Candidate Name: Mark Ignatowski
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City: Minneapolis
State: Minnesota
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Years of Membership in the ABSF: 2
Occupation: Marketing communications specialist

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?

I am seeking a spot on the ABSF board to ensure the continued success of Birkie events for future generations.

The Birkie staff, volunteers, and current and past board members have done an incredible job establishing the Birkie as a world-class ski event. To continue growing and building that legacy, the ABSF must include and engage a new generation of skiers, bikers and runners. I hope to provide a new, younger voice in order to create a more diverse board of directors that represents the wide age range of Birkie participants.

As a director of the ABSF board, I would advocate for the continued sustainability of:

- The natural resources that make Birkie events possible
- The funding required to operate the events
- The engagement of Birkie participants of all ages

While I'm relatively new to the Birkie compared to other candidates and directors, I've been a life-long silent sport enthusiast. The concise "Ski. Run. Bike. Live." motto epitomizes everything I love about the Birkie. I want to share that feeling with all Birkie participants and supporters.

I aim to use my professional experience and skills in journalism and marketing to advance the board's mission. I'd like to help drive more social media engagement and promotional events to develop a year-round Birkie experience.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the ABSF and promote the American Birkebeiner events, activities and lifestyle.