

Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Board of Directors - Expectations and Responsibilities

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board provides strategic direction, fiduciary oversight and governance of NFCT. New directors are elected by the Board and serve three year terms, with a maximum of three terms.

An engaged and committed board is essential to complement NFCT's exceptional staff and energetic volunteers. The organization's focus on wilderness paddling, the development of recreational resources, and youth engagement provide an enjoyable and rewarding opportunity for non-profit board service. The fun is accompanied by hard work, important decisions, and strategic thinking. To ensure a high functioning Board of Directors NFCT has established the following expectations and responsibilities for board service:

NFCT Ambassador: All board members are ambassador's for the organization - promoting the organization's work, looking out for new opportunities, and encouraging engagement with NFCT. As part of this commitment Board members attend public work trips or events each year to represent the Board.

Attendance: NFCT's Board meets at least four times a year. Two of these meetings are typically held by conference call, and at least two are meetings at sites around the Northern Forest region. Social and educational or paddling activities just before or after the Board meeting, along with travel time, typically make the on-site board meetings an overnight opportunity. Board members make attendance at these meetings a highest priority and schedule their personal and professional obligations around travel to on-site board meetings and conference calls. Board member contributions at these meetings are among the most important part of their service to the organization, and only family emergencies or poor health interfere with attendance.

Committee Work: All board members serve on one of the organization's committees: Stewardship, Communications, Development, or Experiences. These committees meet as needed, and often via conference call.

Financial Contribution & Fundraising: NFCT Board members make annual personal financial contributions to the organization. NFCT does not require a minimum financial contribution, but a Board member's annual contribution to NFCT should be one of his/her three highest philanthropic commitments

Ensuring that NFCT has the financial resources to fulfill its mission is an important duty of each board member. All board members play a role in NFCT's plans to raise funds, and commit to assist in the Executive Director's annual work plan to cultivate the organization's priority donors and prospects. That commitment will vary depending on the Board member's skills and interest and may include leading a paddling trip, having coffee with an important donor, making a public presentation, supplying names from your contact list, writing some personal thank you notes, or accompanying the Executive Director to cultivate a strategic relationship.

Conflict of Interest. NFCT adheres to the highest non-profit organizational standards. All Board members are expected to sign the Conflict of Interest Policy Agreement every year, and adhere to the expectations set forth in that agreement.