

1. Explain your interest in serving as this board position. If you are applying for multiple positions, briefly describe your interest in each.

I wish to serve as the community service committee chair because I feel that giving back to the community in the form of volunteering events is a great way to mature. Along with this comes the added exposure of talking and interacting with current medical school students as well as professionals in the field of medicine. This is helpful because not only will it help me gain perspective on the kind of person I should be striving to be, but also because it will help with learning more about medical school in general.

In addition, I really am passionate about community service because not only is it fun, but I also feel like I am really making a difference in other peoples' lives. I think the best way to give back to the community would be as the community service chair.

2. Explain your strengths and how they will contribute to your performance as a board member. If you are applying for multiple positions, be specific about how your strengths support each position you are applying for.

I think one of my strengths is my participation – I have been extremely active as a member of the community service committee which has allowed me to experience all kinds of events. In addition, this kind of exposure is helpful because I have gained an understanding of the kinds of responsibilities that would be expected of me as well as the kind of events that the club is looking to offer its members. I have been given the opportunity to lead certain events and this has also given me a good opportunity to understand the expectations of the position.

Watching the current community service committee chair, I realize that being organized and up to date is crucial. Not only by emailing all of the relevant people, but also making sure all of the committee members are aware of their responsibilities and obligations. I consider myself an extremely well organized person, and know that being organized is a vital part of the position.

Another important part of the position that I feel that I possess is flexibility. I feel that I am able to adapt to situations, which I know that the current chair has had to do on numerous occasions. Whether it be people dropping out at the last minute or the event changing locations, being able to adapt is an important part of the position.

3. Describe your experience in previous leadership roles.

As mentioned before, I have been given the opportunity to lead many events while being a member of the community service committee. This involves planning the event, contacting relevant organizers, and keeping track of the people that have signed up. The most prominent of these events was Berkeley Project Day and Berkeley Project Month. One other site leader and I were put in charge of many people (about 50 for BP Day and 35 for BP Month) with the ultimate goal being an all-day community service event of manual labor. We were in charge of contacting everyone through email and phone throughout the week, as well as organizing transportation and being responsible for everyone the entire day. Through this event, I gained valuable experience as a leader.

In addition to being a member of the committee, I am part of an organization called Peer Health Exchange, which requires two participants to teach certain public health topics to Oakland high school kids once a week. This is a great leadership position because even though I am given a curriculum to teach, it is completely up to me to connect with the freshmen and really bond with them in only an hour. It is really important that the teachers are able to not only teach their material, but also to become support for these kids.

4. Describe the goals you have for this position, and how you plan to achieve them. If applying for multiple positions, go into detail about your goals for each position.

A goal that I have is to increase participation for all relevant events in the general club. One thing I noticed this year was that event participation was largely done by the committee members with very little participation from the general club. I would like to see this discrepancy changed during my time as chair. To do this, I would try and find events that people of the club would be genuinely interested in and really gain something, as well as increasing the exposure of these events by talking about them through emails and general meetings. Many people from the general club have no interest in all day events, so a way to remedy this problem would be to find events that are close and will not take too long. By starting this at the beginning of the semester, people would be able to find out if they like community service and eventually, more people would be able to join the longer events later in the year.

In addition to including more people from the general club, a goal I have for this position would be to find more events that are medically related. While events like Berkeley Project are very important and a lot of good work is done there, I feel the events should be more about exposure to the field in medicine. Many events, such as Chaparral House are very good because they increase the participants' patient interaction skills, but I would like to find more events like MedShare, because that is directly related to medicine, specifically medical supplies.

