



POLICY MANUAL

"Surfers Making a Difference"



HISTORY

Surfers on Mission was founded by Buck Waters, who began his ministry walk through a skateboard ministry, New Breed Skateboarding. The ministry grew to 150-200 skateboarders a week skating, eating and hearing a relevant gospel message. The ministry created a skateboard Sunday school class that was later highlighted in *Time Magazine* for creative ways to share the gospel.

Later, Buck founded Christian Surfers Pensacola and began a fast tract with Christian Surfers United States and CS International. Within a year, Buck found himself working in national ministry leadership with CSUS and then later began working internationally with Christian Surfers International. Buck became Regional Director of Christian Surfers International over North America.

In traveling through Central America, Brazil, Indonesia and the Caribbean, Buck began to see the desperate needs accompanying the exotic pristine surf destinations of today's surfers. A burning revelation in his heart moved him to try to mobilize surfers to meet the basic needs of peoples suffering without hope while the surfers searched for the ultimate pristine wave. Out of this Surfers on Mission was birthed, connecting surfers to missions, surfing with significance, and bringing hope through meeting basic needs while surfing exotic places for eternal purposes.

"In a world with over a hundred surfable nations the human needs are so great -- yet our abilities are endless as are our resources. Let us be mobilized, go, give, serve and then surf for His glory."

Buck Waters

Founder



Endorsements

Working with Buck Waters and Surfers on Mission has been a perfect example of what God can do when HIS kids work together. Walking on Water has been so blessed to partner with people like Buck Waters and it would be impossible to have the the maximum impact without the power of unity and working together. I thank God for the friendship we have with Buck Waters and Surfers on Mission!

Bryan Jennings

Founder of Walking on Water
Professional Surfer

The ministry of Surfers On Mission has begun because Buck Waters understands that the sport of surfing is a vehicle for surfers to serve and meet the needs of others. Surfer On Mission is a part of the Christian surfing revolution that is rocking the USA and the surfable nations of the world. Surfers on Mission understands that surfers are an untapped resource for world missions. They are not just committed to pray for nations, but to "Go!" I'm stoked because of your vision, passion, zeal and love to reach the surfing communities and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm ready to "Go!" with you!

Tom Bauer

Surfing The Nations

Having known Buck Waters since 2002 as a friend and as a former member of the CSI leadership team, I have complete confidence in his servant heart and the vision of Surfers On Mission. It is so ironic that surfing can either catapult surfers into service opportunities around the globe, or selfishly hold them back. Surfers On Mission will certainly be a huge influence on the surf culture for good, as well as the kingdom of God! I wholeheartedly endorse this ministry and can't wait to see how God uses surfers for service through Surfers on Mission.

Brett Davis

International Director
Christian Surfers International

I have had the great privilege of working with Buck Waters for several years while we served on the board of Christian Surfers United States and he ran a successful chapter in Pensacola Beach, Florida. Buck in his mild manner way demonstrated his leadership qualities by motivating surfers through his love for Jesus, his passion for surfing, combined with his business skills and driving vision. Surfers On Mission is purposeful in launching surfers for service into the mission field to partner with local missionaries and churches to meet the most pressing needs in their coastal communities in Latin America.

I whole-heartedly indorse Surfers On Mission to empower surfers into the mission field to serve and encourage the saints in the coastal communities mixed with the excitement of a surfing adventure into Latin America.

Ed Wright

Mission Pastor
North Coast Calvary Chapel

I highly recommend Surfers on Mission for any person looking for an opportunity to take their faith to the world. Jesus said "Go", the time is now, and the field is the world! Join with Surfers on Mission as they seek to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Mike Doyle

Director of Outreach
Walking On Water



VISION

Surfers are some of the most adventurous people on earth. They will go anywhere, and endure anything, if they have an opportunity to surf a great wave. Surfers are always looking for a new, undiscovered break. Even unknown surfers from obscure locations are truly stoked regardless of where they come from or how great they can rip. They share the common thread of the surf experience. The oceans of the world are the great equalizers. All true surfers are what Aussies call “the true blue crew.”

Where ever they go, however, surfers are impacting local cultures. Over the years, as an unknown break becomes known, more and more surfers travel to surf. The result is that local cultures are impacted by the presence of surfers, many of whom are young men. Businesses grow around the presence of surfers – to feed, house and entertain – them. Much of this impact, unfortunately, has not been positive, and surf culture has therefore received mixed reviews.

Surfers on Mission wants to offer a positive alternative to the traditional surfer reputation. Surfers on Mission’s vision is to take groups of surfers to needy areas of the world, where great surf breaks are located, and to give back to the local communities. Through humanitarian aid, Christian witness, and general service and assistance, Surfers on Mission will help people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Surfers are also some of the most unlikely candidates for Christian service and for focus of Christian outreach. But, like the Apostle Paul said, “God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.” (1 Corinthians. 1: 27-28).

Surfers on Mission envisions that the groups who travel will provide mentoring experiences for every surfer on the team. Fathers and mothers can take their sons or daughters. Adult surfers who travel with a group will have an opportunity to lead by example in Christ-like living, serving, and surf etiquette in the water. Surfers on Mission teams are committed to honoring Jesus Christ and His purposes in every area of life. That example, both inside the team and through the team's service will be a part of "letting our light shine" for Jesus in a dark and needy world.



