

**START
HERE!** >>

The role of advisory board members is to advise the board; advisory board members are not authorized to act or make binding decisions on behalf of an organization.

Additionally, advisory boards do not typically have financial or legal responsibilities.

Joining an advisory board can be a great alternative to joining a junior board, especially because junior boards are rare.

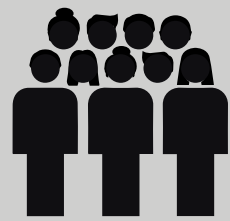
• **Join an advisory board**

05

Doing this can help you better understand the problems that a nonprofit board organization is grappling with and how you can help the Executive Director utilize existing resources and/or those of your own to help address those problems.

Volunteering with a nonprofit organization can also help you interact with staff within the organization and learn about its day-to-day functions.

01



• **Join a board committee**

Joining a committee can help you learn more about the board culture and it can help you meet other peers and understand their respective social impact journeys.

Common board committees include but are not limited to finance, events and programming, executive, fundraising or development, and governance and nominating committees. Be sure to reach out to the organization to find out which committees will allow non-board members to join.



02



• **Join a junior board**

Serving on a junior board can give you a panoramic view of how the organization operates. It can also be a great way to graduate into the more formal or larger nonprofit board structure.

Not every organization has a junior board so please check in with the organization and find out whether they have one or whether they might be open to forming a junior board.



Try It Before You Buy It: Pathways To Joining A Board

If you are thinking about joining a nonprofit board but you would like to ease into this step, we've outlined five pathways you can take before you make the commitment to join a nonprofit board.



• **Volunteer with the organization in an advisory capacity on a project**

04

Get in touch with board members of the boards where you are seeking membership. Find out about how their experience has been serving as a board member.

This can help you understand expectations and you'll learn more about how the board is working towards the mission of the organization.

03



• **Talk to other board members**



Once you are ready to join a board, be sure to research organizations that match up with your interest areas.