate at the level required by the by-laws of GOC may result in my status as a member or prospective member being terminated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Road Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Wk \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Drivers License # \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter President: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Photo copy of DL must be presented to complete application process)**

Other States where I have live \_\_\_\_\_

Level of participation (mark one) **Member/ Prospective Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_

Type and year of Motorcycle own \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us \_\_\_\_\_

Name of GOC member sponsoring you (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been in any other Organizations/ Clubs as a Member: No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **GOC Mission Statement:**

The mission of Guardians Of the Children (GOC) is to recognize and react to child abuse and educate the public to do the same; to serve as advocates to provide strength and stability to families in crisis; and be an answer to the prayer of an abused child or teen for courage, support and protection.

## **COURT APPEARANCES**

Occasionally GOC will attend court to assist the child in being less intimidated and frightened, while testifying against his/her abuser.

**Qualifications of Member:** Applicants shall be admitted to three levels of participation:

### **A. Patch Member:**

1. Must complete and pass a background investigation.
2. Must abide by the GOC Code of Conduct while representing GOC
3. Must wear the identifying Member patch(s) while representing GOC, which includes, but not limited to; back patch, back silence rocker, front breast patch, nameplate, front small GOC patch and position status name plate (if applicable).
5. Must attend a 70% or above attendance of all official events for their Chapter as designated by the President (unless excused) to maintain a status of a patch holder/ Member.
6. Must own a motorcycle or can have access by means of spouse or live in/ domestic partner.
7. Shall have voting privileges
8. Must be 18 years of age or older.
9. Members have further responsibilities dealing with vest and patch placement:
  - a. When representing GOC - Members will wear their Member patch on a black leather vest. Proper placement of the Member back patch shall be centered beginning at 4-5 inches from the collar top.
  - b. Non-GOC patches or patches of any kind not approved by the National Board and issued by the organization shall not be worn on the GOC vest.
  - c. One Member patch shall be issued per Member.
  - d. Any replacement patch must be reviewed by the Chapter Officers for approval to reissue.
  - e. No support patch shall be worn for any other club or organization.
  - f. Dual patches members should be discourage and/ or should not be allowed without the approval of the National Board.
  - g. GOC colors of any GOC patch cannot be changed or altered in any way. If at anytime you are unsure of whether it is appropriate to display GOC logos, contact your Chapter Officers.
  - h. Nothing shall be placed on the back of the vest above or below the GOC Member patch.
10. A Member may be removed from their Chapter by the Chapter President and/ or a majority vote of the Chapter Officers.

### **B. Prospective/ Probate Member:**

1. Must complete and pass a background investigation.
2. Must abide by the GOC Code of Conduct while representing GOC
3. Must wear the identifying issued prospective/ probate issued patch(s) while representing GOC.
4. Must attend all official events for their Chapter as designated by the President (unless excused) for a minimum of one year or as determined by a unanimous vote of the Chapter Officers to become eligible to be a Patch Holder/ Member.
5. Patch member status is approved by a unanimous vote of the Officers.
6. Will have no voting privileges
7. Must be 18 years of age or older.
8. Must maintain loyalty to GOC and follow all directives given by the officers.
9. Prospective Members have further responsibilities dealing with vest and patch placement:
  - a. When representing GOC- Prospect/ Probate Member will be wear the issue patches on a black leather vest.
  - b. Non-GOC patches or patches of any kind not approved by the National Board and issued by the organization shall not be worn on the GOC vest.
  - c. Any replacement patch must be reviewed by the Chapter Officers for approval to reissue.
  - d. No support patch shall be worn for any other club or organization.
  - e. Dual patches members should be discourage and/ or should not be allowed without the approval of the National Board.
  - f. GOC colors of any GOC patch cannot be changed or altered in any way. If at any time you are unsure of whether it is appropriate to display GOC logos, contact your Chapter Officers.
  - g. Nothing other than issued shall be placed on the back of the vest through the duration of prospecting for the organization.
10. A Prospective Member may be removed from their Chapter by the Chapter President and/ or a majority vote of the Chapter Officers.

### **C. Sponsor/ Support Associate:**

1. Must abide by the GOC Code of Conduct while representing GOC
2. Must complete and pass a background investigation
3. May attend all rallies, court hearings, events and meetings
4. May not be individual contacts for GOC children
5. May not wear Member patches
6. May not identify themselves as a Member
7. Will have no voting privileges
8. Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age
9. May be removed by the Chapter President and/ or a majority vote of the Chapter Officers.

## GOC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHILD INTERACTION

As a reputable child-serving organization, **Guardians of the Children International** has developed the following code of conduct for child interaction to guide our volunteers.

While every volunteer is valued and unique, we come together as an organization in the best interests of children and their families. The safety, rights and wellbeing of children we serve are at the core of our daily operations. We nurture supportive relationships with children while balancing and encouraging appropriate boundaries. Volunteer misconduct will not be tolerated, especially as it relates to the well-being of the children in the organization's care.

