



SWPACC Board of Director Elections

2025
Presented In Alphabetical Order By First Name



Caleb Hills (he/him)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

Scott Township

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

Yes, very active in both SW PA and also with lots of travel.

Board pitch!

I've volunteered with SWPACC in various capacities since 2020 largely focused on access and stewardship. Beyond climbing outdoors regularly and helping new climbers get outside I am also involved with Ascend's adaptive climbing program and Climbers for Christ.

I'm currently involved with a wide variety of SWPACC activities from access and stewardship to meeting with representatives to coordinating with other organizations.

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Project Management;Climbing Development;Web Development;Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!

Jacob Zarick (he/him)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

Allegheny West

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

I am a fairly active climber. I mostly climb indoors but have been branching out to outdoors recently.

Board pitch!

I have long been a huge outdoor enthusiast. Now that I'm traveling less I really want an opportunity to give back to the PGH climbing community that has been so welcoming. I'm all about getting out, getting my hands dirty, and making sure that everyone has a fun and awesome place to experience climbing.

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Project Management;Conservation/Environmental Stewardship;Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!;Research, map making

Meredith Soeder (she/her)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

Brookline, Pittsburgh, PA

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

Yes, outside. Weekend warrioring as much as I can.

Board pitch!

I'm a passionate climber - it has become my favorite activity over the last several years. It's a joy to spend time outside while challenging myself physically and mentally. I also know that climbing access is never a given. We must continue to support efforts to secure access. SWPACC clearly demonstrates its commitment to the climbing community throughout the area. And while I prefer to go off on bigger, taller adventures, I know SWPACC and SWPA will be there as my local training ground. For the SWPACC board, I have experience in fundraising, grant writing, and project management. I'm a team player who can also work independently with little oversight. Someone once referred to me as a unicorn. :-)

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Nonprofit Management;Strategic Planning;Project

Management;Fundraising/Development;Finance/Accounting;Policy/Government Affairs;Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!

Mike Varlotta (he/him)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

Brookline

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

Yes.

Board pitch!

I have served on the Board for 10 years now and led and or been involved with most of our stewardship projects during that time. The organization is making great progress towards a number of initiatives that I have been working on and I am excited to continue doing so.

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Strategic Planning;Project Management;Fundraising/Development;Climbing

Development;Conservation/Environmental Stewardship;Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!

Sarah [Eli] Boley (she/they)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

North Side

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

Yes. I boulder, top rope and lead climb indoors and outdoors

Board pitch!

I have been an active climber for around 4 years and have lived in Pittsburgh for most of my life. I climb indoors and outdoors and a strong advocate for sustainability in climbing. I am a member of SWPACC, access fund, and ECP and attended the ECP rock climbing school. I am pursuing my master's degree in wildlife conservation and advocacy with a focus on sustainable outdoor recreation.

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Climbing Development; Conservation/Environmental Stewardship; Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!

Valerie Kramer (she/her)

In what area (neighborhood or city or county) do you reside/spend most of your time?

East End

Would you consider yourself an active climber? Do you climb inside/outside in Southwestern PA? Please specify.

I started climbing in 1995 and it has been a big part of my life since then. I started by top roping in SW PA and went on to trad climbing and then sport primarily in closer areas like the New and Seneca and also throughout the United States. Now I do more in the climbing gym. While I climb much less outdoors now than I have in the past, I would like to support the climbing community by working towards growing opportunities for climbing outdoors in Southwestern PA.

Board pitch!

I have extensive experience in both academic and business settings including with a start-up and running a small business. I have been on the SWPACC board for two years and have made some progress towards certain goals such as working to open a new climbing area in Collier Township and would like to continue with that work.

What skills do you have that could benefit SWPACC?

Strategic Planning;Project Management;Fundraising/Development;Climbing Development;Finance/Accounting;Policy/Government Affairs;Passion for climbing outdoors in southwestern PA!