Statement of Mission, Ethics, and Responsibilities

Introduction

Science for Georgia has a declared mission, vision, and values. To that end, this document exists to outline these, our Code of Ethics, and our Responsibilities. All employees and volunteers are expected to sign this document to acknowledge these operating principals.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission:
To improve communication among scientists and the public, increase public engagement with science, and advocate for the responsible use of science in public policy.

Our Vision:
Science for Georgia strives to create a connected, vibrant, and sustainable science community, weaving science into the fabric of Georgia by making science trustworthy, accessible, inclusive, and a foundation of GA's prosperity.

Our Values:
Science for Georgia supports increasing diversity and inclusion within the scientific community. To make progress, all must be served, all voices must be heard, and all must have an opportunity for a seat at the table.

Science for Georgia advocates for using science and data to support the rights of all people, especially those marginalized in our society.

Science for Georgia acknowledges that gun violence, police brutality, the economic, physical, and mental health of vulnerable populations, racism, immigration, and the environment are complicated problems causing deep divides and splintering our nation.

Science for Georgia affirms that the first step to solving anything is understanding what is wrong, and why. With shared knowledge, we can build to a solution that can truly address critical issues, independent of beliefs and biases, and to make our world a better place.

Code of Ethics

To fulfill our mission and vision and to live our values, Science for Georgia is committed to:

- Honoring and acknowledging diversity of people, thoughts, and viewpoints;
- Working toward solutions together with all stakeholders;
- Acting responsibly toward the communities in which we work and for the benefit of the communities that we serve;
- Being responsible, transparent and accountable for all of our actions;
- Avoiding conflicts of interest;
- Appropriately assessing and handling actual or apparent conflicts of interest in our relationships;
- Respecting and valuing all people regardless of race, religion, sexual-orientation, or gender;
- Treating every individual with dignity, respect, and compassion to foster an environment free of harassment, intimidation, and discrimination;
- Assuring an environment of inclusiveness and a commitment to diversity in the organizations we work with and serve; and
- Being a good corporate citizen and complying with both the spirit and the letter of the law.

Responsibilities

All individuals who work or volunteer with Science for Georgia have the following responsibilities.

Advocacy Responsibilities

- Building respect and credibility for science, technology, engineering, math and medicine within our organization, the business community, the body politic, the press, and the communities in which we work.
- Informing and educating the press, policymakers, and the general public about how science can be used as a force for positive change.
- Assisting Science for Georgia in achieving its objectives and goals.
- Advocating openly and within the established forums for debate in order to influence decision-making and results.
- Regardless of personal interests, supporting decisions made by our organizations that are both ethical and legal.
- Learning how communities currently work, so as to build solutions with them, not for them;

501(c)(3) Status Responsibilities

As a 501(c)(3) members cannot advocate for any specific legislation, resolution, political party, or candidate.

> "An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

> "Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status."

- https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/lobbying