

# **Young Mineral Collectors Membership Policy**

## **SECTION I:**

### **POSITIVE PUBLIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) is an organization within the wider mineral collecting community that has been formed to provide a positive and enriching environment for the newest generations of collectors. As the representatives of the next generation of mineral collectors, the perception of our organization is of the utmost importance to our continued growth, prosperity, and respect amongst our peers. Unethical or undesirable actions by members of the YMC community have a direct impact on the group as a whole. This includes but is not limited to all conditions detailed in the rules such as harassment, bullying, spreading misinformation, scamming, etc. As such, if an individual's actions outside of the group (especially in a mineral-community-based setting) are determined to negatively impact YMC, it is the right of the leadership team to seek remedial action up to and including removal from the group.

## **SECTION II:**

### **3 STRIKE SYSTEM**

- Verbal Warning: A member of YMC leadership will directly call out the issue at hand.
- Written Warning: A member of YMC leadership will reach out to clarify the issue at hand.
- Strike One: A three-day mute from all channels.
- Strike Two: A one-month mute from all channels.
- Strike Three: Leadership discussion and vote to determine the best course of action. Up to one-year suspension or permanent removal from all channels.

Strikes will stay in place for 6 months. No one with an active strike may participate in cases, spotlights, trips, or other YMC activities without express consent from the leadership team.

Immediate expulsion: Should any of the following be committed by a YMC member, it will result in immediate expulsion from the organization.

- Crimes against another member of YMC (Threats of Harm, Physical Assault, Sexual Harassment/Assault, Theft, etc.)
- Hate Crimes
- Serious issues not covered under these terms need the unanimous approval of YMC leadership.
- Circumventing prior suspensions with new accounts or fake identities.

The leadership team has discretion when administering strikes and warnings, if a member of leadership feels that further punishment is necessary, stricter action may be taken after discussion with the team.

## **SECTION III:**

### **OVERARCHING RULES**

#### **1: Membership Eligibility**

Membership in YMC is limited to individuals with an interest in collecting minerals or supporting young collectors. Members officially join the organization by filling out the membership application and paying their dues. Once the application has been completed and accepted by a member of the leadership team, then the applicant's membership is officially active for one year from the date you pay the dues. Members who are paying dues in subsequent years need not fill out the application form again. Any individual pursuant of membership in YMC is required to use their formal, legal identity in the membership application, in all online forums, and during in-person events. As an international organization, YMC welcomes members from all countries and backgrounds to come together over our shared passion for collecting minerals. YMC does not under any circumstance discriminate against eligible members due to their nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status, etc. However, in exceptional circumstances, YMC reserves the right to reject or revoke any membership at our discretion.

#### **2: Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination**

YMC has a fundamental commitment to treating its members and the wider community with dignity and respect. Members are expected to act kindly to one another and not engage in bullying, harassment, or discrimination against another member of YMC or a member of the mineral collecting community at large. Actions such as making threats, spreading false statements about community members, verbal and physical attacks, purposeful exclusion, the use of slurs, impersonation of YMC members, and other forms of harassment are strictly prohibited. Any member who feels they have been a target for bullying is highly encouraged to reach out to a member of the leadership team.

#### **3: Fraudulent and Intentionally Misleading Statements**

Members of YMC are prohibited from spreading false statements. This includes but is not limited to: harmful or dangerous pseudoscience, intentionally misleading information, fabricated specimens marketed as being natural, etc. Members are encouraged to alert leadership of deceptive or fraudulent behavior, even if they are not the target.

#### **4: Selling and Trading**

The selling and trading of mineral specimens, books, and other mineralogical material may only be conducted in designated groups, chats, and settings. Guidelines on selling and trade are in the section below.

