



STATUTES

OF TROOPS FULLY ALIVE, INC. D/B/A
NATIONAL TRAIL LIFE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE

AMENDED AUGUST 21, 2023
EPISCOPAL APPROVAL SEPTEMBER 22, 2023



Troops Fully Alive

NATIONAL
Trail Life
CATHOLIC COMMITTEE



Nihil Obstat:
Very Reverend Hector Perez, STD
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur:
Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC
✠ *Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee*
September 22, 2023

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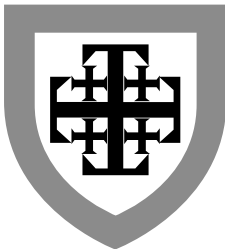
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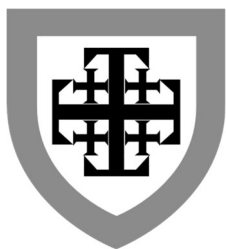
OF TROOPS FULLY ALIVE, INC. D/B/A
NATIONAL TRAIL LIFE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE

AMENDED AUGUST 21, 2023
EPISCOPAL APPROVAL SEPTEMBER 22, 2023



Troops Fully Alive





STATUTES OF
TROOPS FULLY ALIVE, INC.
doing business as the
NATIONAL TRAIL LIFE
CATHOLIC COMMITTEE

AMENDED August 21, 2023
EPISCOPAL APPROVAL September 22, 2023

ARTICLE THE FIRST: NAME & ARMS

§1. NAME. This private association of the Christian faithful is named “Troops Fully Alive, Inc.,” a Florida corporation not for profit.

§2. FICTITIOUS NAME. The association shall register a fictitious name, and, in accordance with the fourth article of these statutes, the national executive board may do business in the association’s name as the “National Trail Life Catholic Committee.”

§3. ARMS. The association’s heraldic arms, influenced by the emblem originally designed by the Venerable Jacques Sévin for his Catholic troops of Scouts de France, features

a uniquely styled Jerusalem Cross and is described: “*Cross potent between four crosslets gules on a chief argent within a bordure tenné.*”

*ARTICLE THE SECOND:
PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES & MOTTO*

“The glory of God is man fully alive, and
the life of man is the vision of God.”

—Saint Irenæus of Lyons

§1. PURPOSE. Inspired by insights of Saint Irenæus, the purpose of the association is to forge *Troops Fully Alive*, that is, Trail Life’s Catholic troops, who animate the temporal order with a Christian spirit by striving in common endeavor to:

- ✘ Encourage Trail Life’s registered youth and adults to fully live out their baptismal call, witnessing the Catholic Faith in their families, troops, parishes, communities, and country;
- ✘ Develop a profound and radiant authentically Catholic identity within Trail Life’s Catholic troops;
- ✘ In fidelity to Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church, assist Trail Life’s troops in the Christian formation of boys and young men through Trail Life’s Christ-

centered, boy-focused outdoor adventure, character, and leadership development program;

- ✘ Strengthen the domestic church by fostering troops who increase opportunities for families to fully live the Catholic Faith in communion with each other; and
- ✘ Promote Trail Life among the Christian faithful as an effective form of youth ministry, honoring the legacy of Lord Robert Baden-Powell's international movement and the Venerable Jacques Sévin's vision for Catholic troops—fully alive in Trail Life's troops.

The association may not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income taxation. The association may not endorse, contribute to, work for, or otherwise support or oppose a candidate for public office. The association is organized exclusively for purposes pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

§2. OBJECTIVES. In furtherance of its purpose, the association is established to pursue the following objectives:

- ✘ *Call to holiness.* Today's secular culture leads humanity away from God toward idolatry and selfishness. Through Trail Life and works of the apostolate fortifying seven pillars of the Christian

life—*Prayer, Sacrament, Catechesis, Virtue, Service, Evangelization,* and *Vocation*—the association seeks to guide boys and young men on the trail to becoming ordinary saints and prepare them to defend their Catholic Faith.

