



Grassroots Network Support Team Charge March 25, 2015

The purpose of having a charge is so that we are clear on what unites the Grassroots Network Support and focuses our work; it gives us a consistent way to describe the work of the Grassroots Network Support Team (GNST) to both internal and external stakeholders.

The charge below is informed by the Board document, Organizational Change Steering Committee - Project Renewal Proposal - 2/12/08 and by the discussions the GNST had on 1/31/15.

GRASSROOTS NETWORK OVERVIEW

According to the document referenced above, the (Activist) Grassroots Network. . .*will support a spectrum of activists, including those who want: (1) to connect with local, chapter, and national campaigns that have existing leadership and funding; (2) to find other activists who share their interest, but do not seek Club resources or independent authority to speak on behalf of the Club in their work; and (3) to carry out ongoing work that requires either Club resources and/or the authority to speak on behalf of the Club, such as submitting comments or giving testimony for the Club on regulatory matters. The third form of activism will occur in and be supported by Issue Teams, Project or Regional Working Teams, and an Activist Network Support Team.*

GRASSROOTS (ACTIVIST) NETWORK SUPPORT TEAM

According to the document referenced above, the primary function of the Grassroots (Activist) Network Support Team . . . *will provide robust ongoing support for Issue Teams, working groups, and individual activists, especially as more and more Network functions are put in place. Support for Network activists will include communicating with other activists, developing plans and projects for high-impact both online and on-the-ground, and leveraging the work of activists throughout the Network.*

PROPOSED GRASSROOTS NETWORK SUPPORT TEAM CHARGE

With this context from the Board document which established the Grassroots Network and Grassroots Network Support Team . . . and informed by the Support Team conversation which occurred 1/31/15. . .I am proposing the following Support Team Charge.

The Grassroots Network Support Team (GNST) has overall responsibility for nurturing and providing leadership to ensure vibrant and impactful Grassroots Network set of activities. Specific duties include:

1. **COORDINATION & EFFECTIVENESS** – the GNST is responsible for the overall coordination and effectiveness of the Grassroots Network, its teams and their projects;

2. **LIAISON ROLE WITH TEAMS/PROJECTS/CLUB STAKEHOLDERS** – GNST should strive to ensure effective and timely communications among GN Teams, Projects, and Club stakeholders (e.g., the SC Board of Directors, National Campaigns, Programs, etc.).
3. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** – the GNST has responsibility for sound fiscal stewardship of Club financial resources allocated to the Grassroots Network to support team and project activities.
4. **REPORTING** – The GNST is responsible for reporting on activities, successes, and “learnings” from Grassroots Network team and project work.
5. **TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE RESOURCES** – the GNST works to ensure Grassroots Network teams and projects have the technology and online collaboration, reporting, and social media tools necessary to effectively carry out team objectives and project work.
6. **TRAINING** – the GNST will work to provide relevant training for Grassroots Network leaders, teams, and projects, either directly or by connecting with other Club offerings. Training will include (but not be limited to): effective campaign work, effective team building work, capacity building, organizing, communications, and issue expertise.
7. **GRANT REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT** – The Sierra Club Board of Directors has provided the Grassroots Network with a source of revenue to fund the work of Grassroots Network teams and projects. GNST is responsible for reviewing grant applications, deciding those applications to be funded, and overseeing implementation of the grants to Grassroots Network teams and projects.
8. **LEADER/ACTIVIST RECRUITMENT** – GNST will work to ensure that the Network provides opportunities for the recruitment and engagement of leaders and activists especially around issues not under the jurisdiction of one of the Sierra Club’s national priority campaigns *and that those Teams who may work on subset concern of an overall Campaign do so in collaboration with the Campaign*. The GNST will work to ensure all Grassroots Network teams and projects are diverse and inclusive in their approach.
9. **INNOVATION AND NEW TEAMS** -- GNST will support innovation in projects and constituency engagement by existing Teams and by encouraging the creation of Teams.

Definitions of Terms

- **Issue Teams** are Charged Teams which may: a) represent the Club publicly; b) develop guidance documents; c) identify and take nationally significant action; d) request budgets (recall this was a topic we mentioned as to whether these Teams had to always function via proposals); e) speak to policy revisions and accountability.
- **Project Teams** are local uncharged Teams.
- **Working Teams** are regional or national uncharged Teams.