#### **5: Relevance**

Young Mineral Collectors strives to bring younger members of the community knowledge and networking opportunities and in order to keep the community goals in mind, we ask that our social media channels be relevant to the topics of mineral collecting, mineralogical and geological discussions, and overall earth science exploration. In saying this, YMC prohibits

discussions involving politics, firearms, weapons, religion, sexual orientation, gender, race, socioeconomic class, and other sensitive topics not directly pertaining to the aforementioned. Refrain from posting/begging for donations for personal endeavors. Members are also expected to be respectful and considerate of our members under the age of 18; inappropriate topics, depictions, and or inferences are also prohibited.

However, YMC members are allowed to hold neutral discussions about their countries' laws and regulations pertaining to mineralogical topics. Examples of these topics can be as follows:

- Customs and tax requirements for shipping and importing specimens.
- Understanding land protections and regulations for collecting specimens.
- Regulatory bodies that involve earth sciences (MSHA, NSW-RR, BLM, etc.).

Members should use discretion in what topics are appropriate. If a member is unsure if a topic is appropriate for YMC, they are encouraged to reach out to a chat moderator or social media committee member for clarification and guidance.

## **6: Copyrighted Material**

Members of YMC should exercise caution posting copyrighted material or material that is not originally owned or created by them on our social media channels unless prior, written permission has been obtained by the originator.

### **Minor Infractions:**

Minor infractions will follow the same progressive discipline structure as explained with the three-strike system. The following infractions, as an example, are considered minor:

- Attempting to sell items outside of designated channels/events.
- Purposefully inciting drama for large, reactionary responses.
- Picking fights with members of the group.
- Starting political arguments with other members.
- Sharing copyrighted material without consent.
- Promoting conspiratorial beliefs regarding minerals.

### **Major Infractions:**

Major infractions have the potential to put members and YMC at serious risk. Because of this, the leadership team takes major infractions seriously. The following infractions, for example, are considered major:

- Purposefully concealing an identity to sneak into the organization.
- Threatening members of the greater mineral community.
- Stealing copyrighted material with the intent to pass it off as your own.
- Defaming members of the greater mineral community.
- Inciting violence of any form.
- Falsifying information with the intent to harm an individual

Consequences for major infractions include permanent bans from all official activity associated with YMC (i.e., through official channels or by directly contacting our members) in addition to indefinite to permanent bans from the group as a whole, the latter reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Grievances within YMC's platforms must have a degree of reasonableness in order to be considered valid. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis upon receiving the complaint.

## **SECTION IV:**

### **SELLING AND TRADING GUIDELINES**

#### **1: 48 Hour Rule**

Invoices should be sent within 48 hours after purchase. Payment should be made within 48 hours after receiving the invoice. Items should be shipped within 48 hours after receiving payment. If the buyer and seller need more than 48 hours, they must then have written communication detailing the terms of their agreement.

#### **2: Information**

Members of YMC are required to detail all pertinent information about the specimen(s) they are selling. This includes but is not limited to species, dimensions, locality, repairs/restorations, provenance, etc. Members are prohibited from knowingly misleading potential buyers about a specimen's condition as well as intentionally excluding important information. If a buyer feels they have been misled when purchasing from a YMC member, they should contact leadership immediately.

#### **3: Etiquette**

Members are expected to act professionally when engaging with buyers and sellers in the group and beyond. Belittling, badmouthing, and insulting member's pieces for sale/trade is prohibited. Members are asked not to engage in this sort of petty behavior. Neutral discussions around specimen pricing are allowed—however, such discussions should be used as constructive criticism and not a means of bullying.

#### **4: Payment Methods**

Members are encouraged to use well-known ecommerce portals (i.e. PayPal, Venmo, CashApp, etc.) or other official forms of payment. It is at the discretion and responsibility of the buyer and seller to make all necessary arrangements pertaining to the sale. YMC is not liable or responsible for any mishandling of transactions on the part of the buyer or seller.

#### **5: Exterior Sales**

Members may not link outside sales and shops within the YMC Sale and Trade Facebook Group and may only post outside sales links in specific channels of the YMC Discord.

