



## Volunteer Board Member Positions

**Company:** Explore Austin, [exploreaustin.org](http://exploreaustin.org)

**Industry:** Youth development

**Position / Job Title:** Volunteer Board Member

**Employment Type:** Temporary, unpaid volunteer

### Company Description

Explore Austin uses mentoring, leadership, and outdoor adventure to empower youth to reach their full potential. Through a leadership based outdoor adventure curriculum coupled with social-emotional learning components and long-term mentoring (6 years), Explore Austin is improving the well-being of each participant, their families, and the community.

As a board member, Explore Austin will ensure that you have the opportunity to participate in a “Saturday Challenge” which is an excellent opportunity to see our mission in action, engage with Mentors, and witness impact on the Explorers.

### Job Description

#### Director Characteristics

The Explore Austin Board of Directors is composed of leaders from non-profit and for-profit sectors who are dedicated to Explore Austin’s mission. Serving on Explore Austin’s Board of Directors is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is interested in strengthening leadership and governance in the nonprofit sector. Leadership development is a vital pillar of Explore Austin’s program. Ideal board candidates should be passionate about our mission and represent our ACES framework in their daily lives (ACES = Action Oriented, Courageous, Excellent Teammate, Strong Communicator). All board members should be comfortable initiating and participating in discussions surrounding strategic planning, policy making, financial integrity, loyalty, confidentiality, and diversity, equity and inclusion.



## Commitment

A nonprofit organization is only as strong as the strength and commitment of the organization's individual board members. Tasks include governance activities, advocacy, recruitment, charitable giving, and work through various committees. This includes everything from policy development and implementation to expression of philanthropic and educational views in social and business settings.

Each Explore Austin board member commits to:

- attending six regular board meetings per year and one day retreat on a weekday
- reading board materials in advance of board meetings and arrive prepared to ask questions and participate in discussions
- serving on one or more committees of the board and actively participate in committee work
- learning to read and understand Explore Austin's financial statements if no prior experience reading financial statements. Another board member will gladly assist your learning
- helping the board fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities
- playing an active role in securing the financial resources necessary for Explore Austin to achieve its mission
- leveraging personal relationships and connections to help the development committee and staff identify and solicit potential funders
- directly investing in Explore Austin's work by making a personal, meaningful financial contribution each year
- responsibly represent Explore Austin to their respective communities and to advocate for Explore Austin's mission, program, and services as appropriate.

Board terms last for three years and board members can serve for up to two consecutive terms.

We are continuously searching for new leaders that leverage their diverse backgrounds and talents in order to empower youth to their fullest potential. As a board member, you would serve as the primary example to Explorers of what a leader looks like; a both fulfilling and challenging job. We hope to hear that you accept the challenge.

- Explore Austin, Board of Directors



## **Desired Skills and Expertise**

We are currently recruiting for diverse leaders with expertise in the following areas:

*These profiles are in no specific order or priority.*

### **Corporate Business Lawyer**

Explore Austin seeks a corporate business lawyer with a state bar certification in Texas and experience writing and negotiating contracts to serve as a volunteer board member. Explore Austin seeks a board leader who will advise the board on the Explore Austin's rights, obligations and risks associated with business operations, strategic plans and future growth. Knowledge of public policy that effects Explore Austin and its community is a bonus. This board leader has an opportunity to suggest and advocate for positive ways that Explore Austin can influence public policy to further its mission.

### **Education Professional**

Explore Austin seeks an education professional in the Austin metro area to serve as a volunteer board member. Explore Austin seeks a board leader who will provide strategic ideas and insights that enhance Explore Austin's role as a school partner, and extracurricular service provider for students (grades 7-12) and their families. Expertise in positive behavior support and serving low-income populations is a bonus. This board leader has an opportunity to help Explore Austin shape systems that will afford deeper connection and more effective program delivery to our Explorers and their families.

