Central Group Candidate Statements 2023



Mathieu Bonin Statement

My Name is Mathieu Bonin. I have been an active member of Sierra Club Since 2019 serving at the Angeles Chapter Conservation Committee and the Central Group Park Committee. For me, environmentalism is a whole approach including protection of ecosystems and defending social and environmental justice. That's why I am focusing this year on Urban Parks through Trash Talk Saturdays or by advocating for education for all. I want to contribute to connect with local communities and organization to strengthen our actions; I want to clean parks and help everyone, including myself, to have a better understanding of their roles in cities; I want to organize events that connect Art and culture, Science, Nature, Social justice and environmental justice to advocate for an holistic approach in environmentalism. I would be honored to continue my role the best I can on the ExCom. Thank you!



Betzabel Sevlian

I’m an immigrant from Mexico, a longtime policy advocate, and a mom of two small children who love the outdoors as much as I do. I’ve been a Sierra Club member for more than ten years and a Central Group member since it was reorganized after it was defunct for many years. I did not experience the outdoors growing up. So in my 20s I made it a priority to go visit many state and national parks and in 2015 I completed a Sierra Club Wilderness Training Course. Besides being an outdoor enthusiast, I am an immigrant rights and anti-hunger advocate and my work is guided by a social justice framework. My interest lies in working with youth of color and creating opportunities for them to experience the outdoors, fostering leadership, teaching valuable skills, and addressing barriers that impede low-income and communities of color from exploring our State and National parks.

Thank you for considering me.



Barbara Hensleigh Personal Statement

I took the Sierra Club's Basic Mountaineering Training Course in 1986. Since then, I have participated in many of its outings.

In 2016 I began volunteering, helping to reorganize the Central Group which was defunct. As the chair of the Reorganization Committee, I recruited volunteers the Caesar Chavez way, one person at a time. I have been the chair of the Central Group since its reorganization.

We have a welcoming atmosphere, seeking volunteers who reflect the demographics of our region. We have worked to pass legislation to outlaw single use plastic in parts of West Hollywood, stop the construction of a gondola in Griffith Park, elect environmental activists to public office and much, much more.

Our group has established collaborative relationships with other Sierra Club regional groups/committees and has forged alliances with outside organizations including Friends of the LA River, Friends of Griffith Park, and labor unions. I represented our group in the STAND LA coalition fighting to phase out oil drilling in LA. Recently I joined a committee established by the County Parks and Recreation Department to help create new parks taking into account equity and access.

Thanks for considering me for another term.