



Michael
Bader

ABOUT ME

- **24 years old**
- **Active volunteer since 2016**
- Final year of master studies in **International Affairs and International Management HSG**
- **Languages:** German, English & French

VOL-EXPERIENCE

- Trainer
- Coordinator Outdoorweek
- Camp Counsellor
- Treasurer
- PCP
- A-Teamer
- A whole lot more!

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AFS has given me a ton of fun, a chance to develop, a community of the most awesome people and so much more. I have enjoyed pouring my heart and soul into being a PCP, a trainer, and into counseling camps, to name but a few. With AFS undergoing a lot of changes before the backdrop of our uncertain times, I would like to step up and offer my services to the benefit of the community. We are at a fork on our journey towards our vision of a more peaceful world. I hope to offer AFS members an alternative at the polls and at least spur a lively and productive debate among ourselves that can only be to the benefit of the organization.

I originally joined AFS as an outsider. To my great disappointment, my year abroad in South America fell flat, courtesy of my parents. I, however, was welcomed with open arms a few years later when I reconnected and was given a tremendous number of opportunities. Over the years, there is hardly a function I have not tried out. I have also had the chance to be part of some AFS projects that have taken place off the beaten track, as in the e-learning pilot or with the programs AFS offers to corporate partners such as SwissRe. I believe that we need to focus even more on the qualities of all of our smart, dedicated, and wonderful volunteers to build our organization back better once international travel will be possible again in a more predictable manner.

I bring a very strong and broad academic background to the table but have also, not least thanks to AFS, a fair share of real-world experience to my name. I am about to fully launch my professional life and I am ready to take on more responsibility. I am very aware of the momentousness of stepping up and being part of the leadership team of an organization as well-known as AFS. It is also with deep respect before the previous board members that I am putting in my application. I would be thrilled to build upon their work and give much-needed new impulses for the new world we will all be building in the hopefully very near future.

Wilfried ("Willy") Heinzelmann – motivation for AFS Board candidacy

I am almost 58 years old and live in Winterthur where I was born and where I've always been living. My two daughters, 21 and 24 years old, have already left the nest and are living very close to us and in Chur respectively. I travelled a lot with my parents and my sisters and my brother with tent and caravan in Europe and I always loved to see other countries and their culture. Nevertheless, an exchange year during my schooldays was actually never an issue. So, not really an AFS cv which I could impress you with...

However, after my studies, I went to London for a few weeks as part of a language study and lived there with a landlady and her two children. After my admittance to the bar I lived in Munich for a few months to write my thesis. Two years later the law firm I was working for sent me first to London for a so called Visiting Lawyers Program in a huge city firm and after that to the partner firm in French-speaking Switzerland. Especially the program in London I've enjoyed very much. We have been a group of about twenty young lawyers from all over the world who have been drawn together and educated in the way of doing legal work in a big London firm. The training was continued practically every evening... Many friendships were formed during this time, which - also thanks to regular alumni dinners in London - have been maintained over all the more than 25 years since then. Also my professional activity as a lawyer and manager in the film and TV business had a strong international connection and was always associated with travel and contacts in many different countries. To meet and learn people from other countries and cultures has always been a great pleasure for me and I took it as a beautiful gift.

What is my motivation for getting involved with AFS, to be considered for election to the Board? What excites me about AFS is the promotion of intercultural understanding, especially among young people. The world of tomorrow belongs to the youth of today! And the nowadays world is international, global - and full of conflicts... One approach to avoiding conflicts and find and keep peace is to be tolerant, to be open minded to other views, customs, cultures and practices and to understand and accept them. Is there a better way to learn this than by living in another country, in another culture? That's why I find the idea and work of AFS so inspiring.

After more than 30 years of intensive professional activity, at the end as CEO of a media group, I have retired from operational business. I did this with the aim of giving something back to society from the many privileges I had been granted. Especially to a non-profit organization like AFS supporting young people. And I believe that I can support AFS with my knowledge and experience, even if I did not make use of the AFS offer as a student...



Christian Herter

Motivation for AFS Board Candidacy



PERSONAL PROFILE

- ❖ Age: 37 years old
- ❖ Occupation: relationship manager for corporate clients at Credit Suisse
- ❖ Education: M.A. HSG in Banking & Finance, certified business educationalist
- ❖ AFS exchange year: 2000/2001 in Denver, USA
- ❖ AFS volunteering: SCP, A-teamer, other roles
- ❖ Languages: German, English

ACTIVITIES

- 🏸 Squash
- ♠ Board Games
- 🍷 Jassen
- 📖 Fantasy Books
- 🏈 American Football

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AFS has changed my life to the core 20 years ago when I had the privilege to do an exchange year with AFS in Denver, USA and it keeps affecting me to the day. It seems just like yesterday that I have visited Denver East High School and dined with my host family. As I have been able to keep a close relationship with my host family and best US friend until today, I am thrilled to have the journey going on. But AFS has given me not only a second family, a second home and new lifelong friends, but also a new perspective on the world and last but not least on myself. I am convinced that AFS helps creating a better world. If we all are family and friends, we don't have to fight each other.

As a long standing volunteer, I have experienced the great satisfaction of being part of AFS and spreading its contagious virus and I would love to contribute more as a member of the board. Through my volunteer work as SCP, A-teamer and few other roles I have learned to appreciate and love the Swiss AFS family, especially in these trying times.

I would love to help the board both with my AFS background as well as my financial knowledge. I studied banking and finance and business education at HSG. Since my studies, I started a career as a relationship manager for medium sized companies at Credit Suisse. At my line of work, I am daily confronted with difficult business questions and problems as well as new business ideas and strategies. I accompany my clients over years as strategic partner and advise them on their business strategies. A cooperative collaboration with my clients has been key for helping a lot of my clients in these tough times to keep a cool head and make the right decisions.

In teams both at work and in private I am usually the person you would describe as outgoing, with a positive drive but isn't afraid to tackle difficult questions. Respect, honesty and empathy are the basis I live my relationships with others. I would love to help AFS get through these unsure times by bringing my knowledge, team spirit and positive energy to the board and would be honored to be part of it.

MOTIVATION LETTER

Candidacy for the Board of AFS Switzerland

Cléo Schwerzmann

Who would have thought that a conversation about exchange years I had with my parents on a car ride in the summer of 2010 would lead to one of the biggest journeys of my life? The summer after, I left for my exchange year in Canada with AFS and since then, I've had the chance to see AFS from many different perspectives. I have been an active volunteer for almost nine years, I have helped out around the AFS office, and I was a host sibling. AFS has had a profound impact on me and I can confidently say that the #AFSeffect is present in every aspect of my life. I truly believe in the mission of AFS, and I am convinced that it contributes to the global efforts to make this world a more peaceful and inclusive place for everyone.

The challenges faced by our AFS community have changed rapidly over the past year and some of the core activities were brought to an abrupt halt. However, any crisis offers opportunities for improvement, too. In light of this situation, I have decided to put myself up for election, hoping to bring a new perspective, a fresh pair of eyes, to the board of AFS Switzerland as we face the uncertainty of the next months and hopefully make use of the challenges we face.

Even though I am still pursuing my master's degree, I have been able to acquire quite some professional experience working in marketing and communication for the past four years. Thanks to my AFS background as well as my academic experience, I would describe myself as an active global citizen. As such, I am aware of the complexity of the issues addressed by AFS and, subsequently, the responsibility that comes with being a board member. I am willing to take on such a role and I would love to apply my skills on the board of AFS Switzerland to help strengthen the links within AFS as well as with external partners to ensure that future generations can experience the #AFSeffect.



KEY FACTS

- 25 years old
- BA Multilingual Communication
- MSc Global Health (focus: Health Communication)
- German, French, English, Spanish

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