

BY-LAWS of MADISON MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sixth Version: ADOPTED March 29, 2021

The Madison Mycological Society is referred to as “Society” or “MMS” throughout the bylaws

1. MAILING ADDRESS AND WEBSITE

The Society's mailing address is 720 Clark Court, Madison WI 53715. Our website is madisonmycologicalsociety.com.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Madison Mycological Society is to foster greater appreciation and knowledge of fungi through public outreach; promote and advance the science of mycology through community science; promote natural resources stewardship and conservation efforts in Wisconsin and beyond; and provide a local mycological resource for community members.

3. MEMBERSHIP

To promote engagement, many Society functions will be free and available to the public. To establish the group's financial security and to offer value-added products, an individual can choose to pay annual dues to become a Member and in doing so gain access to additional privileges.

- a. **Public** – All are cordially invited to attend the Society's lectures, monthly meetings, and forays free of charge as long as attendees comply with the Society's code of ethics (see CODE OF ETHICS below).
- b. **Member** – Any individual can become a Member for prices stipulated in section 4 per year, or for a reduced price for special groups (see PAYMENT OF DUES below). Members will receive discounted or free access to workshops and other events that have a registration fee. Furthermore, events with limited spots for participation will be offered to Members prior to open public registration. Members also have the right to vote for the Board of Directors and for amendments to the bylaws. Dues received between October and December cover the remaining time of the year paid and the entirety of the following year.
- c. **Honorary member** - Honorary Members receive the same privileges as Dues-paying Members but do not pay dues. Honorary membership for one year is available to current elected Board of Director volunteers, presenters, foray leads, and anyone else to whom the Board of Directors extends honorary membership for significant contributions to the Society.

4. PAYMENT OF DUES

Dues payments can be made to the Madison Mycological Society, directly through this [website](#), or at Society sponsored events.

- a. **General Member dues** – \$15 per annum
- b. **Family Member dues** – \$25 per annum for members residing at the same physical location
- c. **Student Member dues** – \$10 per annum for college students with valid student ID; free for high school students
- d. **Lifetime Member dues** – \$100
- e. **Gifts and scholarships** – Any Member may choose to donate funds to a scholarship pool, which will cover the dues of Members who are incapable of paying otherwise.

Individuals desiring dues assistance can submit a written request to the Board of Directors, which will be addressed at the next Board of Directors meeting. Members seeking scholarships will be notified via email of the decision made by the Board of Directors regarding their request.

5. CODE OF ETHICS

Participation and membership in the organization is contingent on adhering to the code of ethics of MMS, which if broken, may result in a request to vacate a function or loss of membership. The MMS Board adheres to the Community Conflict Resolution Plan to handle conflict diligently and respectfully.

- a. MMS and associated events are safe spaces for people of all identities and backgrounds, and as such discrimination will not be tolerated.
 - i. MMS is queer and trans affirming. Members, guests, and attendees will use names, pronouns, and forms of address at all times when disclosed by members, guests etc.
 - ii. When pronouns are not provided by a member, guest, or board member, the assumed default pronoun of an individual is “they.” MMS acknowledges that gender identity and gender performance are fluid, optional, and entirely individualistic. Therefore, no pronoun assumptions such as “he” or “she” are welcome.
 - iii. Names, pronouns, and forms of address language and terminology provided by members and guests will be used at all times, especially in regards to marginalized ethnic or national groups, disabilities, and personal identities.
 - iv. Sexual harassment or intimidation will not be tolerated, including “benevolent sexism,” predatory behavior, or disrespect of personal space.
 - v. MMS stands against white supremacy and colonialist thought. Be mindful of assumptions and internal biases. Be respectful of the land and acknowledge the rights and sovereignty of indigenous peoples. Display or promotion of any white supremacist or nationalist ideology will not be tolerated.
 - vi. MMS welcomes individuals of all abilities, and will strive to make our meetings and events as accessible as possible. Ableism of any kind is not welcome, and any requests for accommodations will be fulfilled to the best of our abilities.
 - vii. MMS is open to all individuals regardless of economic background or status. Membership scholarship is available, and individuals shall not be barred from participation due to financial ability or means.
 - viii. MMS welcomes individuals of all races, languages, legal status, national origins, and backgrounds. Mycology is an important part of many cultures, and varied interpretations and perspectives on fungi are vital to a healthy understanding of mycology. MMS is a safe space for all people, regardless of documentation or citizenship status.
 - ix. Slurs or other hate speech will not be tolerated at any MMS meetings, forays, events, or workshops, nor will any display or promotion of hate groups or associated ideologies.
- b. Respect personal space. Be mindful of how much verbal, emotional, and physical space you are taking up, and work to give others the space to feel safe, speak their mind, and contribute to the Society.