- ✘ *Integrity of faith.* The culture increasingly demands that the Christian faithful privatize religious practice, that is, limit exercise of faith exclusively to homelife, sequestered from their public lives. Whether in school, sport, or other secular undertakings, Catholic families are confronted by obstacles to maintaining an integrity of faith within life outside the home. Through Trail Life, the association seeks opportunities for Catholic families to increase integration of faith throughout the whole of their lives.
- ✘ *True masculinity.* The culture consistently decries masculinity, ignores divine Revelation and the logic of the natural order that humanity is created man and woman, denies the ordered distinctiveness between the sexes, and proclaims as normative the proposition that sex is an identity subject to self-invention, the consequences of which include abrogation of men’s identity and duties as husbands and fathers and the resultant disintegration of the domestic church. Trail Life’s vision is “to be the premier national character development organization for young men which

produces godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens.” Through Trail Life, the association seeks recovery of fatherhood, chivalry and other Christian virtues in men, and what the Bishop Emeritus of Phoenix, Thomas J. Olmsted, referred to as *true masculinity* in his 2015 apostolic exhortation, *Into the Breach*.

The association also adopts Trail Life’s mission, oath, and motto as the association’s objectives:

Trail Life’s Mission

To guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure

Trailman Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To serve God and my country;
To respect authority;
To be a good steward of creation;
And to treat others as I want to be treated.

Trailman Motto

“Walk Worthy!”

“... so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God,...” (*Col 1:10*)

§3. MOTTO. The association's motto embodies both a Trailman's act of will, cooperating with divine Grace, to build his faith and the wellspring of charity that flows from the joy of the Christian life:

“Building Faith through Habit, Responding in Love.”

In his *Summa Theologiae*, Saint Thomas Aquinas observed that “faith is a habit of the mind, whereby eternal life is begun in us, making the intellect assent to what is non-apparent.” We believe that habituation of the pillars of the Christian life—especially *Prayer, Sacrament, Catechesis*, and *Virtue*—purified and elevated by divine grace, act to build and strengthen one's faith.

Because God is love, 1 *Jn* 4:8, and faith brings us closer to God, we believe that love is a response to one's faith. Living the faith “work[s] through charity.” See *Rom* 1:17; *Gal* 5:6; CCC 1814. In charity, we respond to God's love through living the pillars of the Christian life, especially—*Virtue, Service, Evangelization*, and *Vocation*.

In this way, building faith through habit and responding in love parallel Jesus' two great commandments: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” *Mt* 22:37-39.

ARTICLE THE THIRD: SEAT

The association's seat is the City of Tallahassee, Florida, in the United States of America, within the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. The association's local ordinary is the Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

ARTICLE THE FOURTH: GOVERNANCE

§1. NATIONAL TRAIL LIFE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE. The association shall be governed by a national executive board, which shall be known as the "National Trail Life Catholic Committee." The national executive board shall be composed of a first officer, second officer, quartermaster, chaplain, one regional director from each Trail Life region, and one director who is an individual member of the association. The national executive board shall prescribe staggered terms not to exceed three years for each officer or director. The initial board shall be selected by the signatories of these revised statutes. Beginning October 1, 2024, as the initial terms expire, their successors shall be selected according to these statutes. Each member of the national executive board, if not already an individual member of the association, must become an individual member before assuming office. In addition, the chair of the American Heritage Girls National Catholic Committee or her designee shall serve *ex officio* as a member of the national executive board.

§2. SELECTION OF OFFICERS. The first officer, second officer, and quartermaster shall be elected by the member troops of the association. A regional director shall be elected by the member troops of the respective Trail Life region. If a region does not have any Catholic troops, the director for that region must reside in the region and shall be selected by the national executive board. One director shall be elected by the individual members of the association from among their number. The chaplain shall be selected by the national executive board. Each officer or director must be a registered adult in good standing with Trail Life who is twenty-one years of age or older, who is a practicing Catholic, who has received the sacraments of initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, and who leads a life of faith in keeping with his or her office.

§3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS. The first officer is the chief executive of the association and serves as chair of the national executive board. The second officer serves as vice chair of the national executive board and shall be designated to serve as first officer during the first officer's absence or inability to serve. If the first officer does not make such a designation, the national executive board may do so. The quartermaster serves as treasurer of the association, responsible for all deposits and withdrawals upon the association's accounts, control of the association's property, and reporting on the financial

condition of the association at each meeting of the national executive board. The national executive board may select additional officers from among its number and prescribe their duties.