### **Healthcare Professional**

Explore Austin seeks a healthcare professional to serve as a volunteer board member. Explore Austin seeks a board leader who will provide strategic ideas and insights that enhance Explore Austin's program delivery to Explorers and their families, training for Mentors, and connecting our community to high quality, reliable and affordable physical and mental health resources. This board leader has an opportunity to help Explore Austin shape: 1) best practices for addressing mental health challenges when Explorers, Mentors and Trip Leaders are in the backcountry for 1-7 days; 2) strategies for communication with families when mental health issues arise during Explore Austin



programming, and 3) community education and awareness that removes stigmas associated with mental health issues.

### **Public Parks & Land / Nature Conservancy Professional**

Explore Austin seeks a professional with experience working at public parks or nature conservancy agencies that serve the Austin metro area, and who possesses an undergraduate degree in a relatable field. Explore Austin seeks a board leader who will help cultivate meaningful connections between local, state and national public parks, lands and nature conservancy agencies and Explore Austin as part of a broader commitment to increase awareness about the importance of our mission, influence public policy, and expand our reach.

### **Entrepreneur: Strategy & Growth**

Explore Austin seeks an entrepreneur with experience in strategic planning and implementation in people intensive businesses; and/or successfully leading them through growth. Explore Austin seeks a board leader who will provide strategic advice on business models, innovation, methods, systems and pacing to grow and fund the organization in a way that furthers Explore Austin's mission while enhancing financial stability. The ideal candidate prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion among people above all else; values quality over quantity; and wholeheartedly embraces our core values. This board leader has a unique opportunity to influence business strategy among an open-minded board of directors and staff team while working to best serve Explorers and their families.

### **Racial Justice Advocacy Connector**

Explore Austin seeks a well-connected leader who is passionate about racial justice and can leverage their networks and resources in support of efforts to positively impact the policy environment in which Explore Austin does its work. The ideal candidate has a track-record of supporting system-wide equality and inclusion and strong connections to local, state, or national decision makers who are in a position to positively impact Explore Austin's work to empower youth through leadership, mentoring and outdoor adventure. This board leader has a unique opportunity to expand Explore Austin's awareness and understanding of the systems that create inequality among its Explorers and their families; how to help break down those systems; and create ease of access for families of color to public outdoor spaces in Central Texas.



### **Marketing & Communication Professional**

Explore Austin seeks a marketing and communication professional who has successfully increased awareness and audience engagement for start-up and/or early growth companies (for- or non-profit) that provide a service. This board leader would help shape strategic marketing plans that make the best use of dollars to reach new community partners, individual donors, corporate partners, foundations, advocacy groups, schools, and community leaders. The ideal candidate is passionate about our mission, willing and available to provide occasional tactical advice, be a sounding board to staff to vet ideas. This board leader has a unique opportunity to shape guidelines and best practices for marketing and communication that engages several distinct audiences in ways that best suits each audience and invites each individual to be a part of Explore Austin.

### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Professional**

Explore Austin seeks a professional with experience transforming businesses to be diverse, equitable and inclusive to all people. This board leader would be willing to lead the board's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, which are currently in early stages of action. The ideal candidate is passionate about our mission, available to help guide this work, connect Explore Austin to experts, impart strategic oversight and wisdom to create guidelines, processes and best practices that will overflow into every facet of the organization. This board leader has a unique opportunity to help educate and transform an open-minded board and staff who have placed diversity, equity and inclusion as one of its top three priorities.

### **Parent of Explorer**

Explore Austin seeks a parent of an Explorer to join our board of directors to ground the board firmly within the community served by Explore Austin. This board leader would provide strategic ideas to improve Explore Austin's program, community awareness and outreach, fundraising, and communication. This board leader has a unique opportunity to center board conversations around the experiences of Explorers and their families with Explore Austin's program and how to strengthen relationships among Explore Austin's entire community (Explorers, families, Mentors, staff, Trip Leaders, schools, board members and so on).