

Amanda Astor fell in love with the woods when she went on her first backpacking trip in northern Minnesota. She was around 12 and her family took this trip and all the leaves were changing, berries were ripe for picking, and crawdads were plentiful in the lakes. She knew she had to grow up and work around nature, from that point on.

Amanda attended college at Colorado State University (CSU) where she studied forest management, forest biology and botany. This is where she first ran into the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Having had their 50th anniversary in 2019, CSU's student SAF chapter is dubbed the Alpha Chapter. Participation in the Alpha Chapter allowed Amanda to go to the 2015 National SAF Convention, apply for the U.S. Forest Service's Pathways Program and start her career in Michigan as a Pathways Intern on the Hiawatha National Forest.

Within a year, she quickly converted to a Pre-Sale Forester while also obtaining a Graduate Certificate in Forest Carbon Science, Policy and Management from Michigan State University.

Eventually she felt she could do more outside of the agency rather than within it and began her career in association and advocacy work. She started at the American Forest Resource Council where she advocated for legally sound, sustainable, economically viable and operationally feasible forest management on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Now she works for the Associated Oregon Loggers as their Forest Policy Manager where she lobbies for forest contractors, monitors the Oregon Department of Forestry, engages with federal partners, works to increase workforce access, and manages association communications.

Without the networking and opportunities that SAF provided to Amanda, she would never be where she is today. She is now engaging with the Oregon SAF Policy Committee.