



SGO Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws templates:

Kentucky example of Articles of Incorporation for a SGO

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF:

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION], INC.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the corporation is [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], Inc.

ARTICLE II – DURATION

The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

More specifically, the organization shall operate as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) to:

- Receive charitable contributions
- Award scholarships to eligible K–12 students to pay for qualified elementary and secondary education expenses

The organization shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws governing SGOs, including:

- Providing scholarships based on objective and nondiscriminatory criteria
- Serving eligible students from qualifying households
- Ensuring funds are used only for qualified educational expenses

ARTICLE IV – LIMITATIONS

No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual

The organization shall not:

- Participate in political campaigns
- Engage in substantial lobbying
- Allow scholarships to be awarded to disqualified persons, including board members officers, or substantial donors or their family members

No contribution shall be earmarked for a specific student.

ARTICLE V – PUBLIC CHARITY STATUS

The corporation intends to qualify as a public charity under Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not operate as a private foundation.

ARTICLE VI – REGISTERED AGENT

The registered agent and office shall be:

[NAME + KY ADDRESS]

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The number of directors shall not be fewer than three (3). The initial directors are:

[List names and addresses]

ARTICLE VIII – INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the incorporator:

[Name + Address]

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution, assets shall be distributed exclusively for charitable purposes to organizations qualified under Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE X – SCHOLARSHIP COMPLIANCE

The organization shall:

- Award scholarships to at least ten (10) students across multiple schools
- Use at least 90% of revenue for scholarships
- Maintain separate accounting for scholarship funds
- Ensure scholarships are not used for impermissible private benefit

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the incorporator has executed these Articles on this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Kentucky example of Bylaws for a SGO

BYLAWS OF [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], INC.

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

This organization exists to operate a Scholarship Granting Organization providing financial assistance to eligible K–12 students.

ARTICLE II – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Minimum of 3 directors.

Section 2: Majority must be independent of any school board (no school board members on the SGO Board, no compensation, no family relationships).

Section 3: Duties include oversight of scholarships, finances, and compliance.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

President, Treasurer, and a Secretary are required.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

- At least 2 meetings annually
- Quorum = majority of board

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

A Scholarship Selection Committee shall:

- Be independent from donors
- Evaluate applications using objective criteria
- Document all decisions

ARTICLE VI – SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

The organization shall:

- Award scholarships only based on objective and nondiscriminatory criteria
- Verify applicant eligibility (income, school eligibility)
- Prohibit donor designation of recipients
- Maintain records of awards and usage
- Require funds to be used for qualified educational expenses

ARTICLE VII – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Board members must disclose conflicts
- Recusal required for any related decision
- No scholarships to insiders or related parties

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- At least 90% of revenue must be used for scholarships
- Maintain separate accounting for restricted donations
- Annual financial review required

ARTICLE IX – INDEMNIFICATION

Standard nonprofit indemnification clause

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

By majority vote of the board