

Kait Boyle  
45 Arrow Root Ln  
Victor, ID 83455  
978.808.9916  
kait.boyle@gmail.com  
she/hers

January 23, 2021

To Arizona Trail Association Board of Directors:

Hello! I'm writing to express interest in joining the Arizona Trail Association's Board of Directors. I'm inspired to seek this role because of a few reasons. Most broadly, I believe trails are how humans can connect to the landscape, community, and themselves. It's through moving on trails that I have experienced the most profound personal growth, forged the deepest relationships, and experienced the sacredness of the Earth in a way that has led to a life of stewardship, education and advocacy. More specifically, after bikepacking around the world and extensively throughout the Western U.S. in search of the best long-distance singletrack riding, the Arizona Trail is my favorite trail in the world. I believe this is for two reasons: 1) I *know* the Arizona Trail. I understand the landscape it traverses, and after 10 years of living in central Arizona and traveling by foot and bike on various stretches of AZT, it has been a conduit for developing a sense of place in the state that feels like home and it has been a facilitator for learning and growth. 2.) The Arizona Trail is where I found my love for ultra-endurance racing and my place in the world of professional mountain biking. In 2016 I first raced the AZT 300 and finished around 3 days, having learned an invaluable amount of what I still had to learn. In 2018 I returned and finished in 51 hours, squarely placing myself among the world's strongest men in the discipline (my time was the 4th fastest time ever recorded on the AZT 300, and still is). It was my love for that trail and the landscape it travels through that kept me smiling and racing with a full heart for those continuous 51 hours. Because of that, I owe my result, and the doors it has since opened, to the AZT. Because I love the AZT and feel such gratitude for it, I am invested in it's future to continue providing life-changing experiences for the users of the trail.

Beyond my love for and investment in the AZT, I'm offering my skills and values to serve the ATA. Through co-founding the 501(c)(3) non-profit, Bikepacking Roots, I have experienced both the board and employee side of non-profit work, including the development and revision of strategic planning and committee work. My experience in teaching expeditionary leadership transfers directly to board leadership and function. With a background and education in Environmental and Adventure Education, I'm well suited to contribute to the educational programming and outreach of the ATA. My professional cycling career developed in Arizona and as such I have

strong relationships in the mountain bike community and industry. I believe everybody deserves access to trails and a healthy environment and I believe the health of the trail is inextricably linked to the health of the landscape and human communities. While mountain biking is my profession and passion, I grew up riding horses everyday of my adolescence, and have been a hiker personally and professionally since college. I continue to hike and ride (and ski and boat) to balance how I enjoy the outdoors. Because of this I can offer appreciation for all trail users and I firmly believe all non-motorized users are worthy of access to the experiences trails such as the Arizona Trail offer.

If brought onto the Board of Directors I will engage in supporting the E.D. in fulfilling the strategic plan, overseeing ATA finances, and contributing a critical perspective in ensuring the health and sustainability of the Arizona Trail and the landscape it traverses. While I am a resident of Idaho, I travel to Arizona to train and connect with my community there about twice, annually. I would look forward to integrating my role in the ATA into my visits when relevant.

Thank you for considering my involvement,

Warmly,



Kait Boyle