AORE Mission

The mission of the Association is to provide opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education to exchange information, promote the preservation and conservation of the natural environment, and address issues common to college, university, community, military, and other not-for-profit outdoor recreation and education programs.

AORE Vision

The Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education is the premier Association in the outdoor profession. By bringing together individuals and organizations, AORE contributes to a global community that fosters a culture of professionalism, collaboration and environmental stewardship. Through our Association, we actively engage in and impact the issues and policies that affect our membership and industry.

We are excited to know that you are interested in serving on AORE’s Board of Directors. This is a commitment of time, talent, and energy that will contribute to the success of the Association.

This packet will provide valuable information so that you can determine if applying to serve on the Board of Directors fits within the scope of your abilities, interests, and personal/professional capacity. This packet will help give you an accurate appraisal of the role that AORE board members play. If you have any questions or concerns about this process or the application, please refer all inquiries to a current Board member.

Included in this packet you will find:

- Benefits of Being a Board Member
- Preparing to be on the BOD
- Responsibilities
- Travel and Time Commitment
- Qualifications
- Before Applying
- Application Requirements
Benefits of Being a Board Member

Being on the Board of Directors to a national professional organization has many benefits. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Extended networking opportunities
- Professional development trainings
- Leadership training
- Increased presence in your respective field and exposure for your organization
- Rewarding way to give back to a broader community of AORE

Preparing to be on the BOD

- Board members need to know and understand the strategic framework of the Association.
- Board members need to make an effort to inform themselves about the issues and history of the Association by reviewing bylaws and minutes of the Association. This information can be found in the member’s only file archive.
- Board members must always consider the Association’s mission, vision, values, yearly priorities and strategic planning filter when acting and making decisions as a Board member.

Responsibilities

- Service to AORE
  - The work that we do is improving the field and the profession.
  - An average of 2-6 hours of work per week is what most board members find themselves giving outside of the mid-year meeting, budget approval meetings and conference commitments.
  - Review all information and come to meetings ready to vote.
- BOD Leadership
  - As a Director, you would be tasked with three main duties:
    - Duty of Care:
      - Board members must exercise reasonable care when they make a decision for AORE. In order to meet the reasonable care standard, Board members must take an active and informed role in decision-making.
    - Duty of Loyalty:
      - Board members must be sure that they are acting with AORE’s interests in mind, not their own. They must also comply with the AORE Conflict of Interest Policy, and submit a Conflict of Interest statement annually.
    - Duty of Obedience:
      - Board members must be faithful to AORE’s mission. Their actions must be consistent with AORE’s mission statement, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and tax-exemption documentation. AORE’s central goals and strategic framework must guide all Board decisions.
• All Board members are expected to take an active role throughout the year. Specific responsibilities will be established at the first BOD meeting and by the membership.
  o The expectations are to:
    ■ Prepare sufficiently for each Board call or meeting by familiarizing yourself with relevant documents, reports, and history pertaining to the issue or topic at hand.
    ■ Provide input to relevant issues and communicate to the board.
    ■ Assist in the preparation of updates, reports, and other forms of communication to share the details of the topic, issue, or project.
    ■ Be proactive with communicating to appropriate board members via phone or email.

Travel and Time Commitment
• Is it expected that all board members actively participate in all meetings.
  o This includes BOD meetings, conference calls, traveling to the mid-year and pre-conference meetings, the AORE Annual Business meeting.
    ■ Dates and times are determined by the BOD.
    ■ If traveling to mid-year and pre-conference meetings is cost-prohibitive, there are alternative fiscal means. However, board members are expected to rely primarily on themselves or their own institutions for financial support. Board travel funds are limited and this should be taken into consideration when you apply.
• Newly elected Board Directors and Executive Officers are expected to attend the pre-conference meeting and annual conference event that follows the election.
  o This typically takes place in the days immediately prior to the yearly conference.

Qualifications
• BOD candidates must have the following:
  o Commitment to help AORE achieve the Strategic Framework.
  o Ability to lead with vision and listen with curiosity.
  o Management skills for small and large groups both in-person and virtually.
  o 2-6 hours per week to give for service.
  o A current AORE Professional Membership which extends past the voting record date, determined annually.
Before Applying

- Review this information packet and the associated materials.
- Reach out to existing/previous board members to speak about their experiences. You can find their contact information here.
- Discuss the commitments with your personal and professional networks.
- Consider your responses to these questions:
  - AORE recently revisited their Identity Statement. This statement will help guide the development of their next Strategic Framework. It is expected that BOD members contribute specific skills, knowledge, ability and expertise. Please identify 3-5 specific ways you plan to contribute.
  - Please share an example in the recent past where you contributed to the successful completion of a strategic goal in one of your organizations.
  - What national, state, or local committees or BODs have you served on and in what capacity?
  - Do you have experience in Association or Non-profit work?
  - Do you have experience working with, managing or leading volunteers?
  - How do you intend to balance your job responsibilities with your responsibilities as a board member?
  - The outdoor industry continues to change. What do you see as the greatest challenge as well as greatest opportunity for outdoor recreation and education?

Application Information

- Board applications are generally due mid-August, with a specified date posted on the Association website in the months prior to the election cycle.
- The application process and questions may vary from year to year depending on the needs of the Association. Generally, you can expect to submit a short video and/or written application that addresses some or all of the prompts listed above.
- You may also be asked to submit a letter of recommendation/endorsement from your current supervisor, if applicable.
- Applications will be submitted online.

If you have additional questions about serving as a member of the Board and/or the application process, please reach out to a current Board member. You can find their contact information here.