



## Becoming a COSA Steering Committee Member

The [COSAS](#) Steering committee evolved from a group of Open Space professionals that were invited to explore how new or emerging programs could best tap into the experience and learn from established open space programs. This group met in July of 2000, and from it the first COSA conference in Fort Collins was held in November 2000, hosted by Larimer County. Since then, annual conferences have been hosted across the state, growing from about 125 participants to 300+. In 2017 COSA became 501(c)3 nonprofit as a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC). CNDC is our fiscal agent providing financial, tax, and administrative oversight.

If you are interested in becoming a COSA [Steering Committee](#), consider these eligibility requirements and responsibilities:

- Local government open space/open lands program employee with agency approval and support. We strive for broad representation of open space programs across the state such as large/small programs, city/county/district programs, geographically dispersed, mature/new programs.
- Term of service is 3 years. Multiple terms may be served.
- Attend Steering Committee meetings (3-4 per year: Oct./Nov., Jan., May, Aug.) and actively engage with at least one subcommittee (see list below). Time requirements vary, depending on task, and are usually greatest in spring and late summer preparing for the fall conference. All members are actively involved at the conference. Plan on a minimum commitment of 10 hours/month.
- Commit sponsor funds and other support from your agency.
- Contribute enthusiasm and energy for helping COSA evolve as an organization.
- Represent COSA at occasional statewide events, as needed.

COSA Subcommittees include (\*seeking additional help):

- Field Trip Coordination\*
- Networking Dinner
- Keynote Speaker recruitment
- Awards: Blue Gramma & SC Outgoing
- Scholarships\*
- Conference Evaluations
- COSA File Maintenance
- Steering Committee Agenda/Minutes\*
- COSA Web Site content
- Conference App
- COSA Listserv
- COSA Colorado Gives page
- COSA Steering Committee Recruitment\*
- COSA 2021 Contract Negotiation\*
- Leadership Development\*

First year members will be mentored and supported in the sub-committees. Please send your letter of interest, including qualifications and proof of agency support, to [tnielsen@bouldercounty.org](mailto:tnielsen@bouldercounty.org) by December 15, 2019. The steering committee will review applicants and anticipates appointing new members in January 2020.