

Corporate citizenship

At Markel Corporation, we believe that our corporate culture is our greatest asset. Our corporate culture is shaped by the Markel Style, a timeless—and still relevant—statement of our values and mission. The Markel Style inspires us and challenges us to be “honest and fair in all our dealings,” to create “an atmosphere where people can reach their personal potential,” to honor “our commitment to our communities,” and to, “share success with others.” The 212 words of the Markel Style are woven into the corporate DNA.

When we think about “citizenship,” we focus on sustaining communities and a complex, global business. Our associates give generously of their time and financial resources, and Markel financially supports many not-for-profits. We donate to schools, food banks, autism research, hospitals, medical treatment, groups advocating for the homeless, scholarship funds, the arts, child welfare organizations, and other community-based, national, and international charities. We encourage volunteerism. We support the causes that are important to our associates. Whether you call it “giving back” or “paying it forward,” we consider it an obligation.

Another dimension of our community commitment is recognizing the importance of the environment. We seek to minimize our environmental impact and aspire to be good stewards in everything we do.

Our business sustainability strategy includes protecting our values-driven culture and unique brand, investing in talented people and innovative technologies, and managing enterprise risk thoughtfully. Our product and investment portfolios are balanced, diversified, and built for the long term. And as our business grows and prospers, we will stay true to our corporate compass—the Markel Style. Since 1930, Markel has been committed to these principles—and they will continue to guide us into the future.

The Markel Style

Markel has a commitment to Success. We believe in hard work and a zealous pursuit of excellence while keeping a sense of humor. Our creed is honesty and fairness in all our dealings.

The Markel way is to seek to be a market leader in each of our pursuits. We seek to know our customers’ needs and to provide our customers with quality products and service.

Our pledge to our shareholders is that we will build the financial value of our company. We respect our relationship with our suppliers and have a commitment to our communities.

We are encouraged to look for a better way to do things . . . to challenge management. We have the ability to make decisions or alter a course quickly. The Markel approach is one of spontaneity and flexibility. This requires a respect for authority but a disdain of bureaucracy.

At Markel we hold the individual’s right to self-determination in the highest light, providing an atmosphere in which people can reach their personal potential. Being results-oriented, we are willing to put aside individual concerns in the spirit of teamwork to achieve success.

Above all, we enjoy what we are doing. There is excitement at Markel, one that comes from innovating, creating, striving for a better way, sharing success with others . . . winning.