**Misconduct refers to inappropriate behavior in the organization and includes but is not limited to any/all of the following:**

- Communication that goes beyond volunteer's responsibilities with the child and/or does not occur within the context of their duties and responsibilities such as:
  - Writing personal letters or text messages to a child.
  - Making personal phone calls to a child.
  - Having personal Internet exchanges with a child (email, instant messaging, chatting, social networking, etc.).
  - Sending personalized gifts to a child.

**Note:** It is not misconduct to give a contextually appropriate thank-you card, birthday card, seasonal card, or other nominal gift to a child, where such a gesture would be considered reasonable in the circumstances provided that all gestures, taken together, are not excessive in number and any such exchanges are carried out within the workplace, in the presence of others and with the knowledge of the legal guardians and the organization.

- Offering unauthorized rides to an individual child.
- Spending time with a child outside of designated times and activities (except where such activity results from a parent-initiated request and the activity has been disclosed to and approved by the organization in advance).
- Favoring a child.
- Telling sexual jokes to a child.
- Showing a child sexually explicit or sexist material, signs, cartoons, calendars, literature, photographs, or displaying such material.
- Taking pictures of a child, except when specifically requested to do so by the legal guardians or the organization and provided that only cameras owned or under the control of the legal guardians or the organization are used to take such pictures.

**Volunteers of Guardians of the Children must:**

- Always adhere to the organization's Constitution, policies and procedures in dealing with children.
- Treat children with respect and dignity.
- Treat all allegations or suspicions of sexual misconduct seriously. It is a volunteer's responsibility to report allegations or suspicions.
- Follow established procedures when reporting any allegations of misconduct or potential policy violations.
- Consider the final outcomes of any behavior, as well as a child's reaction to any activities, conversations, or interactions so as to avoid embarrassing, shaming, or humiliating the child.
- Establish, respect, and maintain boundaries with all children.

**Volunteers of Guardians of the Children must not:**

- Engage in any activity that endangers a child or makes a child feel uncomfortable.
- Engage in any activity that goes against the organization's Constitution, mandate, policies, or code of conduct.
- Make any sort of remark, comment, or joke to/regarding a child that is in any way suggestive, explicit, or sexual.
- Engage in any sort of physical contact with a child that may make the child feel uncomfortable, or that violates reasonable boundaries.
- Conduct their own investigation into allegations or suspicions of sexual misconduct — it is a volunteer's duty to report, not to investigate.
- Place a child in danger from anyone, either within or outside of the organization.
- Offer any child "special" treatment that falls outside of the organization's mandate, or that may (or may appear to) place a child at risk of exploitation.

**Volunteers of Guardians of the Children should consider whether:**

- The activities they are engaging in with a child are known to, or approved by, legal guardians or the organization. Child interactions should not be kept secret. They should be transparent.

- Activities would raise concerns in the mind of a reasonable observer as to their appropriateness.
  - The organization may be detrimentally affected by the volunteers activities.
  - The activity may be reasonably regarded as posing a risk to the personal integrity or security of a child.
  - The activity may contribute to a child's discomfort.
  - The activity may appear inappropriate to the organization, the child's family, or the public.
- Failure to adhere to the code of conduct by any volunteer will result in an investigation and disciplinary action if necessary. Appropriate consequences/disciplinary actions are to be determined by the chapter executive and will be based on the nature and severity of the incident.

I agree to comply with the code of conduct for child interaction with Guardians of the Children International.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Guardians Of the Children Social Media Policy**

### **GUIDING STATEMENT**

As an active member of the Guardians Of the Children (GOC) I realizes the value and importance of social media for organizational promotion and practices. I also recognize the growing influence of social media and its widening scope. GOC has implemented the following social media policy to help our members understand and adhere to responsible social media practices, put in place to protect the organization as a whole. Any member may elect to create a blog, contribute online, or participate in an online social network of any kind. For all members, these guidelines apply.

### **LOGO**

All GOC patches are trademark protected and cannot be used, altered or otherwise changed.

### **Members**

For the purpose of this policy a member is defined as,

1. Patch Member
2. Prospective Member
3. Sponsor / Support Associate

### **DEFINITIONS**

Blog: A self-published diary or commentary on a particular topic that may allow visitors to post responses, reactions, or comments. The term is short for "Web log."

Page: The specific portion of a social media website where content is displayed, and managed by an individual or individuals with administrator rights.

Post: Content an individual shares on a social media site or the act of publishing content on a site.

Profile: Information that a user provides about himself or herself on a social networking site.

Social Media: A category of Internet-based resources that integrate user-generated content and user participation. This includes, but is not limited to, social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, Snap Chat), micro blogging sites (Twitter, Nixle), photo- and video-sharing sites (Flickr, YouTube), wikis (Wikipedia), blogs, and news sites (Digg, Reddit).

