

# **RPNC MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

## **A. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Eligible nonprofits must:**

- Remain in Good Standing with the Arkansas Secretary of State.
- Align with and actively support RPNC's mission and objectives.
- Operate statewide or show a significant impact within Arkansas.
- Demonstrate a primary mission of serving military personnel, veterans, and first responder communities without discrimination.
- Be incorporated as a nonprofit in Arkansas and qualify under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3) or be a local chapter of a national nonprofit with an Arkansas office.
- All member organizations are required to obtain a Candid Seal of Transparency – starting with Bronze as a new charity organization and must progress to the next levels to show their supporters a commitment to best practices, public trust and operational excellence. ([www.candid.org](http://www.candid.org))

All member organizations agree to support cross-promotion and mutual benefit among the network. This includes shared access to events, programs, and opportunities that advance collaboration and mission alignment.

Member organizations agree to:

- Offer RPNC and the other member organizations the first right of refusal for booth space or tabling opportunities at public events.
- Extend discounted or complimentary tickets to RPNC member organizations and their representatives for events, programs, and training sessions.
- Notify RPNC in advance of such opportunities to allow for proper communication and promotion across the network.

These guidelines ensure all members benefit from shared visibility, reduced costs, and stronger collaboration.

## **B. Categories of Membership**

### **1. Membership Tiers**

#### **a. Pillar Members (Established Organizations)**

**Eligibility:** At least 2 years in operation, exclusively serving military personnel, veterans, and first responders.

**Initial Certification:** Must hold at least a Silver Candid rating upon application.

**Advancement Requirement:** Must work to achieve Gold or Platinum Candid rating within the first year of membership.

**Ongoing Commitment:** Pursue higher Candid certifications continuously to maintain high transparency standards.

#### **b. Pathfinder Members (Emerging Organizations)**

**Eligibility:** Fewer than 2 years in operation, exclusively serving military personnel, veterans, and first responders.

**Initial Certification:** Must hold at least a Bronze Candid rating upon application.

**Advancement Requirement:** Must work to achieve Silver or Gold Candid rating within the first year.

**Ongoing Commitment:** Strive to advance to higher certification levels as the organization grows.

### **c. Provisional Members (Non 501(c)(3) Applicants)**

**Eligibility:** Organizations that have not yet applied for 501(c)(3) status or that have applied for 501(c)(3) status but have not yet received IRS approval.

**Membership Status:** Temporary, pending IRS determination.

**Transparency & Standards:** Adhere to all RPNC standards, including Bronze-level transparency measures.

**Post-Approval Expectation:** Must obtain at least a Bronze Candid rating within the first year after 501(c)(3) approval.

### **d. Affiliate Members**

**Eligibility:** 501(c)(3) organizations whose work is not exclusive to military personnel, veterans or first responders but complement RPNC's mission by providing services that can assist our clients (e.g., mental health, homelessness, career services).

**Initial Certification:** Must demonstrate direct impact and hold at least a Silver Candid rating.

**Advancement Requirement:** Must pursue Gold or Platinum Candid rating as part of continuous improvement.

**Ongoing Commitment:** Maintain high transparency and accountability standards aligned with RPNC's mission.

## **2. Supporting Partners**

**Eligibility:** Entities that support RPNC's mission via funding, resources, or advocacy, including:

**a. Governmental Partners:** Local, state, or federal agencies.

**b. Business Partners:** Businesses contributing sponsorship, services, or in-kind donations.

**c. Wellness Partners:** Wellness partners that address unique mental, physical, and emotional needs across diverse sectors such as Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and Chaplain Corps.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** All Governmental, Business and Wellness partners must enter an MOU with RPNC outlining partnership terms.

## **3. Individual RPNC Volunteers**

**Eligibility:** Individuals, sixteen years or older, committed to supporting the mission of RPNC and its member organizations. Must be aligned with military, veteran, or first responder communities.

**Status:** Non-voting, service-based affiliation.

**Commitment & Conduct:** Uphold RPNC values of integrity, service, and accountability. Participate in approved projects and trainings.

**Engagement Expectation:** Maintain active participation in at least one service project or mission annually.

## **C. Selection, Rights, and Tenure**

**Voting Rights:**

All Member Organizations and Support Partners have voting rights with one vote per organization.

**Membership Tenure:** Ongoing unless terminated under Section F.

**Access to Resources:** All members and partners have access to RPNC's resources, training courses, and programs for their entire leadership staff.

**Tier Adjustment for Non-Compliance:** Organizations lacking the required Candid transparency certification may be reclassified to a lower tier until compliance is achieved. Future elevation is contingent upon meeting certification standards.

**d. Conditions and Responsibilities of Membership****Members must:**

- Adhere to RPNC's Code of Ethics, mission, and foundational policy statements.
- Contribute financial or in-kind resources to support RPNC's objectives.
- Provide annual updates on organizational status and leadership.
- Pay annual membership fee as determined by the Board.
- Participate in at least one RPNC committee yearly.
- Attend regular, special, and emergency business meetings as required.

**e. Membership Application Procedures**

1. Applicants must submit a completed application with requested attachments through the RPNC website.
2. The RPNC leadership reviews applications for compliance.
3. Applying to join the Rally Point Nonprofit Council (RPNC) does not guarantee acceptance. We take our responsibility seriously and conduct due diligence to ensure all applicants operate in good standing, follow best practices, and reflect the values of our network. We ask for detailed information not just to vet your organization, but to understand where we can help. Your responses allow us to identify the right support, services, and opportunities that match your mission and strengthen your impact. A determination for membership approval will be made within seven business days.
4. If the application is denied due to cause, an email notification will be sent by the Executive Director to the organizational point of contact with the reasons for the decision and a full refund of any fees will be given.

**f. Dues**

- Members must pay annual dues within one calendar year of joining.
- Dues support RPNC administrative expenses and member resources.
- In case of dissolution of RPNC, any remaining funds are disbursed to Pillar and Pathfinder Members, as determined by the Board.

**g. Termination of Membership**

Membership may be terminated by:

- Voluntary Resignation – Written notice to the Board.
- Board Action – A two-thirds (2/3) Board vote for:
- Repeated failure to meet membership conditions.
- Actions contrary to RPNC's mission.

- Non-Response – Automatic termination for failing to respond to a membership compliance inquiry within 30 days.

#### **h. Meeting Attendance**

A representative from each member organization must attend most regular and special meetings.

I acknowledge that applying to join RPNC does not guarantee acceptance and that RPNC takes the responsibility seriously to conduct due diligence to ensure all applicants operate in good standing, follow best practices, and reflect the values of our network.

RPNC requests detailed information not just to vet your organization, but to understand where we can help. Your responses allow us to identify the right support, services, and opportunities that match your mission and strengthen your impact.

A determination for membership approval will be made within seven business days