CORE VALUES

1. **Faith** – We trust God in everything we do, and we trust others in our inner circle, that He is working through and speaking to them in our journey of obedience together.
2. **Service** – We seek to serve God and others in all things, with the goal of making Jesus famous, and His cause a success.
3. **Mercy** – In the same way Jesus was merciful to us, and as we depend daily upon His mercy, we will be consistently merciful to others.
4. **Community** – We will create and maintain a culture of togetherness with the SOM family and other people in our circles and partnerships through affirmation, worth, trust, respect, and communication.
5. **Sensibility** – We will live by common sense and biblical values that are timeless, not being driven by the latest emphasis but by staying focused on and deeply valuing core Christian virtues – to love God, to love people, to honor Jesus Christ and all He stands for.
6. **Excellence** – Whatever we do, we will do it well.



GOALS

1. That every person who is touched or served by a Surfers on Mission Team will be introduced, in a positive and affirming way, to the message of Jesus Christ, and will be given an opportunity to know Him.
2. That every Surfer on Mission Team member will be drawn closer to Jesus by his/her experience of serving and surfing with SOM.
3. That every surfer that is touched by Surfers on Mission will be honored for his/her independence, to catch his/her own wave, but will also be welcomed into the SOM community.



POLICY MANUAL

1. Leadership

- a. Every chapter will have an appointed leader who will serve the local chapter.
- b. Leaders are expected to have a solid relationship with Jesus Christ, be respected among his/her peers, and be passionate about the vision, goals and core values of Surfers on Mission.
- c. Leaders are expected to build a team of co-leaders and to delegate work and distribute authority so that everyone in a chapter is able to meaningfully participate and serve.

2. Teams

- a. Teams are expected to have a purpose for the trip they plan to take. That purpose should be to serve a need and bring a witness for Jesus Christ.
- b. Team members do NOT need to be committed Christians to travel with SOM, but they must agree, during the trip, to respect the team leadership and abide by all team rules.
- c. Team leadership is expected to clearly communicate all team rules and team plans prior to each trip so that all every member understands what is expected of him/her.

3. Service

- a. SOM Chapters and teams will always seek to offer service where ever they are. SOM will serve local surf events, they can organize their own events or outreaches, they can reach out to the needy in local and foreign locations. Any type of service is appropriate if it meets a need and provides an opportunity to lift up the name of Jesus Christ.
- b. SOM will partner and network with any other ministry or organization that is committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. SOM does not need to lead in every endeavor. It can lead or follow, depending on the need or

4. Finances

- a. SOM Chapters are encouraged to establish their own financial structure, dues or membership fees and policies, etc. Each chapter is expected to handle finances with integrity and accountability to the entire chapter membership, with regular reports.
- b. Chapter trip, team and other regular miscellaneous expenses should be managed within each chapter.
- c. When larger projects are planned, chapters are encouraged to have donations routed through Globe International or the local sponsoring church so that donors can receive tax deductions.
 - i. For larger projects, please contact the SOM National President for instructions about how to properly manage fund raising and answer donor questions.
 - ii. If larger projects will involve partnership with more than one SOM chapter or other entity, the initiator of the project must make a decision about where funds will be sent. Globe International or the sponsoring local church should be contacted so that accounts can be opened to manage project funds.

5. Organization

- a. Every SOM chapter is encouraged to develop its own means of communication through websites, flyers, bulletins, emails, etc.
- b. Every chapter must use the SOM logo and must communicate the SOM general vision and core values on literature, etc., and should regularly re-emphasize these in chapter meetings.
- c. SOM chapters should meet at least once per month, and chapter leaders should attempt to meet regularly at other times for planning and vision casting. SOM chapters should also try to have regular or annual regional meetings where chapters can come together, and/or chapter leaders can interact and coordinate their plans.



How to Start a Chapter

1. Contact SOM Headquarters and tell us you want to start a chapter.
 - a. Request the latest information and Starter Packet.
 - i. Starter Packets cost: \$_____
 - ii. Starter Packets include: CD with SOM logo and pics, 25 SOM stickers, SOM DVD, Fund Raising resources and suggestions for outreaches and surf trips.
 - b. Check with SOM Headquarters about any other Chapters in your area.
 - i. Contact those chapters and explore how you might network in outreach and service.
 - ii. Chapters should be located in specified regions. SOM Headquarters will assist in this to avoid duplication of chapter formation in the same location.
 - c. If you need assistance, SOM can walk you through the process or even send an SOM Chapter leader to help you get started.
2. Form a group of at least three surfers who agree with the SOM Policies and Core Values and can commit to the work necessary to form a SOM Chapter and at least one year of involvement.
3. Create an informal Leadership Team that will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Spokesperson – Primary Leader
 - b. Co-Spokesperson – Leader
 - c. Treasurer – to manage funds
 - d. Secretary – to record all official SOM business
4. Find a supportive and Christ-Centered sponsor for your SOM Chapter.
 - a. Sponsors can be:
 - i. Church
 - ii. Community Center
 - iii. School

- iv. Business
- b. Sponsors can serve the following purposes:
 - i. Provide a meeting place
 - ii. Offer promotional assistance and exposure
 - iii. Provide a pool of volunteers for events
 - iv. Offer counsel and advice as needed
- 5. Create a reporting system so you can regularly update your membership and the SOM Headquarters. Options include:
 - a. Website and Email list
 - b. Phone numbers and address database
 - c. Newsletter
- 6. Create your first year schedule of activities for your SOM Chapter.
 - a. Regular meeting times and places.
 - b. First year chapters must commit to organizing and sponsoring at least two SOM trips, one of which is out of the host nation, and include at least three travelers. Trips must involve Christian service and witness in the spirit of SOM goals and values.
- 7. Have your first meeting!
 - a. Promote the meeting through your organic network of surfers and friends.
 - b. Keep it real, relational, relaxed, and stay true to surf culture.
 - c. Honor Jesus and make Him the main reason for everything.
 - d. Encourage each other and work together to plan your first event or outreach.