

AMSA Board of Officers 2012-2013 Application



1. *Explain your interest in serving as this board position.*

As members of AMSA and budding pre-medical students, we all are familiar with the value and importance of community service. I have been involved in volunteering since middle school, and this over the years has both helped define who I am as a student and mature as a responsible individual. To me, community service is less of an obligation or a burden, but more of a pastime. Having regularly participated in community service events with AMSA since my freshman year and serving on the committee itself for a year, I have had the chance to attend almost all unique volunteer events put on by AMSA. From assisting dentists at a makeshift hospital in the Oakland Coliseum to chopping away at invasive roots with a fire axe in the middle of Shattuck Avenue, the Berkeley community has plenty to offer and AMSA students have plenty to give.

As the most active Community Service committee member, I have taken the initiative to lead AMSA members on multiple different occasions, including trips to the local skilled nursing facility and Site Leading for Berkeley Project three times. Of course, in addition to all the satisfaction community service provides, events put on by this committee are probably the best chance AMSA members have to bond, outside of the limited interaction available during the general and committee meetings. It is this camaraderie, along with the many unique opportunities that community service provides that makes me look forward to the position of Community Service Chair, and to leading such an assortment of like-minded volunteers.

2. *Explain your strengths and how they will contribute to your performance as a board member.*

As the next question hopefully shows, I'm no stranger to being a leader. In addition to the usual hodgepodge of qualities a leader should possess like high organization and responsibility, I am more importantly proactive and good at taking initiative. Rather than just maintaining the status quo and sticking to the relatively straightforward task of just maintaining our relationship with places like Chaparral House, I'm more likely to try new things as well. As an extroverted person, I will have little difficulty serving as the liaison between AMSA and the various organizations we serve.

Finally, I am very familiar with how the committee operates. According to logs at least, I'm currently the most active member in the Community Service committee, with 4 events already under the belt this semester. In my two years as an AMSA member, I made sure to attend as many unique volunteer opportunities as I can, so I know exactly what each one entails (I think the only one I'm missing is Medshare). All in all, I would say that I am well-prepared and uniquely situated to tackle the position of committee chair.

3. *Describe your experience in previous leadership roles.*

Prior leadership experience including, but not limited to:

FCSN Volunteer Director: I volunteered at a center for children with mental disabilities from 7th -12th grade. During my junior year in high school, I was promoted to the position of Volunteer Director, the highest position held by a student. As director, I oversaw the entire volunteer program at FCSN, which included over 40 high school and middle school students. If this wasn't hectic enough, I was also responsible for making sure classes went smoothly and the children didn't cause too much trouble- no

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easy task considering the sheer number of students there were (almost 100!).

ASUC Director of Grants: I am currently serving as a grant director for UC Berkeley at the ASUC. Every year the ASUC allocates thousands of dollars for student organizations around campus, and it is up to the directors to allocate them in a manner that best serves the interest of public education. In addition to managing several thousand dollars in grant money, I give seminars to various organizations in an effort to increase accessibility to this often-overlooked resource, and act as the liaison between ASUC and the clubs on campus. This year, I worked to improve Grants publicity among DeCal classes on campus. I organized a seminar with the entire DeCal board, consisting of over 80 DeCals and their facilitators (teachers). Subsequently, this semester saw a near-tripling of grant applications from DeCals across campus.

Tutoring Club Co-founder: During my senior year in high school, I co-founded a mentoring organization called SHINES, dedicated toward connecting high school student tutors with students from low-income, disadvantaged areas. As VP of Operations, I faced considerable difficulty working behind the scene in order to recruit tutors, establish a responsible teaching plan, and find tutees. After talking to the superintendent, we gained permission to teach in the East Palo Alto school district, a predominantly minority district with a dropout rate of 65% (!). Although I graduated not long after, I'm glad to say that the organization is still going strong, and has spread to 4 other high school chapters across the south bay by end of last year.

4. *Describe the goals you have for this position, and how you plan to achieve them.*

1. Increase volunteer attendance with emphasis on regular participation, instead of the drawing from the pool of community members and "one-timers" who attend to satisfy minimum points. What might be more effective than sending out weekly newsletter reminders is to have committee members each talk to and recruit a few personal friends from the club. I've certainly strong-armed a few of my friends to join me on occasions.
2. It is not only the amount and duration of the volunteering we do that matters, but also the quality. It's important to maintain good relations with our current list of established volunteer events. I'll be sure to keep in contact with our different 'clients' on a regular basis to ensure we maintain a high quality of service, and remedy any deficiencies.
3. In addition to trying to find more off-campus volunteer opportunities, to work more closely with similar organizations on campus (Red Cross, Global Medical Brigades, etc.) to organize inter-club community service events, such as the RC blood drives or helping to fundraise for a cause.

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