

SSP Adult Board Member FAQ's!

- 1) What exactly is the role of an adult board member?
The Board Members are a valuable part of the SSP organization. They provide support for the Executive Director and the SSP Staff in various capacities.
- 2) Does an adult board member need any prior knowledge about how nonprofit organizations work?
It is not necessary because we explain everything at our orientation meeting the first night.
- 3) Are spouses/significant others welcome to attend the meetings?
Due to the sensitive nature of the Board Meetings, friends, spouses, and other family members are asked not to attend the meetings. Spouses are encouraged to attend the evening meal if we have one!
- 4) Can board members serve more than one term?
Board members can serve 2 consecutive 3 year terms. They are eligible to serve an additional 2 consecutive 3 year terms after being off the board for 1 year.
- 5) I understand that one of the commitments of a board member is to contribute financially and reach out to potential donors. How much money is expected?
For personal commitments, each board member is asked to make a *significant* contribution according to her means. This is left up to the board member to decide what feels appropriate and significant. Additionally, contributions are asked to be made through SSP's 12x Donor program, which allows you to make a monthly gift year-round.
As stewards of SSP, all board members are asked to participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year, including reaching out to potential and current donors. Activities may include writing a thank you note, making a thank you phone call, attending an event where donors will be present, and sharing fundraising letters with those board members think may consider making a gift to SSP.
- 6) What are the overnight accommodations? Do we need to bring an air mattress, sleeping bag, and ear plugs? Will I be rooming with another board member?
The SSP Staff makes all arrangements before the meeting and relays that information to the board member. Most of the time, board members will stay in a local hotel located very close to the SSP offices. If there is another board member needing a hotel room they might room together in order to be cost efficient. The board members will get from the airport to the meeting in various ways. If the board member's plane has landed around the same time as another board member, she/he will most likely carpool via Uber/Lyft or a rental car to the meetings. From the hotel, the board member will likely carpool with another board member who has a car. The SSP Staff will make sure that there is always 3 or more people when travelling anywhere with a youth.
- 7) Are all the meetings required? What if a board member's travel plans fall through?
All Board Meetings are required. We recognize that life happens and things happen that are unexpected and if you plans fall through with valid reason you will be excused from meeting.
- 8) What should a board member bring to out of town meetings?
 - * Suitcase with clothes for however long the stay is
 - * Water Bottle/Coffee Travel Mug
 - * Cell Phone/Laptop/Tablet

- * **Your SSP Board Binder**
- * **SSP Shirts/Gear to Wear Around!!!**
- * **A positive attitude on how to Make SSP Even Better!!!**

- 9) Will the board member be reimbursed for travel expenses? Is there a way of donating that money?
Yes. All travel expenses to and from the board meeting, including airfare and mileage are reimbursed. SSP asks for details of these costs so they can be tracked according to the budget, but board members are allowed to have their costs, or fraction of their costs, donated to SSP instead of reimbursed.
- 10) How much time does a board member spend doing SSP work between the quarterly in person meetings?
The 4 quarterly board meetings, monthly calls for 30 min to an hour for your committees that you are on and any other help needed as part of those committees. Estimated an additional hour a month.
- 11) What should I wear to the meetings and on the plane?
The meetings are usually very casual. Jeans and a t-shirt would be perfectly fine. It is a good idea to look up the upcoming weather in Sacramento so you can dress accordingly. As for the plane it is highly recommended to wear an SSP shirt so that anyone picking you up can easily recognize you at the airport.
- 12) How can a Board member contribute? (Committee meetings, becoming a 12xSSP donor, asking questions and reading materials, attending one or more programs during the year of their service, etc.)
Board members can contribute in dozens of ways! Every board member is on two committees and is asked to be a 12x SSP Donor (see above), and participation in both is required for the duration of board service. Committee meetings typically happen once a month over the phone, in addition to the quarterly business meetings that happen in-person.