



Nonprofit Board Speed Dating

Nonprofit Board Speed Dating is a way to connect people in the community who are interested in serving on nonprofit boards with nonprofits seeking qualified board or board committee members. Like a typical “speed dating,” candidates have the opportunity to talk with nonprofits face to face in 10 minutes rounds in a fun, casual atmosphere.

Why should I serve on a nonprofit board? If you are looking to make a positive impact, collaborate with people who share your values and interests, broaden your leadership skills, or expand your personal and professional networks, then serving on a nonprofit board or board committee may be for you! Nonprofit boards provide the opportunity to become more deeply involved with an issue or program that you care about. It also allows you to make an investment in your community and the people who live in it.

Is there a cost involved? These events are free and open to anyone in the community. Candidates and nonprofits must complete an application and register to participate. At this time, this event is only available to nonprofits that are HandsOn NWNC Supporting Partners.

When and where are the board speed dating events held? Board speed dating events are typically offered twice a year, once in the fall/winter and once in the spring/summer on the third floor of The Winston-Salem Foundation building, located at 751 West Fourth Street in the Burress Family Center for Philanthropy. Enter the building through the back doors and take the elevator to the 3rd floor. Exit to your left, go down the hall and you will enter the Burress Family Center for Philanthropy. Please check our website for event dates.

What is the process? Candidates seeking board positions and nonprofits seeking board members must first complete an application and return it to HandsOn NWNC. You will then receive instructions about the timeline for the event, sample questions to ask, and what to bring/what not to bring. Candidates will also be sent the websites, mission statements, and basic board information/requirements from the participating nonprofits several days prior to the event. The names of the participating nonprofits will additionally be posted on the registration page as soon as their participation is confirmed. Nonprofits will be sent basic information on each candidate several days prior to the event, although no personal contact information will be provided unless the candidate expresses interest in talking with a nonprofit further about board and board committee openings after the speed dating rounds.

The event is typically scheduled from 5-7 pm and begins with a time to mingle and enjoy free appetizers and drinks from 5-5:20 pm. We'll then review the speed dating process and officially begin our first nonprofit board speed dating round at 5:30 pm. Approximately 8 nonprofits participate and candidates will have 10 minutes to talk with each one. Candidates are required to talk with each nonprofit (no wallflowers.) After completing the speed dating rounds, candidates will complete a form asking whether they would like to talk further with any of the nonprofits represented at the event. If so, HandsOn NWNC will share their application and contact information with the nonprofit(s) for follow-up (we call this a second date.) Although board/committee placement is not guaranteed, the event will familiarize candidates with different nonprofits and their culture, programs, and people, before committing to serve as a board/committee member.

Additional Board Development training. HandsOn NWNC offers Board Basics and Board Leadership Development for nonprofit board members in the fall and spring. We also offer Project Blueprint in partnership with United Way of Forsyth County, to prepare individuals from underrepresented groups in the community to become successful board members. Customized workshops are also available. Contact kathydavis@handsonnwncc.org if you are interested in any of these classes or programs.

Questions: Please call 724-2866 or email kathydavis@handsonnwncc.org.