

## **Board Resolution on Non-Violent Civil Disobedience**

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The Board recognizes the usefulness and importance of non-violent civil disobedience in promoting social change. Non-violent civil disobedience has helped to secure **and protect** the right to vote for women and African Americans. It's helped to end segregation and enact child labor laws. In the United States and around the world, peaceful "direct action" has been used to support human rights, protect our land, air and water, and fight climate change. The Sierra Club believes that the strategic use of non-violent civil disobedience can be an important tool in advancing our mission.

Non-violent civil disobedience is also a tactic that comes with a greater degree of organizational risks and need for caution. It is a tool that should be used sparingly and under special circumstances. Therefore, the board amends the Standing Rule 2.2.1 to address how it plans to proceed with reviewing and approving select acts of civil disobedience in the name of the Sierra Club.

Applications will be accepted only from Chapters, the Sierra Student Coalition, National Campaign Committees or the staff Executive Team. All group requests should go through their chapters. All staff requests should go through their department head to the Executive Team.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of the President, Vice President and Executive Director or his designee. To be considered by the full Board, an application must be approved by at least two of the three member committee.

### **SR. 2.2.1: Non-violent Civil Disobedience**

The Board recognizes the usefulness of non-violent civil disobedience in promoting social change. The Board reserves the right and has established a process to review and approve proposed acts of non-violent civil disobedience in the name of the Sierra Club. In doing so, the Board has interpreted the provisions of the Club's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaw 2.2 relating to "all lawful means" as not prohibiting the Club from engaging in limited non-violent civil disobedience as contemplated by this Standing Rule and the associated policy and application. No Sierra Club entity, leader or staff member may conduct civil disobedience in the name of the Sierra Club without express Board approval.

(a) Risking arrest is a personal decision. The Sierra Club will not direct any person to violate the law.

(b) The Sierra Club recognizes that it cannot control the private actions of its members, and in particular cannot prevent its members from engaging in acts of civil disobedience. However, no member of the Sierra Club is authorized to use, display, or invoke the Sierra Club's name or logo (including the name of any chapter, group, or other entity of the Sierra Club) in connection with committing any violation of the law, unless the act of civil disobedience has been approved by the Board of Directors.

(c) If there is a coalition event such as a march, rally, protest etc. that is peaceful and lawful, but where a subset of the participants plan to participate in an act of civil disobedience in association with the event; the Sierra Club may endorse, organize support for, and participate in the event, but it may not use Sierra Club resources to promote participation specifically in the civil disobedience activity without the express approval of the Board of Directors.

Resolution of 11/15/92; amended and adopted as a SR. 05/2/93; amended 05/19-20/06, 02/24/07; amended 11/16/13; amended 2/25/17.

