



Director Code of Ethics

(approved August 2003; revised September 2010)



PREAMBLE

The Cycad Society (TCS) Board of Directors is a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds, professional affiliations, and belief systems. The board of directors is committed to serving the members of the society and the cycad community at large through promoting ethical practices and accountability. In an effort to gain and maintain the members' trust, the directors embrace the ethical values and principles set forth below.

RESOLUTION

- Whereas TCS is a non-profit organization; and
- Whereas non-profit organizations serve the public good; and
- Whereas service is built upon the public's trust; and
- Whereas the public expects high standards of conduct in return for its trust;

Be it resolved that TCS Board of Directors has developed this Director Code of Ethics subscribed to by all of its directors.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission and Programs

- Directors shall support cycad conservation, education, and research.
- Directors shall read, support, and uphold the TCS Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.
- Directors shall respect and support the decisions of the board.
- Directors shall approach all board issues with an open mind.
- Directors shall carry out TCS programs and services with the utmost professionalism and respect for every person that the programs and services serve.
- Directors shall aspire to making TCS programs and services available to everyone who could benefit from them.
- Directors shall appropriately evaluate TCS programs and projects to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
- Directors shall be diligent in assuring that the mission of TCS continues to be relevant.

Integrity and Conflict of Interest

- Directors shall always act in the best interest of TCS.
- Directors shall develop written policies that prevent actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest on the part of the directors or members.
- Directors shall not receive monetary or material benefit as a result of direct official participation in TCS.
- Directors shall disclose to the board of directors any interests that they may have with a business or proposal to do business with TCS.
- Directors shall refrain from disclosing confidential information acquired during the course of their official duties.

- Directors shall not use information obtained from TCS to further their personal interests.
- Directors shall not engage in negotiations with companies doing business with TCS without the knowledge and consent of the board of directors.
- Directors shall be professional and civically minded in their behavior at all times, based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law.
- Directors shall not knowingly violate any local, state, federal, or international laws or treaties related or pertaining to cycads.
- Directors shall only exercise their authority as directors during board meetings and official correspondence (whether electronic or physical) or as so delegated by the board.

Governing Body

- Directors shall represent the public's interest in the society's mission and ensure that all actions are carried out to engender the public's trust.
- Directors shall ensure that all printed and electronic matter released through the society meets all aspects of this Director Code of Ethics.

Conduct

- Directors shall conduct themselves professionally and ethically so as not to give the impression that any person can influence them or unduly enjoy favor from them with regard to the performance of their official duties.
- Directors shall conduct themselves professionally and ethically at all times in public forums (e.g., cycad-related e-groups).

Human Resources

- Directors shall ensure that systems are in place which effectively orient, train, and evaluate new directors and officers.
- Directors have an obligation to ensure the commitment of future directors to TCS's mission and effectiveness of their service.

Fundraising

- Directors' fundraising practices shall be consistent with the mission, compatible with organizational capacity, and respectful of donor interests. All fundraising programs shall reflect a foundation of truthfulness and responsible stewardship.
- Directors shall honor the intentions of the donor and the confidential nature of the donor-recipient relationship.
- Directors shall ensure that policies are in place to govern acceptance and disposition of gifts.
- Directors shall exercise control over all individuals and organizations known to be soliciting contribution(s) on their behalf.

Penalty for Misconduct

- In addition to any penalty contained in provisions of law, any director who knowingly and intentionally violates any provision of this Director Code of Ethics may, by majority vote of the board, be suspended or removed from their position, pending legal resolution of the matter in question.
- In the event of any misconduct, misadministration, or malfeasance in position or office, a director or officer may be removed from position or office in accordance with the TCS Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Amendments

- Once accepted, this Director Code of Ethics may only be amended by a majority vote of the board after the amendment has been considered and discussed during a meeting of the board of directors.

The original Director Code of Ethics was approved and implemented by the TCS Board of Directors in August 2003. This revised version was approved and implemented by the board in September 2010.

Signed by the Current
President:



Signed by the Current
Recording Secretary:

