Meet the Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

Keith Bagwell (Membership #42044629)

Your vote is sought to give me another two-year term. I pledge, if elected, to continue to fight for clean water, clean air and healthy habitats for all living beings. I will strive to improve equity and inclusion among Chapter membership and leadership. Working in concert with partners on issues of mutual concern, and on electing diverse people who will protect the environment as well as promote a more equitable society, is important to me. Our labor-union sisters and brothers can be allies on many of our efforts. We need to maintain and strengthen our coalition with Indigenous people who share our concern for our environment and for protection of their sacred sites. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed the stark inequity we face in Arizona as Latinos, Indigenous people and others of color have suffered far more than have White folks – racism is a public health crisis and that must change.

I am involved in the Sierra Club because it is a grass-roots organization that elects its leaders. The result in Arizona is that we have a Chapter Executive Committee of excellent members with whom I enjoy working. Please give me a chance to serve with them for another term.

Gary Beverly (Membership #11123716)

I am seeking election to the Chapter ExComm as an at-large member. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for three decades and have been active in the Yavapai Group ExComm since 2006 as vice-Chair, Outings Chair, Publications, and currently as Chair. My primary project is to protect the base flow and riparian environment of Arizona rivers. I led a Sierra Club effort to write the “Citizens Proposal for the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River” and have participated since 2010 in the development of the management plan for the Fossil Creek WSR. My other interests are in air and water quality, the Grand Canyon, forest management, and in trails. If elected, I will continue my efforts with increased vigor. These are the most challenging times for environmental interests in the last century, so now we must redouble our efforts by speaking loudly and clearly to defend the earth that sustains us.

Oscar Medina (Membership #49261829)

Oscar has served on the Chapter Executive Committee since 2017. He founded the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) issues committee, which he chairs. Oscar believes in dismantling racism within the Sierra Club through decolonial pedagogy and externally advocate for grassroots community organizations that work on outdoor education and environmental issues in BIPOC communities. Oscar is a high school civics teacher and has traveled with students to D.C. and the state capitol to lobby for environmental sustainability and against the border wall construction. Oscar identifies as a cisgender brown Xicanx male that values equity and inclusion.

Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida (Membership #43413679)

I would like to serve on the Grand Canyon Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee because I care deeply about the conservation of wild places throughout Arizona. Preservation of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Oak Flat and Grand Canyon must continue in tandem with the protection of Arizona’s threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with water conservation and air pollution. I recognize that influencing and monitoring state, federal and corporate activities is extremely important to the environmental health of Arizona. As a member of the GCSC Executive Committee, I will help GCSC achieve our inclusion and equity goals, as I am an 18 year old Engineering student at Arizona State University. I have worked with multiple climate-focused organizations since age 11; I am very experienced with climate activist endeavors. As a member of the GCSC Executive Committee, I will continue to organize Arizona’s youth to advocate and lobby for Arizona’s environment and design and participate in activism projects with enthusiasm and commitment.

Stephanie Vazquez Salas (Membership #73489428)

It is with great honor that I seek re-election to the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee, as Sierra Club’s diligent work embodies the values people deserve to see in Arizona. My time with Sierra Club inspired me to dedicate my professional career to advocating for legislation that seeks to preserve and protect the environment. My goals, however, do not only include playing a role in the creation and implementation of environmental policy in Arizona. I also hope to inspire underrepresented members of our communities to use their voices to advocate for the environment. I recently completed a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Sustainability from Arizona State University, and I am currently working through a Master in Public Policy with an emphasis in Environmental Policy. My time as a member of the ExCom has allowed me to expand my knowledge of dire environmental issues in Arizona, and I hope to be given the opportunity to continue playing a role in the protection of our public lands.

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