

Athens Technical College Backpack Bridge Club Handbook

Advisors

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The Backpack Bridge Club is a student organization open to all students enrolled in Adult Education or Athens Technical College’s Cognia-accredited high school, ATC Academy (either in the Career Plus or Dual Achievement Programs).

Mission: The Backpack Bridge Program exists to provide Adult Education and ATC Academy students at Athens Technical College with opportunities for leadership development, cultural enrichment, and community service as a foundation for future academic and career success.

The goals of the Backpack Bridge Club are:

- To develop professional and leadership skills of all members
- To emphasize character development and ethical conduct
- To provide opportunities for members to learn and address the needs and concerns of college life and their community
- To provide opportunities for members to serve as ambassadors for Athens Technical College at school functions
- To expose students to new cultural experiences
- To promote better relations between all students campus wide through a framework of friendship and service

Membership

- The membership of this club is voluntary and shall consist of eligible students in good academic standing with Athens Technical College.
- Each member of the Backpack Bridge Club must attend at least 50% of the club’s regularly scheduled meetings each year (unless class schedule prohibits attendance).
- Membership will automatically terminate upon graduation, failure to meet attendance requirements, or failure to maintain academic good standing.
- Membership may also be terminated by club advisors if a student violates Athens Technical College’s codes of conduct.

Elections

- Elections for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be held annually prior to June 1. Those elected will take office on July 1.
- Nominations of officers will be made by the Advisors. Candidates will be selected by secret ballot, with majority rule.
- The office term is for one year, from July 1 - June 30. Consecutive term limit for a single role is two terms.

Duties of Officers

- Advisor - Advisor(s) are appointed by the Vice President of Adult Education and Institutional Effectiveness, with the approval of the president of Athens Technical College. The Advisor is a critical part of the club's functioning and structure. The Advisor sets the tone for the club and oversees all of its operations.
- President - The president will preside at all meetings of the club. He/she will make all committee appointments. He/she will be an ex officio member of all committees. He/she will maintain communication with the club advisor(s) to ensure they are continually informed of all actions taken by the club.
- Vice-President- The vice-president will succeed to the office of president in the event of removal of the president for whatever cause, and in the absence of the president, will preside at club meetings.
- Secretary- The secretary will maintain all club records. He/she will keep minutes of all club meetings and will provide said minutes to the club advisors.
- Treasurer- The treasurer will have custody of all club funds, maintaining all necessary records. He/she will report on the club's financial status at each meeting of the club and will hold all records available for inspection by any club member. All disbursement will contain the signature of the Advisor and one authorized officer.

Meetings

- The Advisor(s) sets regular meeting dates, times, and places. The Advisor alone has the authority to set and/or cancel meetings. In addition to regular club meetings, the Advisor has the authority to call executive meetings to handle business of the club.
- Meetings of the club will not be more than once a month and at a time and place suited to the convenience of the membership.
- A majority of club members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meetings of the club.

Fees and Dues

- There are no fees or dues for Backpack Bridge Club.
- Fees and dues may be deemed necessary from a majority vote of the membership.

Committees

- The president, in consultation with the Advisor, may appoint any or all of the following standing committees:
 - Club service
 - Community service
 - Professional development
 - Fundraising

Amendments

- These by-laws may be amended by majority vote of the members at any regular or special meeting of the club at which a quorum is present.

Non-Discrimination Policy

- The Backpack Bridge Club adheres to the non-discrimination policy of Athens Technical College. The policy reads: “Athens Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, veteran status, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law)”