**Chapter President**

The role of the president is critical to the success of the board. Effective presidents are a balance

of moderator, cheerleader, administrator, delegator and visionary. A president provides governance,

leadership and strategic direction. A potential candidate should have demonstrated community

leadership, feel comfortable delegating, have good group dynamic skills and have the ability to communicate well, listen and seek input from others.

This document is a template or a starting point, to communicate the role of a general board member to effectively recruit and welcome new leaders to help your board thrive. Customizing this position description to meet your board’s goals and objectives will help ensure that everyone is aware of policies, responsibilities and expectations which bolsters recruitment efforts, maximizes the new leader experience and increases the team’s success.

**Position Specific Recruitment**

The position success is directly related to finding the right person for the opportunity. The recruitment process is an integral part of that success. Forethought and on-going leadership succession are important facets of a successful recruitment strategy.

Although it might seem easy, recruiting the right talent, at the right place and at the right time, takes skill and practice but more importantly, it takes planning. Ideally your board has a leadership succession plan and is building potential leaders as an on-going practice. You may do this through a committee or an identified individual board member who is constantly on the lookout for future board members, bringing their suggestions to the board for consideration and planned involvement.

In order to generate a pool of qualified people, one must know what they are ideally seeking in a candidate. Reviewing the [TU Leadership Manual (Chapter 4)](https://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/TU_Leadership_Manual_June_2017.pdf) is a great place to start to better understand the facets that make a good candidate.

When looking to fill this position, you might consider the following characteristics:

* Commitment and interest
* Ability to attend meetings
* Clear, friendly and professional written and verbal communication skills
* Organized with an eye for detail to be prompt, manage timelines, etc.
* Interest and ability to work as a team
* Previous experience with knowledge of board procedures and/or willing to learn
* Support of the TU conservation mission

**Welcoming New Leaders**

Welcoming a new leader is another critical piece that will increase the success rate of your new board member. Introducing the new leader, showing appreciation for their service and communicating position expectations goes a long way in setting the person up for success. Some tactics to consider:

* *Welcome Packet:* Put together a packet of important resources to show organization, effectiveness and that you are vested in their success. Consider including: position description, [TU Leadership Manual](https://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/TU_Leadership_Manual_June_2017.pdf), board contact information, strategic plan, annual report and other items that might be of interest to them
* *Check-In:* Schedule meetings with the new leader to allow you both to ask questions and/or better understand any concerns. These meetings can be on the phone or in person
* *Mentorship:* Connect new leaders with experienced board members to ask questions and share feedback

**Chapter President**

The board president performs a variety of tasks to advance the coldwater conservation mission, maintain board health and manage administrative functions of the team. The president serves as chair of the Board of Directors and supervises chapter operations, aiding whenever necessary.

**Key Responsibilities**

The chapter president must be a current Trout Unlimited member who will ensure that the following responsibilities are completed (directly or by delegation):

* Act as chief executive officer of the chapter
* Review, understand and example the organization’s bylaws, policies and procedures, conduct ethics, finances and strategic plan
* Ensure that the chapter is meeting all legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
  + With the chapter treasurer, ensure the Annual Financial Report and required IRS Forms are filed annually and on time. For more information on [TU’s online resources for financial management and reporting,](http://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer/tackle-box/financial-reporting-requirements-chapters-and-councils) visit the Tacklebox.
  + Read and become familiar with [the 2015 Policy on Financial and Property Controls](http://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/TU_Policy_on_Financial_Controls.pdf) and [TU’s risk management and insurance limitations](http://www.tu.org/riskmanagement) and ensure the chapter is in compliance.
  + Ensure donations to your chapter are [properly acknowledged](http://new.tu.org/sites/default/files/BP_Donor_Letters.pdf?_ga=1.63635114.441180885.1444082971).
  + With the Executive Committee, develop, approve and track a budget of chapter expenses and revenues each fiscal year.
* Act as the chapter spokesperson at council meetings as well as in the community
* Facilitate appreciation for volunteer leaders
* Be a two-way conduit of communication between the council and the chapter
* Organize leadership recruitment to bring potential leaders into committees and positions
* Facilitate leadership development by bringing information and training opportunities to leaders (e.g. TU regional meetings, council meetings, planning retreats, etc.)
* Model appropriate behavior for board conduct and intervene if conflict arises

**Elected By/ Reports To**Board of Directors/Board Chairperson

**Term Length**Per by-laws

Time Commitment   
Monthly meetings; additional time required for committee work and other board commitments.

**Budget Support**Limited

**Task Calendar**January

* Ensure the online leadership roster is current in the Leaders Only Tools section of tu.org
* Confer with the past president to ask for lessons learned
* Confirm signatories on the chapter bank account are current
* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings
* Confirm February IRS filing deadline with Treasurer
* Prepare list of officers terming out to discuss leadership opportunities and recruitment plan
* Review strategic plan and metrics created by the chapter for [evaluating its effectiveness](http://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/Chapter_Effectiveness_Index_Scoring_Sheet_2016.pdf)
* Review important documents to keep chapter compliant (bylaws, financials, [TU’s risk management and insurance limitations](http://www.tu.org/riskmanagement))

February

* Confirm donations to your chapter are properly acknowledged
* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings
* Confirm February IRS filing deadline is met with Treasurer
* Review leadership opportunities and recruitment plan with board
* Review strategic plan and status with board
* Orchestrate appreciation plan for volunteer leaders

March-September

* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings
* Review leadership opportunities and recruitment plan with board
* Review strategic plan and status with board
* Check-in with board members individually to gauge status and interests

October

* Prepare election process in accordance with chapter bylaws
* Mentor and train chapter vice president for taking on the presidency in the future
* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings
* Prepare for filling the Annual Financial Report with Treasurer

November

* Update Leaders Only Tools section’s online leadership roster
* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings
* Confirm filling of the Annual Financial Report

December

* Facilitate new board member orientation
* Appoint committee chairs and serve ex officio on committees
* Draft and circulate board meeting agenda with previous meeting minutes
* Plan, preside over, and facilitate board and executive committee meetings