#### **Minor Infractions:**

- Taking more than 48 hours, but less than one week to send an invoice.\*\*
- Taking more than 48 hours, but less than one week to pay for a purchase.\*\*
- Taking more than 48 hours, but less than one week to ship and provide tracking for a specimen.\*\*
- Failure/Refusal to disclose minor specimen damage or minor repairs.

**\*\*Agreed-upon timelines can be exceptions to these rules as long as the timelines are consented to by both parties.**

**Major Infractions:**

- Failure/Refusal to refund/substitute extremely damaged specimens.
- Failure to pay once a specimen has been received.\*\*
- Failure to ship a specimen.\*\*
- Failure to disclose major repairs, restorations, or damage.
- Sending a fake specimen or the wrong specimen purposefully.
- Posting purposefully misleading specimen information (altered images, wrong locality, incorrect dimensions, etc.).
- Complete loss of contact once a sale or trade has commenced.

**\*\*Proof of delivery and or lack of shipping tracking after payment is required.**

Consequences for major infractions include permanent bans from all official and unofficial selling and trading activity associated with YMC (i.e, through official channels or by directly contacting our members) in addition to indefinite to permanent bans from the group as a whole, the latter reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Grievances of sales within YMC's platforms must have a degree of reasonableness in order to be considered valid. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis upon receiving the complaint.

## **SECTION V:**

### **EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS**

#### **1: Show Submissions**

Members of YMC who are eligible (see section on MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY) to display, who have completed their exhibition application, whose exhibition application has been approved and submitted payment, are required to ship or personally deliver their specimens per the guidelines given for the show. Failure to communicate plans, failure to ship or deliver a specimen, shipping or delivering a specimen not approved, or shipping a specimen after the deadline will result in exclusion from the showcase.

#### **2: Insurance**

While the YMC members involved in arranging and setting up cases are experienced in handling specimens, moving and displaying specimens carries an inherent risk of damage. YMC is not responsible for damages caused by handling or displaying specimens submitted for cases. Therefore, YMC *highly* recommends that specimens be insured to protect their value during exhibition.

#### **3: Event Space, Property, Land Use**

Members of YMC are oftentimes guests at shows, events, and field trip settings. Members of YMC are expected to respect the spaces we are invited to. This includes but is not limited to, private property for collecting, mineral shows, event halls, public collecting areas, etc.

#### **4: Sale of Items on Display**

During the duration of any YMC showcase or event, Items on display are prohibited from being sold, traded, or advertised as such. The exhibitions are arranged for education purposes only in accordance with YMC policies. Any member or affiliate of YMC found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions as set forth in Section VII.

#### **5: Shipping & Handling**

The shipping and/or handling of displayable items in any YMC showcase or event shall be the financial responsibility of the owner of the items for the duration of the show or event including such times as the displayable items are in transit to or from the show or event.

#### **Minor Infractions:**

Minor infractions will follow the same progressive discipline structure as explained with the three-strike system. The following infractions, as an example, are considered minor:

- Leaving small amounts of litter at a dig site.
- Cutting contact during the show exhibition process.
- Failing to ship specimens for displays.



- Causing a minor disturbance during an event.

### **Major Infractions:**

- Vandalization of event spaces private property.
- Theft of items at shows or events.
- Trespassing on private property with intent of malice.
- Leaving substantial litter at a dig site

Grievances pertaining to exhibitions and events with YMC must have a degree of reasonableness in order to be considered valid. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis upon receiving a formal written complaint.

## **SECTION VI:**

### **EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS**

This section is meant to outline examples of events or statements that could be considered infractions within YMC. These are just hypothetical examples and are meant to serve that purpose. Members are encouraged to reach out with any questions regarding violation examples.

