



*Grand Council*

VENERABLE CLAMPATRIARCHS OF

*E Clampus Vitus*®

INCORPORATED

A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION FOUNDED 4005 B.C.

*P.O. Box 2044, Columbia CA 95310*

# PBC INITIATION POLICY

---

## INTRODUCTION

Application for membership in E Clampus Vitus® requires each Poor Blind Candidate (PBC) be sponsored for initiation into this Ancient and Honorable Order. It is the duty of every ECV® Sponsor to present candidates who are worthy; only those who can reflect well upon ECV and work toward improvement of this Order are qualified.

Each Chapter determines the scope and intensity of their ritual process by which PBCs are deemed worthy. Successful candidates are made members of ECV in good standing. The initiation process may be limited to just the Hall of Comparative Ovation (HOCO) reading ceremony, or it may include much more leading up to the HOCO.

Each Chapter must utilize appropriately prepared PBC custodians (e.g., Vigilante, Hangman, etc.). Chapter Officers, PBC Custodians and Sponsors must have read and be familiar with these policies prior to undertaking an initiation of new members. Furthermore, they must fully grasp their role and be of sound mind during the entirety of the PBC initiation process and ritual.

Humorous humiliation of PBCs does not mean demoralizing or humiliating prospective candidates. All members of E Clampus Vitus were once PBCs. This process is not just about how we bring in new members, but is more importantly about who we ask to become a member of E Clampus Vitus.

The following requirements are intended to promote unity, fellowship and the preservation of our traditions among Chapters of E Clampus Vitus. This policy applies to all members of E Clampus Vitus as it pertains to every PBC, from their arrival at the Clampsite to the completion of their initiation.

# PBC INITIATION POLICY

---

## PRINCIPLES

ECV is an organization that prides itself on the use of harmless levity and theater for rituals and appreciation of history. Chapter Officers and PBC Custodians must understand and embrace the following principles prior to undertaking the initiation ritual for new member applicants, namely registered PBCs.

1. **SAFETY** – PBCs must be kept safe from injury or other harmful or potentially harmful situations.
2. **CONTROL** – PBC Custodians must be in total control of the PBC group and never allow any kind of interference, harassment or hazing activities by any attending Clamper(s)®.
3. **PRIVACY** – The HOCO must be conducted away from the public and kept *private*.
4. **COMMON SENSE** – Assurances must be effective enough so there can be no doubt hazing activities are not conducted nor condoned during the initiation process and ritual.
5. **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Each Chapter Officer, PBC Custodian, Sponsor and Grey Beard attending the function is responsible for the safety of all PBCs and must work within their Chapter to insure these policies are adhered to.
6. **ECV HISTORY** – Preserving the lore and tradition of this Ancient and Honorable Order during the initiation ritual is vitally important. Along with harmless levity, each ECV member participating in the initiation process and ritual should embrace and preserve the days of old and notions of the Order's three great revivifiers: Carl I. Wheat, Leon O. Whitsell and George Ezra Dane.

## PBC MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Poor Blind Candidates must:

- Be at least 21 of years of age.
- Be of good character.
- Have an interest in history.
- Have a good sense of humor.
- Be willing to undergo the initiation ritual.
- Plan on participating as an active member of E Clampus Vitus.

# PBC INITIATION POLICY

---

## INITIATION PROCESS--Mandatory Activities

1. PBC Custodians must ask each PBC whether or not they have any allergies, physical ailments or handicaps that would require initiation activities tailored to their age and physical condition.
2. PBCs must be sufficiently protected from the rain, cold, heat or terrain that could adversely affect their safety and well-being.
3. PBCs must always be adequately hydrated.
4. PBCs placed among the public during plaque dedications and other functions must be clean, sober, and dressed appropriately as to not be offensive. PBCs and their Custodians, Sponsors and members must all be consciously aware and cognizant of their behavior, language, dress and demeanor, and know it reflects well upon ECV with the public. PBC presence in public settings must be socially appropriate.
5. PBCs must be given a verbal ECV history lesson consisting of the lore, mystery and traditions of ECV as well as its history and Chapter history. This information should be provided to all PBCs in a solemn and quiet situation. Each candidate must be able to hear and absorb what is being said. Typically Chapters assign this activity to their Historian. Providing written materials in the form of a PBC handbook is encouraged.
6. The HOCO ceremony must be conducted in private, out of public view and performed in a quiet and solemn manner. Chapter Officers, PBC Custodians and others performing the HOCO must be sober and sufficiently practiced in their respective parts to present an understandable and memorable ceremony. The use of “good theater” is strongly encouraged.
7. Only members are permitted to view the HOCO. The ceremony shall not be video or audio recorded, nor photographed.
8. PBCs must be sober during the entire initiation ritual so they can remember and appreciate ECV history and their initiation ceremony.

# PBC INITIATION POLICY

---

## INITIATION PROCESS--Inappropriate Activities

1. PBCs must not be subjected to slurs of racial, ethnic or religious overtones. No PBC is to be singled out or given special treatment as a result of this requirement; everyone must be treated the same.
2. PBCs shall never be asked to drink or eat out of communal cups or dishware.
3. Hazing of any sort is prohibited by E Clampus Vitus and is prohibited by law. Individuals and organizations engaged in hazing may be subject to criminal prosecution. E Clampus Vitus prohibits initiations that can endanger the physical health and well-being of an individual, or cause mental distress by intimidating or demeaning treatment. Such activities include, but are not limited to the following examples.
  - Paddling in any form.
  - Physical shocks; this includes but is not limited to physically abusive treatment potentially causing injury or bodily trauma through application of excessive force or by requiring physically demanding activities where individual tolerances vary greatly.
  - Morally degrading activities such as engaging in or simulating sexual acts or nudity
  - Creating excessive fatigue or sleep deprivation, allowing heat buildup or cold conditions where initiates continually shiver or feel faint.
  - Requiring initiates wear public apparel which is conspicuous and not within community norms.
  - Throwing substances or objects at individuals.
  - Placing upon PBCs any caustic or noxious substances, or mechanical, passive or electrical devices of any kind or endangering their eye sight or hearing with these and other substances.
  - Penetration, however slight, of any bodily orifice with any object or substance.
  - Placing initiates in a confining or uncomfortable area/position.
  - Shaving, tattooing, piercing or branding.
  - Forcing or coercing consumption or use of alcohol, drugs, fluids, solids or substances of any type.
  - Shining bright lights in faces or using laser pointers or other harmful lighting on initiates.
4. Clampers practicing or participating in the above listed types of activities must be asked to leave the function immediately.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Where an initiation process/ritual is being conducted, the above policies are to be observed by all attending ECV members. Members are to immediately ask the Chapter Humbug to have any improper actions halted. Responsibility for enforcement of these policies resides with the following ECV Officers attending functions where an initiation is being conducted:

- Chapter Officers (Noble Grand Humbug, Vice Noble Grand Humbug, PBC Custodians, etc.)
- Chapter Greybeards
- Sponsors
- Proctors

The Board of Proctors shall apply adverse actions to Chapters found to be in non-compliance with these policies.