



SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

BOARD SERVICE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals is guided by an active board of directors that directs the affairs of the association.

- **Who is the Board of Directors?**

The SORP Board of Directors is a dedicated group of outdoor recreation professionals representing all levels of government, academia, public, private, and not-for-profit organizations. The board is a diverse group of individuals representative of the association as a whole.

- **What does the board do?**

The board has a variety of committees through which the work of the association is accomplished. Here is the list of the current committees and chairs.

- **Finance:** Develops annual budgets and fiscal policy.
- **Development:** Guides for financial, policy and board development.
- **Awards:** Reviews and recommends nominees for the Society's award categories.
- **Membership & Communications:** Develops a strategy and schedule for association communications, creates strategies to recruit and retain members, and recommends member services and benefits.
- **Conference:** Plans and implements the National Outdoor Recreation Conference.
- **Education and Professional Development:** Develops and implements the Society's scholarship program, oversees the Society's academic webpage, and coordinates additional education and professional development related opportunities.
- **Future Conferences:** Researches future conference locations and recommends good candidates to the board.

- **What do I get out of it?**

You get the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of issues affecting the field of outdoor recreation management with other dedicated professionals. Use your skills and talents to further not only the association, but also the profession as a whole. Be involved in discussions that have the potential to affect policy and improve the practice of outdoor recreation management.

- **Why would you want me on the board?**

The association benefits from a diverse group of board members. Skills are needed in fundraising, advocacy, conference planning, marketing and communications, and social

media to name a few. We strive to have members from all levels of decision makers and disciplines with a passion to serve the profession and work collaboratively.

- **How often does the board meet?**

The board of directors meets once a month via conference call with the calls lasting 2 hours or less. Committees meet outside of the monthly board meetings also via conference call. A mid-year meeting is conducted in October or November. It is a 3-4 day commitment, which includes two full days of meetings (Friday and Saturday) plus travel time. Board members are also expected to attend the annual conference to help with logistics, interact with members, and attend the annual membership meeting and board meeting.

- **Does SORP cover all of my expenses?**

The organization covers most of the expense related to the mid-year meeting. Financial assistance is available on a case-by-case basis. And it is expected that Board members make a financial contribution to the association, such as charitable donations, paying all or part of association related expenses (long distance phone charges, travel, conference calling service, etc.).

- **What is the time commitment?**

It is up to you. You are expected to participate in the monthly board meetings and to serve on at least one committee. Depending on your schedule and time commitment, you can expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours per month but most board members spend more than that. As the old saying goes, “the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it.”

- **How long will I serve?**

Board members serve for a two-year period with half of the board being elected each year.

- **What are board member roles and responsibilities?**

President

The President is the presiding officer of the Society. The President may appoint standing or temporary committees and call meetings of the Board of Directors or Executive Board to conduct the business of the Society. The President will chair the Audit Committee.

Vice President for Operations

The Vice President for Operations is a member of the Executive Board. In the absence of the President, the Vice President for Operations shall discharge the duties of the President. The Vice President for Operations is responsible for oversight of the membership, communications and nominations functions, and the administration of the Society.

Vice President for Development

The Vice President for Development is a member of the Executive Board. The Vice President for Development is responsible for oversight of the annual awards program, conference committee, financial development, policy (advocacy) development, and board development.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is a member of the Executive Board. The Treasurer oversees the management of the organization’s finances. He/she will provide periodic reports to the Board of Directors regarding account balances. The Treasurer will also prepare a detailed financial report at the close of the fiscal year. The Treasurer is responsible for filing the appropriate forms with the IRS.

Upon prior Board approval, SORP will pay for any necessary accounting training for the

Treasurer. SORP will pay for costs incurred if a newly elected Treasurer needs to meet personally with the out-going Treasurer, in order to receive materials, review account status, and otherwise exchange information needed to successfully carry out the duties of the position.

Secretary

The Secretary is a member of the Executive Board. In the absence of the President and Vice President for Operations, the Secretary discharges the duties of the President. The Secretary is responsible for keeping a correct record of all proceedings of meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board and submitting a written summary of those meetings to the Board members in a timely manner.

The Secretary oversees the editing, publishing, and distribution of the Society's communications, such as the electronic newsletter, annual report, conference request for proposals and registration materials, election ballots, and annual awards information. The Secretary will chair the Education and Professional Development Committee. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that appropriate records are filed in the Society archive.

At-large Board Members

Six At-large Board Members will be elected by the membership. At-large board members are expected to serve on committees and special projects as assigned. In general, first-year Board members are expected to serve actively on one or more committees or programs. Second-year Board members are expected to serve in a leadership capacity on at least one committee, program, or other Society effort.

- **How do I run for a position?**

Contact Rachel Franchina, President of the board to express your interest.

- **Who can I talk to if I have more questions?**

President: Rachel Franchina, 303-838-0663, rfranchina@fs.fed.us

VP of Operations: Maren Murphy, 406-444-3364, maren.murphy@recpro.org

VP of Development: Margaret Bailey, 978-232-3608, m Bailey@chmgov.com

Treasurer: Josh Nadas, 202-354-6909, Joshua_Nadas@nps.gov

Secretary: Annie McVay, 541-504-2003, Annie.McVay@ci.redmond.or.us

At-large Board Members

Kevin Chesley, 410-260-8103, chesleyk@gmail.com

Ericka Pilcher, (303) 441-4456, pilchere@bouldercolorado.gov

Abraham Medina, (303) 866-3454 x 3342, abraham.medina@state.co.us

Danna Stroud, 760-709-6152, dfs1205@yahoo.com

Mike Bradley, 859-622-1834, michael@eku.edu

Jordan Smith, (435) 797-9174, jordan.smith@usu.edu

Executive Director: Laurel Harkness, 814-927-8212, laurel.harkness@recpro.org