

Governance Roles and Responsibilities

What is Governance?

- The act, process or power of governing
- Decision-making processes in the administration of an organization
- A structure that, at least in theory, works for the benefit of everyone
- A structure of relationships and processes to direct and control the enterprise in order to achieve the enterprise's goal

The job of the board of directors for a nonprofit organization is simple: **it is responsible for everything.** This includes both governance and management of the organization. Even if it delegates certain responsibilities to the staff or other professionals, it is responsible for **ensuring that the resources of the organization are being effectively applied to meet its mission.***

**In some cases, a parent organization's board has ultimate fiduciary responsibility, not the camp committee/commission.*

While governance structures may differ from one organization to another, the responsibilities stay the same. This document can act as a guide to understand the roles and responsibilities of your organization's board and top professionals.

Set Direction

- Develop and maintain focus on mission and vision
- Establish and oversee implementation of strategic direction
- Delegate authority for organizational management
- Articulate, safeguard, model, and promote organizational values

Ensure Resources

- Identify human and financial resources needed for implementation of mission
- Establish policies for how funds will be raised, including policies for board member participation
- Ensure that the necessary community support and resources are made available

Ensure Effective Board and Committees

- Create and regularly update bylaws, board and committee charges, structures, size and composition
- Establish effective recruitment, orientation and support of board members
- Regularly evaluate board and committee decision - making processes and operations for effectiveness and efficiency

Provide Organizational Oversight

- Establish organizational and financial policies and ensure accountability
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws and ethical standards
- Monitor progress of programs and evaluate outcomes

Provide Executive Oversight

- Delegate authority for organizational management
- Hire, support, and mentor executive management
- Evaluate management performance