

## **TENNESSEE CHAPTER ONE CLUB POLICY**

The national Sierra Club has published a “One Club” policy, which may be accessed here: <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/administration/policies/institutional/one-club-policy.aspx>

Because the national club policy limits itself to communication issues, membership participation issues, and restrictions on activities of Sierra Club sub-units, the TN Chapter herein states its interpretation of a “one club” policy specific to the Chapter and its subordinate Groups and Sections.

The Sierra Club is a single, non-profit, California corporation, governed by [Bylaws](#) adopted by its members. Except for powers expressly granted to other entities of the Club or to the members by those Bylaws or California law, all power and authority over the Club ultimately reside with the [Board of Directors](#).

The Board of Directors establishes all conservation policy for the Sierra Club, except when it is established by a vote of the membership. Policy consists of statements of Sierra Club conservation objectives and principles, along with appropriate limits outside of which Club entities may not operate. Policies are generally framed in broad terms and embody the ideals to which the Club aspires.

The Board has delegated to other volunteer entities and the staff specific authority to act and speak on behalf of the Club, to interpret and implement its policies on public issues, and to administer its affairs and procedures.

Chapters, groups, and other entities may develop positions in furtherance of Board-adopted policy on matters falling exclusively within their geographic boundaries or charge. No Club entity can establish positions that are broader in scope than its geographic boundaries or its charge.

The above can be summarized to say all entities of the Sierra Club are subordinate to, and accountable to, the Board of Directors, in cascading levels of delegation. Thus, the Chapter is directly accountable to the national club; Groups within the Chapter are established by the Chapter and are accountable to the Chapter; and Sections are likewise established by and accountable to the Chapter. By the same token, the Chapter is responsible for and to its subordinate Groups and Sections. See the relevant sections of the Chapter and your Group bylaws for specifics.

In practical terms, being one club requires all constituent entities to communicate and coordinate their activities with each other. This means an active engagement in both directions between Chapter and Groups, not least to avoid tripping over each other's

feet, but ultimately to enhance our effectiveness to do what we all belong to the Club for, that is to preserve, protect, and enjoy the planet, or at least that portion of it that we call home – our Tennessee.