

Texas A&M Lone Survivor
Foundation Chapter
Constitution

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter is to raise awareness about the invisible wounds of our soldiers coming home, help them overcome those wounds, and give them the resources to truly heal.

Name of Organization:

Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter

Abbreviation:

TAMU LSF

Purpose and Goals:

The Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter is the first and only collegiate chapter of the Lone Survivor Foundation, and is 100% student led. Our purpose is to spread awareness of not only visible wounds of war, but invisible wounds as well. We aim to serve our nation's heroes by working closely with the Lone Survivor Foundation. Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter plans to accomplish this by raising funds for therapeutic wellness retreats at no cost to the veterans and their families. Abiding by the mission statement, we plan to host a philanthropy event in the spring semester, participate in the The Big Event, and constantly fundraise through various means (i.e. PR items sales, concessions, donations from other student organizations, donations from business within the Bryan/College Station area, etc.), all while extending awareness of the Lone Survivor story.

Membership Eligibility, Standards, and Requirements:

Members must be:

- a) An undergraduate or graduate student at Texas A&M University
- b) A faculty member of Texas A&M University
- c) A community member of Bryan/College Station
- d) A former student of Texas A&M University
- e) A student at Blinn College

A veteran affairs tutorial will be posted on the website. This tutorial will go into detail about communication with veterans, active duty military, as well as their families. Our goal is to provide proper communication tools for our members so that we can properly engage in the healing process while also respecting each veteran.

**Leadership Eligibility, Standards, and Requirements
(excluding grade requirements):**

Any student applying for a leadership position should have prior experience with veterans or active duty members of the military (i.e. family members, volunteering with veterans, working with previous veterans organizations, having a personal relationship with a veteran, etc.). Only students/staff at Texas A&M University and Blinn College will be eligible to run/hold an officer position. Individuals that are selected for leadership positions are expected to uphold the core values of Texas

A&M, the core values of the Lone Survivor Foundation, as well as follow all rules and guidelines set within the foundation and the University at all times.

Disciplining and/or Removing an Officer:

An officer is subject to disciplinary action or removal if:

- a) He or she is not upholding the core values of Texas A&M University or the Lone Survivor Foundation.
- b) He or she has caused harm (physical or emotional) to another officer, member, veteran, veteran family member, or fellow volunteer of the Foundation.
- c) He or she has not followed the Lone Survivor Foundation rules when engaging with veterans and their families.
- d) He or she has diminished the name of the Lone Survivor Foundation, Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter, Texas A&M University, and veterans alike.
- e) He or she has failed to follow the rules established by the Foundation and the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter.
- f) He or she has failed to fulfill their duty as an officer or refused to comply with organizational needs.

If any of the previous infractions have occurred, the officer will be notified of the issue. The officer will have 72 hours to discuss the issue with the Chief Student Leader, Secondary Student Leader, and/or Faculty Advisor. The officer will be allowed to bring one consultant to the meeting with the fellow officers to help present their case. Based on the discussion with the executive officers, the removal or disciplinary actions will be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Disciplining and/or Removing a Member:

A member is subject to disciplinary action and/or removal if:

- a) He or she is not upholding the core values of Texas A&M University or the Lone Survivor Foundation.
- b) He or she has caused harm (physical or emotional) to another officer, member, veteran, veteran family member, or fellow volunteer of the foundation.
- c) He or she has not followed the Lone Survivor Foundation rules when engaging with veterans and their families
- d) He or she has diminished the name of the Lone Survivor Foundation, Texas A&M Chapter of the Lone Survivor Foundation, Texas A&M University, and veterans alike.
- e) He or she has failed to follow the rules established by the foundation and the Texas A&M LSF Chapter

If any of the previous infractions have occurred, the member will be notified of the issue. The member will have 72 hours to discuss the issue with the Chief Student Leader, Secondary student leader, and/or faculty advisor. The member will be allowed to bring one consultant to the meeting with the officers to help present

their case. Based on the discussion with the executive officers, the removal or disciplinary actions will be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Officer Selections:

The officer team will include five positions. The officer selection process will take place at the end of the **fall** semester. The current officers will meet with the Advisors and select the positions in order of the tiered system. Elections will be at a designated officer meeting each fall semester before finals/winter break. The Advisor will play a critical role in the process to assure that a fair and just voting process occurs. It is the organization member's responsibility to apply for positions within in the officer staff. It is the responsibility of the current members to choose the new officer members who will begin their term beginning in the **spring** semester.

- a) Each position will be open for election [unless otherwise stated by the Advisor].
- b) Candidates may choose to run for more than one position, however they can only hold one position per term.

If an officer is removed or feels that they cannot continue on in their current position, the Chief Student Leader and Advisor will make an appointment for the vacant position.

