

Northwest Girlchoir Board of Directors FAQ

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Directors! We hope the following information helps you in your journey toward board service with Northwest Girlchoir. Feel free to contact us for more information or to take the next step in getting involved. Email info@northwestgirlchoir.org.

1. What is your mission?

Northwest Girlchoir revolutionizes choral education by rejoicing in students' voices and creativity through embodied music-making. Guided by our commitment to anti-racism, we inspire joy, belonging, and confidence, and cultivate community through shared experience. Our treble choirs welcome and affirm girls and all youth marginalized by gender.

2. How long is a board term, and how many serve on the board?

Our board term is three years. We understand that three years is a big commitment and we are sensitive to the fact that each board member's level of availability may vary from year to year. However, the continuity of the 3-6 year commitment is critical for the health of the organization. Our board size ranges from 10-16 members.

3. How do I get approved to be on the Board of Directors?

After indicating your interest in serving on the board and filling out an application, you will be invited to meet with our Vice President, our Executive Director, and/or Board President, to discuss the board role and help answer your questions. You provide your bio/resume and the board votes on candidates in January, June or September.

4. What is the meeting schedule?

We have nine meetings throughout the choir year, September through June. We meet by zoom or in-person at Northwest Girlchoir on the third Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm. In January we instead hold a half-day in-person retreat on a weekend, devoted to strategic planning or board education. In August we hold individual meetings with each board member to reflect on the past year and set goals for the coming year. The board does not meet in December, July, or August.

5. What other commitments are expected of board members?

Board members accept legal, fiduciary, and planning responsibility for the organization. It is expected that you will attend Northwest Girlchoir's fundraiser Spring Fling (April) and at least three concerts throughout the year. It is also expected that you will serve on at least one committee, and that you will make an annual gift that is meaningful to you. It is expected that all board members will do some work outside of board meetings, including review of materials, committee work, and donor stewardship.

6. What committees might I serve on?

We have three board committees: Executive, Finance, and Fundraising. We also have two board-staff-community committees where board members serve: Equity and Alum Engagement. Committees are subject to change each year depending on the needs of the choir and its strategic goals. We invite board members to serve on committees that match their expertise, and/or get involved in areas they'd like to learn more about.

7. What other volunteer opportunities are there at Northwest Girlchoir, beyond board membership?
You are welcome to volunteer for our many one-day opportunities (concerts, events, and office projects). We also encourage prospective board members to volunteer on a committee before joining the board, as a great way to get acquainted with our work.
8. Is there an opportunity for board leadership?
Yes, we have an Executive Committee that includes the following positions, each of which holds a one-two year term: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Executive Committee meets monthly on Monday evenings. Ideally the person who holds the position of Vice-President becomes the next President and then fills the role of Immediate Past President, who also serves on the Executive Committee.
9. Do you have a strategic plan?
We launched a new strategic plan in February 2024. We treat this plan as a 'living document' that will be adaptable for the future. The board and leadership staff have the ability to add goals, adjust those that are no longer relevant, and adapt to changing conditions.
10. Am I required to make a financial commitment?
Yes. As noted above, it is expected that you will support the organization by volunteering your time and talent, and by making a financial contribution. The amount of the contribution is up to you, but we ask that it be an amount that is meaningful to you.
11. What are expectations around fundraising?
The board is very active in raising money for the organization, including many roles that do not involve direct asks for money. You may be asked to make phone calls to personally thank donors, to invite friends to a fundraiser, or to write thank-you cards to donors. Board members are expected to share their excitement about Northwest Girlchoir with donors and community members and be aware of the financial needs of the organization.
12. Why Northwest Girlchoir and not another nonprofit?
Your hard work and commitment brings music to life for 250 choristers. Board members are rewarded when they hear these young people sing together and see the confidence and teamwork that grows through the Northwest Girlchoir experience. We are committed to racial and gender equity and improving access for students from all backgrounds. The board experience itself reflects the values of the organization, both the value of each individual and the impact we all have together.
13. What expertise do you already have on the board and what are you looking for?
Our current board brings a balance of strengths to the table, including management, marketing/communications, finance, legal, and fundraising. We are always looking for passionate and talented people; this year in particular we are seeking board members with experience in fundraising, finance, HR, leadership, and racial and gender equity.
14. What are the next steps?
Let us know if you're interested and we'll contact you to set up a meeting! We'll also send you a link to the board application.

Thank you!