

Questions to ask before joining a non-profit board

1. What is the mission of the organization? Why do they exist? Who do they serve?
2. What is the time commitment? How often does the board meet? What about committee assignments and/or fund raising events?
3. Where does funding for the organization come from? Are they solvent, or do they operate at a deficit?
4. Who currently serves on the board? What are the lengths of board terms?
5. Is there a strategic plan?
6. Are board members expected to make a financial contribution? If so how much?
7. Is there an orientation and on-going training program for all board members?
8. Are new board members given a tour of the facilities?
9. How often are meetings canceled because of a lack of a quorum (not enough board members at a meeting)?

After you ask these and other questions you might have, think about whether this is the right fit for you.

- Are you passionate about the organization?
- Do you have the time and commitment level to be an effective board members?
- Is this a group you would be proud/comfortable to be a part of?