



Position Brief
Board Members
Orion Military Scholarships



Letter from the Founders

We founded this organization in 2019 to fill an unmet need in the military community. Children of active duty military families move three times more than their civilian peers, typically changing schools six to nine times before graduating high school. The instability inherent in military life not only jeopardizes children's academic progress and extra-curricular opportunities, but it also poses significant risks to military children's mental well-being. These risks are magnified for military teens, who naturally seek peer relationships and social independence outside of their families. The frequent disruption in military teens' educational experiences places can lead to negative outcomes, often in the form of anxiety, depression, social isolation, substance abuse, and other behavioral problems.

However, many military teenagers want to follow in their parents' footsteps and serve their country. Recruitment statistics confirm that a large percentage of new recruits are from military-connected families, underscoring the need for military teens to have stable foundations. They are our future military leaders.

We see the great potential in children from active duty military families, and aim to give them the stable, uninterrupted educational experiences they need and deserve. To this end, we have developed Orion Military Scholars Program, which helps active duty military teens find opportunities to enroll in select US boarding schools, through a combination of merit scholarships and financial aid. Orion works with twelve US member boarding schools, who wish to enrich their communities with students and families who lead lives of service.

Orion is at a pivotal point in its growth due to demand for the program. Application submissions have grown every year, and we have a waiting list of schools interested in joining our consortium. As such, we are looking to grow Orion's board with committed individuals who share our mutual respect for the sacrifices military families make to serve our country.

We look forward to working with an expanded team who can take our nonprofit to the next level. Let's help military children stop moving and start thriving.

Sincerely,



Eric Peterson
Co-Founder and President



Krista Peterson
Co-Founder and Vice
President, Education



Lisa Molinari
Co-Founder and Vice
President, Operations



Francis Molinari
Co-Founder and Vice
President, Military Affairs



About The Organization

In recognition of the sacrifices of our nation's military, Orion Military Scholarship Fund is dedicated to promoting uninterrupted educational opportunities for eligible children of active component U.S. military families, by providing a combination of merit scholarships and school financial aid funding to select boarding-based schools across the United States.

Orion Military Scholarships is an IRS 501c3 national public charity, dedicated to providing stable educational opportunities for military children.

This is an exciting time to join Orion Military Scholarships. The board has recently embarked on an initiative to expand Orion's fundraising infrastructure, hire key personnel, upgrade Orion's technological capabilities, and formalize Orion's administrative functions in order to meet strategic growth goals. Before these actions can be taken, Orion will need an expanded Board of Directors, committed to Orion's mission.

Orion welcomes committed parties of diverse backgrounds who will:

- Contribute substantially to an organization that is dedicated to serving the military community.
- Connect their professional expertise and networks to Orion's work.
- Bring big ideas and enthusiasm to a leadership team with a strong vision.
- Bring applicable expertise in a wide variety of disciplines and subject matter expertise (see below).

The Role of Board Members

Duties & Responsibilities

Leadership, Governance, and Oversight

- Serve as a trusted advisor to the Leadership Team as Orion's strategic plan is developed and implemented.
- Review outcomes and metrics created by Orion and its partner organizations for evaluating its impact, and regularly measure its performance and effectiveness using those metrics.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Approve Orion's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting, all legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Contribute to an annual performance evaluation of the Leadership Team.
- Assist the Leadership Team and Board chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members, ensuring Orion's commitment to a diverse team.
- Partner with the Leadership Team and other Board Members to ensure that board resolutions are implemented.
- Serve on committees or task forces and take on special assignments.
- Represent Orion to stakeholders; act as an ambassador for the organization.

Fundraising & Resource Mobilization

Members of the Board will consider Orion a philanthropic priority and either make annual gifts that reflect that priority or mobilize resources on Orion's behalf to reflect the same. They will also serve as advocates and ambassadors for the



mission and the organization, leveraging personal connections that can benefit the organization's fundraising and resource mobilization. So that Orion can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, it is expected that 100 percent of Boards Members "give or get" an annual contribution to the organization.

Board Terms/Participation

Orion's Board Members will serve a two-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for two additional two-year terms, successively. Board meetings are held twice per year, and committee meetings are held quarterly. Meetings take place virtually, with one annual in-person Board retreat. The time commitment averages around 5 hours per month, including time to review and digest materials shared in advance of meetings.

Selected board members will either bring lived experience of the contexts and/or communities in which Orion operates; be an accomplished leader in business, government, education, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector; or have a proven record as a thought leader in their field of expertise. Previous board experience is welcomed but not essential – energy, commitment and ideas are far more important. Subject matter expertise in the following areas is of particular interest:

- Financial Management and Non-profit Accounting/Auditing
- Human Resources
- Public Relations, and Media
- Strategic Planning
- Philanthropy and Fundraising

Motivation and Personality

The culture of Orion and thus its board is very collaborative and hands-on; traits that will complement the board are:

- The desire to tangibly support Orion's mission and demonstrate impact.
- A balance of confidence and humility.
- The drive to ensure good governance.
- A healthy sense of humor.

What's in it for you?

You will be helping an exceptional organization make a material difference in the lives of children of active duty military and their families. You may well be paving the way for future leaders in America. You could also develop valuable skills, knowledge, experience, and networks within the private education world working alongside a committed team of directors and trustees, all striving to grow Orion's impact.

To Express Interest or Nominate:

We appreciate all expressions of interest, referrals, or nominations for this role. A comprehensive CV along with a cover letter which sets out your motivation to take on such a role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria would be appreciated.

To do so, or to arrange for a conversation in confidence, please contact:

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