

# Nekaia Sanders

## Statement of Interest

Competitive climbing has been a guiding force in my life since I was 9 years old, serving as a catalyst for incredible joy, learning, friendship, and passion. Being a member of the Team USA Athletes' Commission would not only be an honor but also an exciting opportunity to influence a sport and organization that has had an outsized impact on my life. At its essence, USA Climbing is an organization for athletes; therefore, I believe it is important that current active athletes be involved at every level of USA Climbing, but most importantly in the big decisions that shape our sport.

I am actively involved in the competitive climbing community, competing in both the collegiate and elite series. Over the years, my participation has spanned from youth qualifying events to World Cups. In short, I am as knee-deep in USA Climbing as you can get! I believe this gives me a unique perspective on the depth and breadth of USA Climbing.

Climbing is currently in a pivotal period of growth. As the sport grows, it is imperative that we, as a community, make decisions that cultivate, protect, and improve the truly unique sport we all love. If I were given the honor of being a Team USA Athletes' Commission member, I would be an advocate and voice for the interests of what lies at the heart of USA Climbing—the athletes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nekaia Sanders



*Photo Credit: Dan Gajda*

# Nekaia Sanders

## BIO

Competitive climbing has been a guiding force in my life since I was 9 years old, it has been a catalyst of incredible joy, learning, friendship, and passion for me for the last 13 years. I am actively involved in the competitive climbing community competing in both the collegiate and elite series. Over the years my participation has spanned from youth qualifying events to World Cups.

## KEY COMPETENCIES

Passionate about comp climbing	Strong writing skills	Strong interpersonal skills
Current member, athlete, and coach in USA Climbing	Critical thinking skills	Proactive and self-motivated
	Excellent communication skills	Exceptional organisational skills

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### USA Climbing Judicial Committee Member

Feb 2022 - Present

- Contributed to ensuring fair practices and adherence to regulations within USA Climbing, participating in many grievance hearing panels and judicial comity decisions.

### Level 2 USA Climbing Coach

Jan 2022 - Aug 2023

- Certified Level 2 USA Climbing coach for the past two years.

### USA Climbing Youth and Collegiate Team Member & International Competitor

- 2X Collegiate National Champion
- 3X USA Youth Team Member
- Represented USA Climbing at international events in Youth, Collegiate, and Elite circuits

### Camp Director of Historic Camp Run By Kids For Kids, Balboa Island Yatch Club

Summers of 2016-2019

- Managed a 100-year-old summer camp for 6 weeks, overseeing 150+ children aged 4 to 16.
- Supervised and coordinated a staff of 20+ volunteers, all under the age of 16.
- Handled large financial transactions, city permitting, and daily operations.
- Organized an end-of-year banquet and various events for campers and parents.
- Managed merchandise purchasing, sales, and distribution.

## EDUCATION

### Bachelor of Psychology (In-progress)

Oregon State University,  
Current Senior with 4.0 GPA

### Associate of the Arts

Portland Community College  
Graduated with 4.0 GPA



## Conflict-Of-Interest Questionnaire

The following questionnaire must be completed annually by all members of the board of directors of USA Climbing, all members of USA Climbing committees, task forces, working groups and hearing panel pools, all employees and officers of USA Climbing, and all members of the board of directors, and officers and employees, of the USA Climbing Foundation. Answers to this questionnaire should relate to relationships that occurred during the period beginning two years prior to the date of completion of this questionnaire. Once you have completed this questionnaire, please sign and date in the space provided and upload to your USA Climbing account.

Note that for purposes of this questionnaire, "family member" includes an individual's spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, and siblings as well as spouses of children and siblings.

1. Are you or a family member an officer or employee of an entity that conducts business or has a relationship, or is negotiating a relationship, with USAClimbing?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please explain.

2. Do you have a family member who has relationship with USA Climbing, including as a competitive climber? You do *not* need to indicate that a family member serves as an uncompensated volunteer for USAC or USAC events except if such family member serves as a USAC board member or member of a USAC committee, task force, working group, or hearing panel pool.

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please explain.

3. Have you or a family member received, directly or indirectly, any compensation, investment opportunities, loans, or gifts of any kind or any free service, discounts, or other fees from any person/organization that has a relationship, or is negotiating a relationship, with USA Climbing? You do not need to disclose immaterial free items (such as promotional shirts or other logo items) or passes for events or services (such as climbing gym access passes) given to you or a family member as a volunteer as long as it is a common policy to compensate volunteers with such goods or services.

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please explain.

4. Do you or a family member own or share ownership of a business that has a relationship, or is negotiating a relationship, with USA Climbing? Ownership means voting power in a corporation, profits interest in a partnership, or beneficial interest in a trust.

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please explain and indicate the percentage of ownership in the business.

Date: 12/27/24

Print Name: Nekaia Sanders

Signature:

