

Board Service

So, you are interested in learning about Board Service?

Boards can focus on different aspects of the organization depending on the nonprofit's phase of development. Some nonprofits have several "types" of boards perhaps a traditional governance board but they might also have an advisory, alumni and /or fundraising board. Check out this document that explains the different types of Boards.

What do I do when I am asked to be on a Board?

Ask a lot of questions (*note you shouldn't be asked unless you have already had some exposure to the organization, are a donor, a volunteer, an interested party etc., so you should know what the mission is already*)

- What type of Board is it?
- What is the time commitment weekly, monthly, annually. Are there specific times of the year when there is a higher expectation of time commitment?
- What are my responsibilities?
- Will I have to fundraise? Is there a minimum get or give amount?
- When are meetings? How often? What materials are provided to the Board?
- Are there term limits? Do members usually serve more than one term?
- Are you asking me to be an Officer? If so, what are the roles and responsibilities associated with that?
- Do you have Officer and Director's Insurance?
- What is the annual budget? How is that met? Is the organization in the black? Has it been so for the past three years?

Perform your own due diligence

- Ask around town about the organization's reputation and leadership
- Look up the organization on www.guidestar.org to see past 990s
- Volunteer with or attend programs and chat with staff