

2025 SUNCOAST SIERRA CLUB

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Five two-year term (2024-2025) executive committee seats are open.

- Five (5) candidates are running for the five (5) open seats.

[You may vote here.](#)

Megan Colby (Incumbent)



Hi, I'm Megan, and I am thrilled to run again for the Suncoast Group Executive Committee once again. Over the last four years, I have had the privilege of serving as the group's Secretary, where I've focused on organizing our notes and votes, as well as scheduling and promoting our monthly socials and various events. As a member of the communications team, I leveraged my graphic design skills to create event graphics, compile our annual printed newsletter highlighting the incredible work of our group, design landing page sites, manage the group's social media presence, and assist with programs and events. These efforts have contributed to maintaining a professional image for our all-volunteer organization. You may also encounter me at local

events where our group is tabling! During election cycles, I played a role in the endorsement process for our Political Committee, advocating for candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club across the ballot. You'll often see me actively supporting local conservation initiatives, standing in solidarity with various organizations for climate, social, and environmental justice. I also engage with elected officials to champion crucial issues such as climate protections, preservation of local green spaces, a just transition to clean energy, voting rights, and more. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Executive Committee

Erica Hall (incumbent):



Running for the Executive Committee of the Suncoast Group isn't just a continuation of my commitment; it's a deepening of it. My journey with the Sierra Club has been fueled by a passion for environmental and social justice, a fire that's only grown since I joined. With experience on both the National and Florida State Boards, along with serving as Vice Chair of the Council of Club Leaders, I'm equipped to help guide us toward meaningful change.

Since 2018, Florida has been my home and my mission field. Here, I've immersed myself in projects centered around environmental sustainability, climate action, and community resilience. My background is diverse—I've tackled food insecurity, advocated for housing diversity, and championed economic resilience. This unique blend of experiences allows me to address the challenges we face

head-on. I've forged partnerships with communities historically underrepresented within the Sierra Club, creating bridges that amplify our collective impact.

The heart of our work beats at the grassroots level, where real progress takes root. My journey from a group recruit to a national volunteer highlights the power of nurturing leadership from within. As an African-American woman, my advocacy for diversity and equity is deeply personal. I'm keenly aware of the pivotal moment the Sierra Club faces regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and I'm committed to mentoring the upcoming leaders rooted in these principles.

I've partnered with organizations like the Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas County, NAACP, and the CLEO Institute, forming coalitions to tackle environmental justice. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change and systemic racism on communities of color, I'm dedicated to advocating for those on the frontlines. Environmental justice is inseparable from racial justice, and my work, from leading cleanups to advocacy campaigns, reflects this belief.

Together, we can build a legacy that ensures our planet and communities thrive. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Executive Committee.

Michael Kingsford:



I have been a member of the Suncoast Sierra Club political committee for several years, concentrating on school board elections. During my first campaign involvement, Caprice Edmond was competing against Karl Nurse. Karl was a strong candidate with a solid track record on the city council. Suncoast Sierra had plans to “fast-track” him, which meant Caprice would not be considered for endorsement. While I held great respect for Karl and admired his contributions, I argued that we should adhere to our evaluation process and assess both candidates using the same criteria. Ultimately, Caprice narrowly won our evaluation by a few points, we endorsed her, and she emerged victorious in the election. Since then, Caprice has become a prominent environmental leader on the Pinellas County School Board.

Although I believe Karl would have been an outstanding member as well, I think it's essential to allow a new generation of leaders to demonstrate their capabilities. I appreciate the Suncoast Group for valuing my input and considering my request for a thorough evaluation.

Six months before COVID-19, I co-founded Sea Us Rise, a nonprofit believing in music's power to reach disengaged audiences. Initially planning a music festival, the pandemic shifted us to online advocacy for environmental protest songs. You can explore our efforts at SeaUsRise.org or follow us on social media. Since its inception, I've served as president of Sea Us Rise.

In 2023, I teamed with the PTA of St. Petersburg Collegiate STEM School to establish it as Pinellas County's first Green Apple School. Unfortunately, due to political pressure, that remarkable program was shut down by the Florida EPA. Now, I'm working with Andy Harris from the Sierra Club to help Michele Drucker, former environmental chair for the Florida PTA, move the Green Apple Program to a new PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Sustainability Association) for greater autonomy in expanding this initiative.

Environmental activists face unprecedented challenges today. We must innovate, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and find new ways to win hearts and minds, inspiring the younger generation. These are the values I'd bring to the Executive Committee if elected to the board.

Jamie McWade (incumbent):



As a proud Florida native and passionate nature enthusiast, I've dedicated over 15 years to the Environmental Field, wearing many hats—from community organizer and policy advocate to outdoor educator. My journey has taken me through collaborations with local organizations like Ocean Conservancy, where I served as the Marine Mammal Entanglement Coordinator, and as a representative for Defenders of Wildlife. I've also shared my love for the outdoors as an Educator with Pathfinder Outdoor Education and as a Marine Science Educator with Tampa Bay Watch.

From a young age, volunteering for environmental causes has been close to my heart. Now, as a work-from-home mom to two little nature explorers, I continue my mission as a consultant for non-profit organizations, orchestrating events and driving community outreach programs. This expertise has enriched the Suncoast Group's initiatives, making our gatherings both educational and enjoyable, and raising needed funds. Inspired by my children, I've been part of the Suncoast Executive Committee and I'm eager to continue my efforts that protect this fragile and beautiful state of Florida.

James Scott (incumbent):



Since arriving in St. Petersburg in 2008, I've been deeply involved in sustainability and community initiatives. As a graduate of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's Environmental Science and Policy program, I was proud to establish Florida's first student-led clean energy fund, secure USFSP's commitment to carbon neutrality, and lead the net-zero energy parking garage project, largely funded by a \$1 million SunSense grant from Duke Energy.

In my role as a community organizer, both as a volunteer and professionally, I had the privilege of serving as Co-Campaign Manager for the Suncoast Sierra Club's celebrated "Ready for 100% St. Pete" campaign. This successful campaign led to St. Petersburg's commitment to 100% clean energy, launched the St. Pete Solar Co-Op, initiated a flood vulnerability assessment with Pinellas County, and advocated for an energy efficiency assessment and upgrade of city buildings. It also laid the groundwork for the City's Integrated Sustainability Action Plan. Following this achievement, I joined the Suncoast Executive Committee as a volunteer and then served on the Sierra Club Florida's Board as Chair until term limits were met. In the upcoming year, I am thrilled to be Beyond Ready and join the Race to 100%

Clean Energy—keep an eye out for the podcast I will host covering the clean energy movement from its infancy to its future in Pinellas County.

If elected, I will continue to advocate for greater awareness of Environmental Justice issues, as I believe the Sierra Club's future depends on diversifying its leadership and building more inclusive coalitions. I also intend to lead on resiliency and climate adaptation issues. The bridge-building skills I have developed through Sierra Club will continue to be a valuable addition to our team.

I was a proud leader in the Stop the Bear Hunt movement this past year and am grateful for your support in protecting our Florida black bears, especially to those who were able to purchase lottery bear tags. I would be honored to continue my work on the Suncoast Sierra Club Executive Committee.

The Suncoast Sierra Club Executive Committee is made up of 9 member-elected committee members. Continuing to serve on the committee are: Bryan Beckman, Sasha Bartunek, Olivia Mustain and Glenna Wentworth.