

## Autism Society of Texas (AST) Board of Directors Application FAQ's

Link to View-<http://tinyurl.com/ASCTFAQS>



- 1. What is the primary goal of the Autism Society of Central Texas (ASCT)?**

Simply, to improve the lives of all affected by Autism across our 24 county service area.
- 2. Do all board members need formal education or experience with Autism?**

While we value any experience, formal or informal, it is not necessary to have formal experience. We invite any applicants who share our passion for improving the lives of those with Autism across the lifespan. We encourage any applicants who have a genuine interest in supporting our mission to apply.
- 3. What is the primary role of the ASCT Board of Directors?**

Like all nonprofit boards, the primary role of the ASCT board is to "... steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission." (from the National Council of Nonprofits' website) Since the ASCT has paid staff in place, board members do not have to manage day-to-day operations. Instead, we provide support and oversight to the Executive Director and are committed to keeping the organization financially and operationally sound.
- 4. What type of tasks do board members do?**

The Board divides itself into work groups including but not limited to Governance, Finance, Development and Programs. Also, some board members serve as officers. At any given time, the President may establish an ad hoc committee with a specific assignment and ask board members to serve. Our Board members are actively involved in every aspect of the organization's life from fundraising and programming to advocacy and awareness.
- 5. Are there any specific skills or strengths needed by the board and/or organization?**

The Board needs a wide range of experience and skills but that doesn't mean that each board member needs to possess them all. At any given time, the ASCT should have at least one board member with legal expertise and at least one with a background in finance and/or accounting. Experience in strategic planning, fundraising, and marketing is also helpful. We always want to have several family members of individuals with autism as well as an adult who identifies as having an Autism. We welcome community members who don't have extensive experience with Autism as long as they are eager to learn and passionate about the ASCT mission.
- 6. What is the time commitment?**

On average, board members spend about 6 hours per month on ASCT business including a 2-hour board meeting. Other time is spent e-mailing, talking on the phone, writing, and/or attending events. Some months, a board member may spend more or less than 6 hours because of a particular assignment or holiday period.

**7. Is there a requirement for a minimum number of meetings or level of participation?**

We expect new board members to commit to at least one three-year term. The entire Board meets four to ten times per year and members are expected to attend all meetings barring any unavoidable conflicts. Missing three consecutive meetings, without notice or cause, is grounds for possible removal from the board.

**8. What fundraising does the organization do and how are board members involved?**

Currently, the organization's two largest fundraising events are the Annual Bike & Fun Run and Amplify Austin, however we are always looking to expand our fundraising efforts which will allow us to provide more support and services across our 24 county service area, particularly our rural counties. As part of our call for board members, we encourage anyone with fundraising experience to consider applying for our board and sharing their talents in the planning and execution of current and new fundraising goals.

**9. Does the organization focus on all ages and stages of Autism?**

Yes, in fact, we are committed to serving the needs of all individuals with Autism, regardless of their age or functioning level. We embrace the diversity of the Autism Spectrum and we want to ensure that all families and individuals with Autism have the support they need to reach their full potential and have equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and independent living.

**10. How does the organization give back to the community?**

We offer many programs focused on the broad and specific needs of individuals with Autism and their families including, among other things, Sensory Friendly Film screenings, Swim Lessons, Adult Social Groups, Transition Scholarships, and Autism Awareness Outreach and Presentations to local schools, non-profits, businesses, and charitable foundations.