#### **1: Overarching Violation Examples**

- *A member of YMC is caught falsifying identification in order to be considered eligible for membership.*
- *A member of YMC has been harassing another member about their “low-quality” collection.*
- *A member of YMC is spreading false rumors about a mineral dealer and their family.*
- *A member of YMC attempts to purposely mislead and downplay the dangers of handling villiaumite and causes another member to become ill.*
- *A member of YMC posts unsolicited sales on non-sales platforms.*
- *A member of YMC starts a political debate on the nature of China.*
- *A member of YMC makes innuendos towards other members in normal conversations.*
- *A member of YMC continually shares copyrighted material they do not have permission to use.*

#### **2: Sale & Trade Violation Examples**

- *A member of YMC fails to pay for a specimen after 48 hours of receiving an invoice.\**
- *A member of YMC fails to ship a specimen after a one-week agreement to ship was established.\**
- *A member of YMC cut all contact after receiving payment.*
- *A member of YMC purposely lies about the condition of the specimen, sending a piece of lesser quality as shown/described.*

- *A member of YMC uses photo editing software to purposely exaggerate the colors of the piece.*
- *A member of YMC slanders another seller.*
- *A member of YMC continues to push members to their online business with items for sale.*

*\* unless other arrangements have been made*

### **3: Events & Exhibitions Violation Examples**

- *A member of YMC fails to deliver their specimen for display after being accepted into the exhibition without notice being given*
- *A member of YMC ships their specimen for display after the deadline passed.*
- *A member of YMC vandalizes a dig site or private property (i.e. leaving trash, destruction of property)*
- *A member of YMC vandalizes displays at the Tucson show.*

## **SECTION VII:**

### **ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

Members of YMC are expected to self-moderate their actions. Leadership believes if these practices can be maintained, moderation actions will be minimal. In the event that a member of leadership feels that the situation requires additional moderation, YMC asks that members respect those moderation decisions and do not try and continue to push the issue, doing so could result in a violation. If you feel the need to report something, please use a degree of reasonableness in those matters. Situations that are not explicitly outlined in this document may be moderated if leadership deems it necessary. Below outlines how leadership approaches issues and violations.

#### **1: Receiving Notice**

Notices of violations should be sent through the [YMC Concerns Google Form](#). The form is set up to take you to the sections that pertain to the rule sections. You will be asked a series of questions to clarify details as well as be asked to provide documentation to support all claims. We expect this form to be used to help members better report issues they may be experiencing as well as allow leadership to follow up in a meaningful and timely manner. Please take and use this form seriously and with a degree of reasonableness, it is not to be used as a means of “ax-grinding”. If issues at hand are being observed in real-time, leadership may step in to calm and fix the situation without the need for the “concerns form.” This may come in the way of deleting posts on our social media, or stopping arguments.

#### **2: Defining the Infraction**

The issues at hand will be dealt with swiftly and without personal bias. Whether the issues come from observed infractions or reported ones, leadership will discuss the severity of the

violations as they pertain to both the strike system and the major and minor infractions. In the event a member of leadership is involved in the violation or was a victim of a committed violation, they must recuse themselves from the investigation, the voting, and the issuing of the infraction. Minor infractions will more than likely receive warnings but could be escalated to a strike if minor violations are continually repeated. Major infractions may constitute a strike on the first offense. Serious violations may be escalated to multiple strikes or even permanent removals if criminal activity, significant instances of slander or libel, and or actions that put the organization at a strict liability. Issuing strikes are always on a case-by-case basis, and they need consent to vote from the Social Media and Outreach Committee Chairman. More serious issues/multiple strikes at once, as highlighted previously, will need approval from the Board of Directors.

### **3: Issuing Disciplinary Action**

If it is determined that a member of YMC has violated the membership policy, they will be contacted through all media channels available (email, Facebook, discord etc.) defining the infraction, the time it had taken place, what policy was in violation, and any potential punishment associated with it. Messages will be sent by official YMC accounts and not personal leadership members. Leadership may use their account in stepping into potentially volatile situations. In the event that the allegations brought forth are serious enough, the alleged member may be temporarily suspended until a full investigation is completed. People who have information regarding such incidents or were directly involved may be asked to verify and refute evidence that is found.