§4. COMMITTEES. An executive committee composed of the first officer, second officer, quartermaster, chaplain, one regional director selected by the national executive board, and the director elected by the individual members of the association, shall have authority to carry out routine matters of the association between meetings of the national executive board. The national executive board shall serve as the National Trail Life Catholic Committee and may establish additional standing committees and prescribe their duties. The first officer may appoint special committees. The chair and members of each standing or special committee shall be appointed by the first officer with the advice and consent of the executive committee.

§5. SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, EPISCOPAL MODERATOR. The national executive board shall seek the spiritual direction of a priest to serve as its chaplain or spiritual advisor with confirmation by the local ordinary. The association respectfully requests its local ordinary, the Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, to serve as its initial episcopal moderator. In consultation with the local ordinary, the association may designate an episcopal moderator from outside the association's diocesan see.

§6. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS. The national executive board may remove any officer or director by majority vote, with or without cause. An interim vacancy shall be filled by the national executive board for the unexpired remainder of the term.

ARTICLE THE FIFTH: MEMBERSHIP

§1. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP. The association shall have two classes of membership, regular members and individual members.

§2. REGULAR MEMBERS. The association's regular members comprise Trail Life's Catholic troops. For purposes of these statutes, the term "Catholic troop" means a troop with a valid charter issued by Trail Life USA, Inc., to a Roman Catholic diocese, archdiocese, eparchy, or archeparchy; parish; parochial school; homeschool cooperative; charismatic community; Knights of Columbus council or assembly; religious order; or other Catholic institution. The national executive board shall keep a roll of all Catholic troops, and any question whether a troop may be enrolled as a regular member shall be decided by the national executive board. To be enrolled, a troop must apply in the manner prescribed by the national executive board. In any election of officers or directors, or ratification of a proposed amendment to these statutes, a troop's vote shall be cast by a voting delegate designated by the charter

organization, whether the charter organization's senior ministry leader, troop ministry liaison, or another registered adult in good standing with Trail Life , who is a practicing Catholic, who has received the sacraments of initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, and who leads a life of faith in keeping with his or her office. Each troop must keep the name of its voting delegate current on the association's roll of Catholic troops.

§3. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. The national executive board shall keep a roll of individual members, and any question whether a Trailman may be enrolled as an individual member shall be decided by the national executive board. To be enrolled, a Trailman must apply in the manner prescribed by the national executive board. Each individual member must be a registered adult in good standing with Trail Life who is twenty-one years of age or older, who is a practicing Catholic, who has received the sacraments of initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, and who leads a life of faith in keeping with his or her office.

§4. DUES. The national executive board may, as a condition of initial membership or the renewal thereof, require regular and individual members to pay dues in amounts determined by the national executive board.

ARTICLE THE SIXTH: MEETINGS

§1. REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS. The national executive board shall meet at least once each calendar quarter according to a schedule adopted by the board and at other times upon the call of the first officer.

§2. ANNUAL MEETING. An annual meeting of the national executive board shall be held each year at a time determined by the national executive board.

§3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND QUORUM. Notice of each regular, special, and annual meeting of the national executive board shall be given to each officer and director, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. The following number of days' notice is required before each of the following types of meetings:

- ✘ Regular meeting: seven days.
- ✘ Special meeting: two days.
- ✘ Annual meeting: fourteen days.

A majority of the national executive board constitutes a quorum.

§4. MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. Any regular, special, or annual meeting may be conducted by telephonic conference, video teleconference, or similar electronic means.

§5. VOTING. Only members in attendance may vote, and voting by proxy is not permissible.

*ARTICLE THE SEVENTH:
MISCELLANEOUS*

§1. AMENDMENTS. The national executive board or any regular member troop may propose an amendment to these statutes. Each proposed amendment shall be transmitted to the national executive board at least sixty days before the board's next annual meeting. The national executive board may approve or reject a proposed amendment or approve a proposed amendment with modifications. If approved by the national executive board or approved with modifications, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the regular members of the association. Ratification of a proposed amendment requires a majority vote of the regular members voting.

§2. FISCAL YEAR. Unless otherwise fixed by the national executive board, the association's fiscal year is the calendar year ending December 31.

§3. ASSETS. The association is not formed for making any profit or personal financial gain. The assets and income of the association are not distributable to or benefit the directors, officers, or other individuals. The assets and income may only be used to promote the purposes and objectives of the association as described in these statutes. These statutes do not prohibit the payment of reasonable compensation to employees and

independent contractors for services provided for the benefit of the association.

