



## What it Means to be on the AHS Board

Founded in 1976, American Hiking Society is the only national advocacy organization for the hiking community. Our advocacy focuses on the needs of the hiking community, from championing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors to protecting public lands. Our volunteer trail service programs ([Volunteer Vacations](#), [Alternative Break](#), and [National Trails Day®](#)) bolster our advocacy through developing lifelong outdoor activists and emerging outdoor leaders. In 2018, AHS launched NextGen Trail Leaders, an activist ambassador program that comprises a group of 18 – 40 year old leaders and social media influencers in outdoor conservation and DEI. Check out the 2019 class of [NextGen Trail Leaders](#).

The two-pager linked here provides highlights of [2018 AHS accomplishments](#).

**Annual Budget** as of 2019: roughly \$800,000

**Mission:** Empowering all to enjoy, share, and preserve the hiking experience.

**Board Terms:** 3 years (can serve 2 terms)

**Board Contributions:**

Give-or-get \$1,500 annually (up to \$300 of which may be counted from the contributions for the share of hard costs for twice-annual in-person board meetings), plus an equal share of the hard costs for twice-annual in-person board meetings (approximately \$200-\$400 per year).

**Website:** <https://americanhiking.org>

**Twitter/Facebook/Insta:** @americanhiking

The by-laws call for a Board of 10-24 members. We aim for a diverse board (age, gender, sexual orientation, race, geography, profession, etc.).

**The obligations of Board members are to:**

1. Attend two Board meetings per year (spring and fall) and participate in two all-board conference calls in the winter and summer. The fall meeting is in the Washington D.C. metro area, and the spring meeting is usually elsewhere in the country.
  - For in-person meetings: The Board members arrive on Friday to discuss committee reports. The Saturday meeting lasts all day and includes a presentation for board development. Sunday Board members either hike in the morning or do a service project.
  - The executive director and some staff attend Board meetings.
2. Serve on at least one committee.
  - Most members serve on no more than two. Owing to the wide geographic diversity of the Board, committee meetings are held by monthly conference calls. A staff member is assigned to assist committees.
  - Committee assignments are based on a board member's interest, expertise, and the board's need.
  - Current committees are:
    - Executive
    - Governance
    - Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships
    - Finance and Audit
    - Development & Marketing
    - Programs