Social Networks: Online platforms where users can create profiles, share information, and socialize with others using a range of technologies.

Speech: Expression or communication of thoughts or opinions in spoken words, in writing, by expressive conduct, symbolism, photographs, videotape, or related forms of communication.

### **Code of Conduct**

As indicated in the GOC Constitution

SECTION 10- Code of Conduct:

The statement of CODE OF CONDUCT for GOC Members has been adopted to promote and maintain the highest standards for service and personal conduct among its Members and Officers. Adherence to the CODE OF CONDUCT is necessary to maintain Membership in

GOC and will further serve to assure Member confidence in the integrity and fairness of all GOC Members and Officers.

VIOLATIONS of the CODE OF CONDUCT will be dealt with immediately by the Chapter Officers, and may cause removal of your status as a patch

holder/ member and/ or complete termination from the GOC organization.

As a Member, Prospective Member, Sponsor / Support Associate member of GOC, you agree / pledge to the following:

Uphold loyalty to GOC and be an advocate to our Mission statement.

Adhere to the confidential relationship and any information entrusted to me through GOC.  
Capitalize on every opportunity to improve public awareness of GOC and the purpose and role in the community.  
Never engages in, nor tolerate any exploitation of GOC. And always safeguard and protect what GOC represents.  
Impede any false or misleading declaration to be made to the public of GOC and/ or the Membership.  
Employ only fair, moral and ethical methods in quest to influence opinion.  
Cease from circulating any malicious information concerning fellow GOC Members or any other organizations and their Members.  
Cooperate with every reasonable order and/ or direction given by GOC Officer(s) and or the International Board Member(s).  
Never disclose or make public of the internal workings of GOC business with non-GOC members.  
Under no circumstances speak ill or negative of any members, other organization, agency or their member(s) and or employee(s).  
Personal Contacts: At NO time shall any one GOC member have, or maintain, private or personal contact with an adoptee or their family(ies) using any Social Media such as Facebook! No private messages to GOC adoptees or families shall be permitted!  
Social Media contacts with Guardians of the Children adoptees or families can be a threat to the privacy and safety of GOC children, especially in ongoing or active cases. Any GOC representative engaged in this practice shall immediately cease this type of contact.  
Any time you participate in social media, you are posting on your own behalf unless expressly requested by your chapter President to post on the Chapters Social Media Site.  
If you identify yourself as a GOC member via social media, your opinions and viewpoint must reflect the responsibilities of your position as a member.  
Always adhere to copyright standards and respect the intellectual property of others when utilizing social media platforms or other online publishing forms.  
Do not, under any circumstances, disclose any personal information about the organization or its members  
Do not disclose confidential information about GOC, its practices, or any information meant to be shared only with fellow members  
Any rumors, slander, or confidential information shared via social media may have a significant negative impact on this organization and its reputation. Legal action may be brought against the individual responsible for the publication of this information.  
Publishing or posting private facts and personal information about someone without their permission that has not been previously revealed to the public, is not of legitimate public concern, and would be offensive to a reasonable person. Using someone else's name, likeness, or other personal attributes without that person's permission for an exploitative purpose.  
Publishing the creative work of another, trademarks, or certain confidential business information without the permission of the owner.  
Remember that, as members, you are an ambassador for the organization, and your manner in all situations, including online, should reflect that in a positive way,  
No member shall, at any time, share anything with another via social media that may be considered inappropriate. This includes items of a sexual, profane, or excessively violent nature whether in writing or photos. These have no place in the GOC members SMS page, and disciplinary action may occur.  
Always respect your audience. In every situation, use social media as a respectful tool to share ideas and information. Be especially mindful when dealing with sensitive subjects such as politics, religion, race, sexual orientation and victim blaming. Share content intelligently. If you publish an item professionally, you may help to strengthen the organization. Make sure what you publish is helpful, valuable, and promotes the principles of this organization  
Protect your privacy. Always think twice before posting, and remember that what you share may remain in the public domain for a long time afterwards. Make sure you are protecting your own privacy and that of the organization.

### **INAPPROPRIATE PHOTOS**

Any photo that depicts members in a manner not in line with the mission of the organization, drinking alcoholic beverages, nudity, pornographic, sexual in nature and extending the middle finger. Any photo that is inappropriate for a child to see. Remember there are many triggers that can set a child back that are victim of sexual abuse, be mindful of photos posted on SMS.

### **DISCIPLINE**

The Chapter President and the Chapter Officers are responsible for enforcing this policy; any violation of this policy is grounds for immediate membership termination.

**ACCEPTANCE**

I attest that I have read this Social Media Policy in its entirety and do understand all policies contained therein. I will uphold the standards set forth in this document, and will maintain appropriate and professional conduct when accessing social media

Members Name:

Members Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_