American Birkebeiner® Ski Foundation, Inc.
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2017 – 2018
American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation
Board Candidate Profile Information

Dear ABSF Board Candidate,

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the members of the ABSF. Your contact information and answer to the following question will be included in the Board Election Packet sent to all eligible voting members prior to the election on August 5, 2017. Please submit your profile electronically to board@birkie.com by **June 20, 2017.**

Candidate Name: Gregory Rhodes PhD

Address: 9301 Yukon Avenue South

City: Bloomington State: MN Zip: 55438

Home Phone: 612-599-8004 Other Phone: _____

Email Address: gregsrhodes@gmail.com

Years of Membership in the ABSF: 1

Occupation: Academic, Coach, and Ski Instructor

Please respond to the following question (feel free to use additional space).

Why are you interested in being a member of the ABSF Board of Directors and what knowledge and skills do you possess that can benefit the organization?

(Please see attached PDF)

All nomination forms must be received in the ABSF office by no later than June 20, 2017.

Again, thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your candidate profile and question responses.

Gregory Rhodes PhD 06/19/2017

ABSF Board Member Candidate Form:

The American Birkebeiner has been part of my earliest memories as a child. My introduction to the cross country skiing community started by joining my parents on trips to Northern Wisconsin to visit with friends, watching my parents ski the Korteloppet, and admiring the speed and finesse of the European skiers winning the Birkie. It was this foundation of exercise and adventure on the Birkie Trail that has driven many of my life decisions. From participation in high school skiing, to completing a PhD in Exercise Physiology, to becoming one of the top cross country ski instructors in the country, it is those earliest memories on the Birkie Trail that connects all of them.

As a current member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) National Cross Country Team, I have the opportunity to travel throughout North American and the world connecting with ski groups and skiers. These opportunities have given me the chance to see how prominent a role the American Birkebeiner and the ABSF plays in bringing the entire cross country skiing community together. It is important to keep the Birkie and the ABSF as a leader of the greater skiing community by putting on a top level international cross country ski event and emulating the highest level of land stewardship in the maintenance of a world class trail system.

I bring my experience as a researcher in exercise physiology and an endurance coach to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation to enhance the mission of supporting healthy and active lifestyles among skiers of all ages. I want to assist the ABSF in developing programs, events, and partnerships that will not only bring the awareness of the benefits of cross country skiing and the active lifestyle promoted by ABSF events to the local community but also to the greater population of the upper Midwest and the country as a whole.

The American Birkebeiner and the Birkie Trail are hallmarks of cross country skiing in America, and therefore the ABSF plays a key leadership role in promoting health in our communities. As we go forward, the growth of the ABSF and our events needs to continue focusing on incorporating and recognizing the importance of young skiers as our future and expanding our role as stewards of our sport, community, and land for the next generation. I value the experiences that the American Birkebeiner and the ABSF have given me, and I want to help the ABSF continue to bring these to a larger Birkie Family.

Gregory Rhodes PhD