

Mission, Credo, & Code of Ethics

Mission

To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.

Credo

We adopt as our credo the belief that as stewards of Hostelling International USA, which has been established for public benefit and has legal standing for that purpose, we have accepted a public trust to abide by high standards of performance and ethical behavior.

Code of Ethics

Hostelling International USA standards of performance and ethical behavior are represented by the following values in which we believe:

- **Commitment beyond self** is at the core of a civil society;
- **Adherence to the laws**, including those governing tax exempt philanthropic and voluntary organizations, is a fundamental responsibility of stewardship;
- **Commitment beyond the law**, to obedience to the unenforceable, is the higher obligation of philanthropic and voluntary organizations;
- **Commitment to the public good** requires those who presume to serve the public good to assume a public trust;
- **Respect for the worth and dignity of individuals** is a special leadership responsibility of philanthropic and voluntary organizations;
- **Tolerance, diversity and social justice** reflect Hostelling International USA' rich heritage and the essential protections afforded it;
- **Accountability to the public** is a fundamental responsibility of public benefit organizations;
- **Openness and honesty** in reporting, fundraising and relationships with all constituencies are essential behaviors for organizations that seek and use public or private funds and that purport to serve public purposes; and,
- **Prudent application of resources** is integral to public trust.

Adopted 11 September 1994

1. Adopted by the National Board of Directors at its meeting on 11 September 1994 in Board resolution # 94D06 which reads:

94D06 RESOLVED THAT HI-USA ADOPT THE CREED AND CODE OF ETHICS AS SET FORTH BY THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR, INC. THIS CREED AND THESE ETHICS ESTABLISH THE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOR THAT EMBODY HI-USA's COMMITMENT TO THE USE OF MEANS WORTHY OF THE GOALS WE PURSUE AS A STEWARD OF THE PUBLIC TRUST.

PASSED (20-1)