

North American Bluebird Society, Inc.

Code of Ethics

The North American Bluebird Society, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as “NABS” or “the Society”), is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Maryland. NABS is grounded in the tradition of public service and is operated in the public interest. The Society, its information and its material goods are held as a benefit for the public and its services are provided as a benefit for the public. Persons having important responsibilities in formulating and/or administering policies and procedures governing NABS and its programs have a duty and obligation to preserve and protect the public interest by operating the Society in accordance with ethical and applicable legal standards. Those persons include all Officers, other Board Members and persons who chair NABS committees, (hereinafter referred to as “NABS officials”). This Code of Ethics is intended to provide guidance for these NABS officials and other persons who may accept NABS responsibilities.

NABS officials are the governing authority of NABS and are thus responsible for serving the public interest as it relates to the conduct of the Society’s missions and programs. Public education and member services are principal activities of the Society and are significant means by which NABS carries out its environmental conservation purposes of preserving and furthering the study of bluebirds and other native cavity nesting bird species. The Board is accountable to the appropriate public agencies as well as to the Society and acts as the ultimate legal authority for NABS. The Board stands responsible for the formulation of general policy and the supervision of that policy implementation. The Board is also responsible for the protection and enhancement of NABS programs and its intellectual, physical, human and financial resources. As a champion of bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds which are part of the world’s common wealth, NABS seeks to advance an understanding of the human experience by fostering an informed appreciation of these creatures and by striving to assure their survival for posterity.

In their capacity of trust, NABS officials shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity and honor. Every member of the Board or chair of a NABS committee which bears on the operation of a NABS program, as part of their fiduciary responsibility, subscribes to the following principles. NABS officials must understand and support the mission of NABS and its public responsibilities. NABS officials are expected to devote sufficient time and attention to the affairs of the Society to assure that it operates in accordance with applicable International, Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, especially the regulations of the United States Internal Revenue Service relating to organizations such as NABS which enjoy tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NABS officials must conduct their personal and outside affairs in such a way that no conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest will arise between their other interests and the interests of NABS. It is incumbent upon any NABS official to disqualify himself/herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists. Whenever a matter arises for action by the Board involving a conflict between the interests of the Society and the interests of a NABS official, those interests shall be disclosed, made a part of the record and the individual should abstain from any Board voting on that matter. NABS Conflict of Interest Policy should be referred to for further details on this topic.

NABS officials who accept NABS responsibilities are expected to diligently perform all of the functions and commitments of their positions. Such duties may include attending regular and special meetings, listening attentively to other participants and paying due respect to their opinions, participating in the proceedings, preparing for such meetings by reading material distributed beforehand, fulfilling commitments within agreed upon deadlines, being reasonably accessible to other NABS officials as necessary, maintaining knowledge of current NABS policies and programs and assisting in NABS fund raising efforts.

By their actions and statements, NABS officials must clearly distinguish their personal philosophies and attitudes from those of the institution and should acknowledge, respect and support majority decisions of the Board even if they personally disagree. It is a goal of the NABS organization to function as a team enterprise and toward that purpose, all official actions should be taken as a Board, committee or subcommittee. All such actions shall be conducted in conformance with the NABS Bylaws and Constitution as well as established policies of the Society and resolutions of the Board.

NABS officials must respect the confidential and proprietary nature of NABS business and shall maintain in confidence any information learned or obtained during the course of their official activities. This does not preclude the public disclosure of information which is properly in the public domain or information that should be released in response to the requirements of an appropriate public agency in order to fulfil the requirements of public accountability or to be in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.