

AHS Advocacy and Policy Committee

Background

Advocacy and policy work is critical for the success of the American Hiking Society's agenda. AHS's small staff devotes significant effort in the advocacy and policy arena. The AHS Board's role in advocacy and policy needs to be defined, and the AHS advocacy and policy committee needs a charge and a set of objectives with which to develop an annual plan of action that coordinates closely with AHS staff efforts. This paper sets forth a draft for such a charge for Board ratification.

AHS Advocacy and Policy Committee Charge

It shall be the purpose of AHS Advocacy and Policy Committee ("**A&P Committee**") to provide strategic advice, counsel, and guidance to the Board of Directors regarding:

- Current and emerging policy issues related to the mission of the AHS; and
- Advocacy objectives (legislative, regulatory, etc.) related to the mission of the AHS.

The A&P Committee shall work closely with AHS's Executive Director and Director of Policy and Advocacy in determining annual policy and advocacy priorities for AHS staff.

The A&P Committee shall support AHS staff efforts by:

- Reviewing and participating in the drafting of AHS policy, and statements related thereto;
- Providing advice and guidance related to advocacy efforts;
- Carrying out advocacy efforts such as legislative visits, contacting legislators, supporting advocacy campaigns, etc. at the request of staff;
- Supporting AHS's development of advocacy alliances; and
- Where appropriate, assist AHS in establishing advocacy liaisons with related organizations both within AHS (Alliance members) and outside.

In developing AHS's policy and advocacy priorities the A&P Committee shall be guided by AHS's Strategic Plan, which currently sets forth these goals:

- Protection of and access to public lands;
- Increasing hiking opportunities; and
- Access to hiking and hiking trails for all (diversity)

The A&P Committee shall provide a report to the Board of Directors on an annual basis.

FINAL DRAFT: FOR BoD APPROVAL 25 MARCH 2019

BOARD APPROVED: 13 APRIL 2019

All official AHS policy positions which state a new position on any subject matter (whether a position of first impression for AHS on a new subject matter, or a change in AHS's prior stated position on a given subject) requires Board approval. The A&P Committee shall submit all such recommended new policy position statements to the ExCom Committee for review and recommendation to the Board. The A&P Committee is hereby delegated authority to work with AHS's Executive Director and Director of Policy and Advocacy to publicly release, without further Board approval, any policy statements which do not state a new policy position for AHS.

{END OF A&P COMMITTEE CHARGE}

UPDATED 28 January 2021

Proposed A&P Committee activity for 2021:

- Quarterly committee calls to provide updates on AHS advocacy and policy work
- Setting and operating a JEDI strategy screen for A&P activity
- Responding to new policy paper drafts
- Working with Tyler to help set 2021 legislative and policy priorities
- Work with staff to more fully integrate NextGenners with AHS activities and BoD