

DRAFT

The Importance of Being a Trustee of ASOR: American Society of Overseas Research

March 10, 2025

Since ASOR's founding over 125 years ago, dedicated trustees have devoted their time, talents and resources to enable ASOR to fulfill its mission to initiate, encourage, and support research into, and public understanding of, the history and cultures of the Near East and wider Mediterranean world from the earliest times.

Bringing together scholars and lay people to study and support the closely related disciplines of archaeology, history, and cultural heritage, ASOR creates a forum for sharing all aspects of human societies especially at a time when Humanities budgets and programs are being cut and many cultural heritage sites are being threatened and destroyed.

Serving as an trustee for such an important and influential organization is not only an important responsibility but also requires a deep commitment as you follow in the very large footsteps of those who have gone before.

Nearing the five million dollar fund-raising goal of ASOR 2025, it is now time to develop a new strategic plan and expand innovative programs that will complement and enhance scholarship, cultural heritage, endowment, publication and research goals.

To accomplish these goals, ASOR needs leaders who have the vision, energy and desire to accomplish important strategic initiatives and continue to broaden the mission in a forever changing world.

The role of an ASOR trustee is so important as each person is chosen because of his or her special talents and interests, those who can both build on ASOR's past achievements and reimagine new initiatives.

Accomplishing new goals while maintaining ASOR's excellence and reputation is possible when we all embrace a common goal. This is an exciting time for ASOR. By serving as a trustee, you will be a part of a team that can continue to transform ASOR's mission for generations to come.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF AN ASOR TRUSTEE

Approve, clarify and preserve ASOR's mission.

Periodically review and approve ASOR's long-range plans.

Regularly review and approve the financial operations to ensure fiscal soundness and sustainability.

Review and approve proposed major changes to programs and services to ensure they are consistent with ASOR's mission, plans and financial resources.

Serve actively on at least one committee or task force.

Vote on the recommendation to appoint ASOR's Executive Director.

Support, encourage and engage the unique skills of all trustees.

Identify, recruit and orient new board members and regularly assess board performance.

Support professional standards for excavations, research, peer review, and conduct.

Attend meetings, educational programs and institutional events.

Be well-informed to convey ASOR's mission and strategies, policies, programs, strengths and needs.

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FUNDRAISING EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the general institutional responsibilities outlined above, board trustees are expected to play an integral role in ASOR's fundraising activities.

Consider ASOR a top philanthropic priority and charitable activity.

Make a personal annual contribution to ASOR in an amount that is meaningful and appropriate to help achieve 100% board participation:

Board elected trustees aspire to contribute \$5,000 annually and more if they are able.

Member elected and institutional trustees aspire to contribute \$500 or more annually.

Participate as a Legacy Circle member.

Share contacts and open doors to potential donors.

In partnership with staff, assist in stewardship efforts to strengthen relationships with donors.

IN SUMMARY

ASOR is a flagship institution which has been considered "the gold standard" of non-profit organizations. With your help, ASOR can be even greater.