Specific Duties for Leadership Positions:

Executive of Organizational Affairs and Head Executive (Chief Student Leader):

The Executive of Organizational Affairs will be the liaison to The Lone Survivor Foundation personnel. This includes but is not limited to: approving any and all events, fundraisers, signing checks to send to the Foundation, approving logo designs, working with the Foundation by selecting volunteers, working at Lone Survivor events outside of the Texas A&M campus, and keeping board members, staff members, and other volunteers of the Lone Survivor Foundation up to date at all times on upcoming events, fundraisers, etc. The Executive of Organizational Affairs will also have the final approval on events, fundraisers, and anything else seeking approval. The executive is expected to follow the rules and guidelines expected by the Lone Survivor Foundation and is subject to the character of the "Never Quit" attitude.

Executive of Student Affairs and Secondary Executive (Secondary Student Leader):

The Executive of Student Affairs will be required to keep constant communication with the students at Texas A&M University. If the Chief Student Leader is unable to facilitate an event, the Secondary Student Leader will step in. This position will also be in charge with constantly updating the website. In addition, all events, fundraisers, and any social gatherings that are put on by the Texas A&M chapter will be announced to the students via email, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other means of communication that they see necessary. The executive is expected to portray the "Never Quit" attitude of the Lone Survivor Foundation to the students of Texas A&M and welcome them into the volunteering community. Proper communication with soldiers and their families will also be discussed by the

executive as well as proper attitudes when working with them and Foundation personnel.

Executive of Finance (Treasurer):

The Executive of Finance will be responsible for the collection of money at all fundraisers, events, profit shares, etc. They will also be responsible for working with the finance department in the Student Activities Office to write all checks to Lone Survivor, or to collect money for personal fundraising of the organization. Each semester, the Executive of Finance must make sure that the organization remains in good terms with SOFC.

Executives of Veterans Affairs:

The Executives of Veterans Affairs will be the primary link with the Student Veterans Association President along with any other veteran organizations on campus and in the community. This two person committee will be comprised of a student veteran and a traditional student. The executives will be responsible for looking for veteran speakers or active duty personnel to come speak at meetings, hold workshops, events, etc. The previous Student Veteran Liaison will appoint the next student veteran to take his place. The Chief Student Leader and Advisor will review this decision. The year round job of this position will be in charge of the application process for the Veteran Football Game family. During the selection process, the Executive of Veterans Affairs will maintain contact with all officers, the Lone Survivor Foundation, and advisor about the candidates. A decision will be made amongst the officers, advisor, and the Lone Survivor Foundation to ensure a fair and just process of the family selection occurs. The executive will maintain and promote the application and update it every year to ensure a fair selection process.

Eligibility Requirements:

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

(a) Have a minimum cumulative and semester grade point ratio (GPR) as stated below and meet that minimum cumulative and semester GPR in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.

1. For undergraduate students, the minimum cumulative and semester GPR is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under

consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

2. For graduate level students the minimum cumulative and semester GPR is a 3.00 and for first professional students the minimum cumulative and semester GPR is 2.50. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for

the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.

(b) Be in good standing (see 27.1.4) with the university and enrolled:

1. at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office. Students enrolled in the Blinn TEAM program are also eligible to hold an office, as long as the student is meeting all applicable Blinn TEAM requirements and is in good standing with the program.
2. at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.

(c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

Financial Procedures:

All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Student Organization Finance Center and/or the Fiscal Office. All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection. The advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Advisor Expectations:

Advisor expectations are as follows:

- a) Facilitate intelligent, fair, and reasonable discussion with the leadership.
- b) Be trained and knowledgeable about the student rules related to student organizations, and be a great resource about policies and procedures.
- c) Have access to the current guiding documents and policies for the student organization.
- d) Be available for advice and consultation.
- e) Be aware of the organization's financial status.
- f) Approve organization expenditures.

Philanthropy Goals:

- a) In the fall semester of each school year, the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter will host a tailgate on the day of the Veterans Appreciation game. This tailgate will be for veterans and their families to attend as well as members of organization and any patron of the football game. A budget for the tailgate will be established for this event.

- b) Each football season, it is a goal for the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter to host a veteran along with their family. A budget will be set aside during the Fall Semester for this event. A decision will be made amongst the officers, advisor, and the Lone Survivor Foundation to ensure a fair and just process of selection.
- c) The Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter has adopted a street within the community. The chapter will go out at least once a semester to pick up all trash on Glenhaven Dr. and keep it clean.
- d) Once a semester, Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter will go out to the College Station Cemetery to clean up veterans' graves and display a small American flag around the grave sites. A group of volunteers already puts out American flags on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. We will make sure our flags are removed a week in advance and then help this group of volunteers with their established tradition.
- e) Each Spring Semester, the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter will participate in the Big Event as an organization.
- f) Each Spring semester, the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter will help organize, set up, and facilitate the PRS Lone Survivor Foundation Benefit Match.
- g) Every year, the Texas A&M Lone Survivor Foundation Chapter will attempt to raise \$500 dedicated to the Lone Survivor Foundation.

Constitutional Amendment Procedure:

Amendments to the constitution will be presented to the advisor for final review. From there on will be decided if the amendment will pass. This constitution must be reviewed annually and subject to the approval of the Department of Student Activities.

Edited 7/4/2018