- c. Respect for the land, natural environment, and wild places is paramount. Participants shall abide by the [Guidelines for Ethical Harvest](#) at all times. Participants shall respect local, state, and federal laws in regards to foraging and land use.
- d. Respect host spaces, partner organizations, and speakers by giving due attention, cleaning up after events, and acknowledging contributions of guests and speakers.
- e. The obvious: do not steal from, threaten, intimidate, slander, or otherwise infringe upon the personal autonomy of any other member or guest.
- f. If any participant feels unsafe, or has questions, suggestions, or complaints in regards to this code of ethics or in regards to the behavior of other members, please [contact](#) the Board of Directors. All concerns will be handled privately and respectfully.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING CODE OF ETHICS

- a. Violators will be privately asked to acknowledge and change target behaviors. Mediation or reconciliation may be sought between aggrieved parties if the party that brought up the behavior is inclined for mediation or reconciliation.
- b. If the violator refuses to acknowledge or discontinue target behaviors, they may be asked to leave an event, or MMS as a whole.
- c. MMS reserves the right to bar individuals from the Society or any events based on unresolved past or current behaviors, or any evidence of unresolved behaviors in other spaces.

7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business and affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors.

- a. **Duties – Board members are responsible for the following:**
 - i. Monthly meetings, Bod meetings, Elections, Bylaws, Social media, Random emails, Special events, Community science, Foray organizing, Membership, Newsletter, Merchandise, Community partnerships, Website infrastructure, Website content updates, Social media stuff, Graphic design, Accounting, Fermentation, and more.
- b. **Number and Term.** The Board of Directors shall be approximately 8% of the member population and/or between 5 and 15 people. Board members shall hold office from January 1 through December 31, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Each term is one year.
- c. **Nominations and Elections.** Nominations for Board of Directors and elections will be held by the end of calendar year to allow for training and smooth transition. The nomination period will be announced through the MMS mailing list and on the MMS website and will last two weeks. Those who accept their nominations will be given one week to write a platform for elections. Elections will then be held for one week. A link to the electronic ballot will be sent as an email to current members. Results will be announced through the MMS mailing list and on the website. Any individual, regardless of membership status, can nominate themselves or another for all board positions.
- d. **Vacancies.** Vacancy can remain open, a new candidate can be voted in by special election, or the current board can fill the position on an interim basis.
- e. **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet once per month. Board of Directors members not able to attend will notify another director who will be in attendance in advance of the meeting and review meeting minutes.

- f. **Inactive Members.** Any individuals on the Board of Directors who does not attend Board of Directors meetings nor participates in activities of the Board for a period of three months shall be considered inactive and their position on the board shall be considered vacated.
- g. **Quorum and Voting.** A quorum shall consist of more than half of the standing members of the Board of Directors. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. A majority of votes cast at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be decisive of any question before the meeting.
- h. **Annual Donations.** The Board of Directors is authorized to make a donation of up to 10% of MMS's current funds (rounded to the nearest increment of \$25 if desired plus any necessary transaction fees) once each year to one or more organizations which have missions similar to or aligned with the mission of MMS. Donatees and amounts will be documented publically in [this document](#) and/or madisonmycologicalsociety.com. Donations must follow the following guidelines:
 - i. No board member may personally benefit from a donation (e.g. no board member may receive a donation for personal use).
 - ii. Donatees must have a mission aligned with the purpose of MMS stated in item 2 of these bylaws.
 - iii. Further, each donation must be accompanied with a 25 word minimum explanation of how the donee's mission is aligned to MMS.
 - iv. The Board of Directors may only make a donation if the MMS general fund is greater than or equal to \$500.

8. OTHER POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES

Committees consist of volunteers with a Board of Directors liaison. Any interested individual can [contact MMS](#) to get involved with an existing committee (if space and time permits the inclusion of more committee members, at the discretion of the Board of Directors liaison) or suggest the creation of a new one. Please see the MMS website for a list of current committees and their activities.

9. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- a. **Monthly Meetings** – will be held on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The agenda may include committee check-ins, announcements, and a lecture or event.
- b. **Annual Meeting** – an annual meeting will be held for dues-paying members to discuss organization items for the Society.
 - i. Ten (10) or more members of the Society (or one-half of the members if the number of members shall be less than twenty) present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum, and each member present shall be entitled to one vote. A majority of votes cast at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be decisive of any question before the Society.
- c. **Notice of Meeting** – will be posted in the Society Calendar.

10. CALENDAR

The Society Calendar can be accessed [here](#). All meetings and events will be posted upon approval by the Board of Directors.

11. AMENDMENTS & ANNUAL REVIEW

These bylaws will be reviewed annually after board elections have been completed or by January 1 of the following calendar year, but may be amended in whole or in part at any time either by the members of the Society, or by the Board of Directors, by a majority vote of those present at any annual or special members' or directors' meeting.