

**SOUTH CAROLINA EQUESTRIAN MINISTRIES
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I

Name

South Carolina Equestrian Ministries (SCEM)

ARTICLE II

Purpose

South Carolina Equestrian Ministries is an organization of Believers in Christ who share an interest in horses and wish to be involved in a Ministry designed to reach out and share the love of God.

ARTICLE III

Affiliation

SCEM is a nonprofit nondenominational organization consisting of Individuals and Fellowships throughout the state that have united under a mutually agreed upon Statement of Faith for the purpose of fellowship and ministry to our local communities.

ARTICLE IV

Statement of Faith

SCEM is a Christian Ministry open to members from any Christian denomination that will affirm and agree to support the following Statement of Faith:

1. We believe there is one God eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. We believe the Bible is God's complete written revelation to man and that it is divinely inspired, authoritative, and without error in the original manuscripts.
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death on the cross to provide for our redemption of sins, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His future return to earth in power and glory.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was alienated from God. That alienation can be removed only by accepting, through faith alone, God's gift of salvation, which was made possible by Christ's death.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ came seeking to save each person so that He could give him or her abundant and eternal life.
6. We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that He performs the miracle of new birth in an unbeliever and indwells believers, enabling them to live a Godly life.
7. We believe that we find the way, the truth, and abundant eternal life in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as His Holy Spirit indwells us and then leads and empowers us each day.

ARTICLE V

Officers/Administrative Assistants

- A. The Officers of SCEM shall consist of: President, Vice President, and Secretary / Treasurer. The Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting each January. All Officers shall have been an active Member of SCEM for at least 2 years prior to their election. Each term is for one business year:
 1. The President shall represent SCEM and provide leadership for vision and direction for the ministry. He/she shall lead in implementing the will of the general membership. The President shall chair any meetings and work with the Steering Committee to provide the agenda for those meetings. The President shall also serve as a member of all committees and serve as or appoint a liaison between SCEM and other organizations (EMI, SCBC, SCHC, etc).

2. The Vice President shall act as directed by the President and act in his/her behalf in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall be responsible for membership enlistment and development.
 3. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking and distributing the minutes of all meetings. The Secretary shall keep the membership files and update contact information as needed. The Secretary shall keep all forms and publications updated.
 4. The Treasurer shall receive and distribute funds on behalf of SCEM as directed by the membership. An annual self-audit shall be conducted and necessary forms files with the Federal and State Revenue Services.
- B. The Administrative Assistants of SCEM shall consist of: Website Administrator and Newsletter Editor. They shall work with the Officers and Steering Committee to notify the media of special events or concerns that affect the Christian horse community. The Administrative Assistants shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting each January. The Administrative Assistants shall have been an active Member of SCEM for at least 2 years prior to their election. Each term is for one business year:
1. The Website Administrator shall maintain the website/domain name and shall keep the website current with at least monthly updates to the site.
 2. The Newsletter Editor shall publish an electronic based quarterly newsletter with updates about the Ministry, Fellowships, Members and Events as well as any featured articles they may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VI

Membership

Membership is open to those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him as Personal Savior, who share an interest in horses, and who wish to be involved in a Ministry designed to reach out and share the love of God and the gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ. They agree to support the purpose of SCEM and shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is pleasing to Christ. Members will be received upon acceptance of their SCEM application and the receipt of annual dues. Annual dues will be determined by the general membership each year and may be changed during the

Annual Business Meeting in January. Memberships are to be renewed by the end of January of each year.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings and Activities

1. There shall be one general Membership Meeting on the fourth Saturday of January each year for the purpose of conducting any Business of SCEM. At this meeting reports of finances, membership and goal achievement shall be made. Calendar, budget and plans may be adopted for the future. A meeting may be called by the President or Steering Committee for a specific purpose at any time with at least a two week notice to the membership.
2. SCEM shall sponsor an Annual Training Meeting on the fourth Saturday of August and at least two Horse Events each year. The Training Meeting shall be for the purpose of enhancing state and fellowship leaders with an emphasis in the areas of Spiritual Growth and Outreach. This Meeting is open to the general membership. The horse events (trail rides, etc.) shall be for the purpose sharing ideas, inspiration, fellowship, mutual encouragement and evangelistic outreach.
3. Each year there will be a strong effort to develop a diverse number of Ministries to some area of the horse industry.
4. Each year other equestrian events such as local horse events, SC Horsemen's Council meetings, trail rides, etc. will be used to recruit and enlarge the membership through the use of promotional methods.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

1. A Steering Committee shall be made up of the SCEM State Officers and Fellowship Presidents. This committee shall act as a sounding board advisory group. It may make recommendations to the SCEM membership body. The Steering Committee will conduct the ongoing business of SCEM between such meetings.
2. A Nominating Committee shall be established each November to serve in the

capacity of nominating individuals to serve in leadership positions. The slate of potential Officers and Administrative Assistants shall be distributed at least two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the SCEM State Officers and Fellowship Presidents.

3. Various other Committees may be appointed as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IX

General Policies

1. A current negative Coggins (per home state law) shall be required of all equines present at any SCEM event/activity.
2. All Members shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is pleasing to Christ.

ARTICLE X

Liability

1. SCEM, its members or associates shall not be held responsible for accidents, injuries, or damages to participants, animals, or property at any SCEM sponsored event/activity.
2. SCEM shall abide by the laws of South Carolina. Under South Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of equine activity, pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 9 of Title 47, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.
3. SCEM Members and their families acknowledge that by participating in equine events there are inherent risks and agree to take responsibility for themselves and their families.
4. Non-members also acknowledge the inherent risks and are required to sign a liability waiver prior to taking part in SCEM activities. They further agree to take responsibility for their minor children during such events and their minor children participate at their parent(s) sole discretion.
5. All participants are to take reasonable measures to protect themselves and others. It is

the responsibility of participants or their guardian(s) to use proper safety equipment and appropriate tack for the event.

6. Horses that are known kickers need to be flagged to warn other riders.
7. SCEM reserves the right to exclude any rider or animal that it deems is not safe or poses a risk to others.

ARTICLE XI

ByLaws

The ByLaws of SCEM may be changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership present at two consecutive meetings with the proposed change being published to the membership at least a month before the initial meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Business Year

The Business Year for the purpose of memberships and tax purposes shall be January 1st through December 31st. Terms of elected and appointed positions begin and end at the close of the Annual Business Meeting in January. Annual Fellowship Reports also need to be submitted to the SCEM Secretary/Treasurer by the close of the Annual Business Meeting.