§4. AUTHORITY TO BORROW; ENCUMBER ASSETS. No director, officer, agent, or employee of the association has power or authority to borrow money on its behalf, to pledge its credit or to mortgage or pledge its real or personal property except within the scope and to the extent of the authority delegated by the national executive board.

§5. DISSOLUTION. The national executive board may dissolve the association at an annual meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds vote of the national executive board. Upon dissolution of the association, the association shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the association, distribute, transfer, or convey the association's assets, in trust or otherwise, to one or more organizations organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes which qualify as exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of similar or like nature to the association, as determined by the national executive board.

§6. PUBLICATIONS. The association shall submit to the censor librorum for his review, and to the local ordinary for his approval, any publication of the association which comprises teaching on faith and morals, prayers for public

or private use, catechesis, or any other matter subject to approval of competent ecclesiastical authority.

§7. TRAIL LIFE MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP. The national executive board is authorized to enter into periodic agreements with Trail Life USA, Inc., establishing a ministry partnership between the organizations in mutual support of their missions.

*ARTICLE THE EIGHTH:
ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY*

The association submits itself to the vigilance and governance of competent ecclesiastical authority. Upon adoption or amendment of these statutes, the national executive board shall submit these statutes for approval by the local ordinary. Upon approval of these statutes by the local ordinary, and upon his advice, the national executive board may submit these statutes for approval by one or more conferences of bishops.

*AMENDED BY THE NATIONAL TRAIL LIFE
CATHOLIC COMMITTEE*

On the twentieth day of August, Anno Domini MMXXIII

*APPROVED BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM A. WACK, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE*

On the twenty-second day of September, Anno Domini MMXXIII

From: Bishop William Wack
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 5:31 PM
To: jgillespie@troopsfullyalive.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Approval of amendment to Statutes of Troops Fully Alive, Inc.

Dear Joseph,

Greetings in the Lord. I have received the advice from Fr. Hector Perez, on the matter of approving the amendments to the Statutes for Troops Fully Alive, Inc. Fr. Perez has no objections to the proposed changes and recommends that I approve them.

Please update the information at the end of the Statutes with the new date of my approval. You may use today's date if you'd like.

Thank you for your good work with our young people. May God bless you in abundance, today and always.

In Christ's Peace,
+Bill



Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
11 N. B. Street
Pensacola, FL 32502
850-435-3520

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Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Office of the Bishop

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July 3, 2019

Attn: Mr. Joseph Gillespie
Troops Fully Alive, Inc.
3828 Shamrock St. West
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Dear Mr. Gillespie,

Greetings. Thank you for sending me the proposed statutes of Troops Fully Alive, Inc. I appreciate the time and effort that went into formulating these statutes, and I am grateful for the presence of Trail Life USA in our Diocese.

I asked the Very Rev. Hector Perez (*Censor Librorum*) to look over the statutes and to give me his opinion. He writes that there is nothing to impede my blessing of the statutes.

Therefore, I am pleased to give my approval to the statutes that you proposed for Troops Fully Alive, Inc.

I ask God's blessing upon you and the young people who will benefit from this Catholic association. I also hope that all of our scouting programs will work together to strengthen our young people, helping them to embrace the Catholic Faith as they grow in virtue and holiness together.

Again, thank you for all of your efforts to build up Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and beyond.

I am,
Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Cc: Lisa Kurnik, Director of Youth Ministry
Rev. Msgr. Michael V. Reed, JCL, Chancellor

About Troops Fully Alive

Troops Fully Alive, Inc., is the national association of the Catholic troops of Trail Life USA—those chartered by parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions. Our purpose is to promote Trail Life USA within the Catholic Church as an effective form of youth ministry. Our vision for the Catholic troops of Trail Life USA is **Troops Fully Alive!** that is, the authentic integration of the Catholic Faith, together with traditional methods of Baden-Powell's movement, in a program that guides young men on their journey to become ordinary saints and prepares them to defend the Faith.

About these Statutes

These statutes (bylaws) govern Troops Fully Alive, Inc., including the purposes, membership, and officers of the association and establishing the association's national executive board, which is known as the **National Trail Life Catholic Committee**.

About Trail Life USA

Founded in 2013, Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered, boy-focused outdoor adventure, character, and leadership development program for boys and young men. The mission of Trail Life USA is to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.



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