



BOARD MEMBER SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

This self-assessment is designed to provide food for thought and reflection. Being part of a nonprofit board requires a commitment of time and energy. Ideally, participation on a voluntary board of directors should provide a win-win for both you and the organization you're supporting. When you sit on a voluntary nonprofit board of directors, you get to move your community forward in positive ways – so awesome! Enjoy!

I have extra time in my life to serve on a voluntary board of directors.

Yes No

I could commit to volunteering on a board of directors for:

4 hours per month

8 hours per month

16 or more hours per month

Bear in mind, some boards are very management/operational in nature with hands-on approaches. Other boards are focused on policy and umbrella-type governance and are less involved in a hands-on, grassroots way. Which appeals to you?

I enjoy working collaboratively. Yes No

I am comfortable sharing my opinion with others. Yes No

I tend to shy away from sharing my opinion if it differs from the popular opinion. Yes No

I have the following skills/abilities/tools to bring to an organization I support:

<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	accounting/bookkeeping/financial savvy	<input type="checkbox"/>	physical ability to haul gear, set up tents, signs, etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	graphic/web design	<input type="checkbox"/>	event planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	marketing/public relations	<input type="checkbox"/>	communications/social media/writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	fundraising/donor relations	<input type="checkbox"/>	data entry
<input type="checkbox"/>	cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (make note)

I am interested in or passionate about:

___ women's issues

___ poverty reduction

___ community recreation

___ sports

___ youth activities

___ other _____

Nonprofits are created for reasons other than making profit. Typically developed for reasons of social service in some form or another, nonprofits tend to use government grants, donations, and fundraising to create positive effect on a joint purpose. They are in service, as opposed to in business.

Take a few moments to research organizations that align with your interests. A quick search in your web browser should help focus your search. (eg. Google poverty reduction nonprofits + your city) Alternatively, call your city's general information phone number and ask for referrals to nonprofits that align with your interests. Note those organizations below:

Of those organizations you've noted, dig a little deeper by looking at their websites more closely. What are the mission and vision statements of these nonprofits? Do they have a values statement? What kinds of programs or services do they offer? Do they have financial reviews, annual reports, and strategic plans available for your review?

Now that you've done some research, hopefully you have a good idea which organization you'd like to support. Get in touch with them and go from there.



Beth's invitation to consider.....

Your time and energy is important. The nonprofits you support with your time and energy are important. Consider how your commitment to volunteering on a board of directors creates a win-win's for you AND the nonprofit.

Holding a seat on a nonprofit board as a way to build your resume or make employment contacts are two reasons some people sit on boards. I suggest those reasons need to be matched with a sincere interest. Bring your skills, passion, time, interest, and enthusiasm to a nonprofit board that you can truly get behind and commit to. If job contacts come as a natural consequence, then great. But those contacts won't be there when you're standing outside in the rain flipping burgers to raise funds for team jerseys or new playground equipment or toiletries for the women's shelter. Only your faith in the nonprofit, your enthusiasm for the joint purpose, and your desire to be a positive force in your community will keep you going when the going gets tough. ☺

GO BE AWESOME * go be all-in