

Who Makes A Great Board Director?

Organizations require people to serve on their Board, as Directors. Being a Director carries specific roles and responsibilities. Organizations grow and prosper when their Board of Directors are committed to the cause and are able to deliver on the following:

- ◆ Understand what the 4-H program does in practice
- ◆ Understand what the current 4-H deliver model involves and assist with implementation in local 4-H Associations
- ◆ Provide input into governance issues during board meetings. Decisions of the Board are made and based on collective input and wisdom of all Directors
- ◆ Manage the strategic development of the 4-H Ontario program. The membership at large (Council) entrusts the Directors with the management of 4-H Ontario staff. Directors, through shared vision, develop policy, which is implemented through the Executive Director and staff on a day-to-day basis. It is understood that Directors will act in good faith at all times
- ◆ Act in accordance with the guidelines outlined in 4-H bylaws, policies and procedures
- ◆ Understand and acknowledge the limitations of authority as a director
- ◆ Attend and participate in all scheduled meetings (face to face, 4/year, and teleconferences). Face to face meetings include CAM and three additional meetings (usually quarterly). Attendance, while not mandatory, is a good indicator of the Director's level of commitment
- ◆ Review all related meeting information (i.e. agendas, supporting materials, etc) in advance of each meeting and follow up as required with appropriate staff person. Be prepared to discuss the business issues arising during the board meeting
- ◆ Ask questions and seek clarification on issues that are unclear. Directors have a responsibility to be aware and knowledgeable on the 4-H program issues. (Fully informed Directors understand issues and are better equipped to address/make informed decisions)
- ◆ Confidently share areas of experience and knowledge with fellow directors.
- ◆ Be prepared to communicate board issues and policy decisions to Association Representatives
- ◆ Respect director colleagues and staff of 4-H Ontario, acting honestly and truthfully with fellow directors at all times
- ◆ Actively participate and enjoy fellowship and fun as a Board Director