

CAFNR Foundation Trustee Position Description

Founded on November 3, 1932, the CAFNR Foundation began its long-standing mission to support agricultural education and advancement in the state of Missouri. The CAFNR Foundation brings together the agriculture and natural resources communities to form partnerships, expand engagement, support research, and promote education for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Mission

The mission of the CAFNR Foundation is to promote and further agricultural education and research in the State of Missouri in collaboration with the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) to accomplish goals of the College.

Vision

The CAFNR Foundation is the statewide leader inspiring collaboration and support for Missouri agriculture, food systems, and natural resources through its commitment to the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Values

Commitment and Collaboration

Position Overview:

The CAFNR Foundation seeks passionate and dedicated individuals to join our volunteer Working Board of Trustees. As a Trustee, you will play a critical role in guiding the organization's strategic direction, ensuring its financial health and ethical integrity, and actively contributing your skills and time to support our mission and operations. Unlike purely governance-focused boards, our Trustees are called to be hands-on, leveraging their expertise and networks to directly contribute to committee work, projects, fundraising, and ambassadorship.

Key Responsibilities:

Governance & Strategy

- Attend and actively participate in scheduled board meetings (typically two per year, three hours each) and potential special meetings, most of which are virtual.
- Contribute to the development and oversight of the organization's strategic plan, ensuring alignment with the mission.
- Provide fiduciary oversight, including reviewing and approving annual budgets, monitoring financial performance, and ensuring adequate financial controls.

- Ensure legal and ethical integrity; uphold accountability and compliance with relevant regulations and organizational bylaws.
- Review and approve major organizational policies.

"Working" Contributions (Hands-On Involvement)

- Actively serve on at least one board committee or working group (e.g., Finance, Fundraising/Development, Governance, Marketing/Communications, Programs, Events, Strategic Planning, Nominating, Bylaws).
- Dedicate time outside of board meetings to committee work, specific projects, or operational support based on your skills and organizational needs (e.g., uploading relevant committee documents with in the CAFNR Foundation's Google Drive to support long-term file management and continuity).
- Actively participate in fundraising and development efforts. This includes leveraging personal networks, engaging potential donors, participating in fundraising events, and making a meaningful financial contribution appropriate to your circumstances.
- Act as an ambassador for the CAFNR Foundation, representing the organization positively within the community and to potential partners or stakeholders (e.g., sharing CAFNR Foundation-related content such as, but not limited to, website, events, newsletters, news stories and updates to help amplify communications and expand reach).
- Leverage personal/professional expertise (e.g., legal, financial, marketing, HR, IT, specific program knowledge) to benefit the organization.
- Assist in identifying and recruiting future board members and potentially other key volunteers.

General Expectations

- Trustees are expected to follow the Bylaws of the Foundation.
- Trustees are expected to RSVP for meetings.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing agendas and supporting materials in advance.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding board discussions and sensitive organizational information, as appropriate.
- Act in the best interests of the organization and declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Collaborate respectfully and constructively with board members and staff.
- Otherwise fulfill fiduciary duties.

Qualifications & Desired Skills:

- Deep commitment to the mission and values of the CAFNR Foundation.
- Willingness to dedicate the necessary time and effort to fulfill board and committee responsibilities.
- Demonstrated integrity, objectivity, and sound judgment.
- Strong communication, collaboration, and interpersonal skills.
- Prior board or leadership experience is helpful but not required.
- We are particularly seeking individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Finance/Accounting, Law, Fundraising/Development, Marketing/PR, Human Resources, Technology, Nonprofit Management, Community Connections within the agriculture, food, and natural resources sectors.

Term:

- Trustees serve a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment for up to two additional terms for a total of nine years.
 - After absence from the Board of Trustees for a minimum of one year, a former trustee may be elected for additional terms; however, such additional service is subject to term limits.

Benefits of Service:

- Play a significant role in advancing a cause you care about.
- Collaborate with a dedicated team of fellow volunteers.
- Utilize your professional skills and expertise in a meaningful way.
- Collaborate with sector leaders, faculty, and administrators.
- Leveraging university events to facilitate networking.
- Communicating timely news and developments in CAFNR.
- Imparting an altruistic difference across the agriculture and natural resources sectors.