



**EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS  
OUTDOOR SCHOOLS**

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**POSITION:** ENH Board Member (Member at Large)  
**REPORTS TO:** Board President  
**STAFF MANAGED:** None  
**TIME COMMITMENT:** Average 3-5 hours per month, with initial 2 year term

**ORGANIZATION SUMMARY:**

Exploring New Horizons (ENH) is a nonprofit, for-public-benefit corporation specializing in environmental education and dedicated to enriching the lives of students through hands-on and activity-based learning. ENH operates three residential outdoor education facilities where Bay Area students and their teachers live together for a week during the school year. Since 1979, ENH has brought over 100,000 children to a closer understanding of themselves and the Earth around them.

ENH is committed to providing high quality, affordable environmental education for the greater San Francisco Bay Area. As naturalists and educators, we are dedicated to enriching the lives of young people through the awareness and understanding of the beauty and diversity of nature and each other. We strive to nurture intelligent, active citizens who will work together to create a healthy and sustainable environment and a responsible society.

Program Summary

Exploring New Horizons' curriculum framework focuses on three different strands:

1. Environmental Awareness and Natural History
2. Cooperation, Group Dynamics and Team Building
3. Self-esteem, Empowerment, and Citizenship

These concepts are taught and reinforced throughout the week through a variety of experiences in three distinct ecosystems: the old-growth redwood forest, the oak woodlands and meadows, and the tidal zones and marshes of the Pescadero region. The philosophy behind the curriculum is as follows: given knowledge on how natural systems works, shown how to work effectively in groups, and given role models of others who have changed the world, our students will feel empowered to make good, conscientious decisions. When a person knows how to make their world better, they achieve a sense of hope. With hope comes more changes, and the cycle is perpetuated.

Financial Summary

Since its inception, ENH has been funded primarily by student tuition. In 2002, The Board of Directors took on the development of philanthropic contributions to support student scholarships, making it possible for more diverse schools to attend ENH. Annually we fundraise approximately \$150,000 from private, government and family foundations to support our *Environmental Education for Underserved Students* (EEUS) program.

Board financial responsibilities include fiscal oversight by supporting the ED and book keeper to develop and maintain sound fiscal systems. Each Board member is also responsible for cultivating \$1,000 in annual contributions, through the annual fund, connections to philanthropic dollars or personal contributions.

## **BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **1. Attend Board Meetings**

Our board meets four times a year, plus an annual one-day retreat. Most meetings are held on Saturdays, usually from 10 AM to 1 PM, and we ask that members attend at least three of the four. They occur as follows:

- **Late August** - A 3-hour morning meeting to review the fiscal year and approve the new budget;
- **Mid-November** - 3-hr. meeting to cover general business;
- **January** - 3-hr. meeting to cover general business;
- **March** - 3-hr. meeting to cover general business;
- **Early May** - A Friday night overnight and all day Saturday (9-5) retreat focusing on the mission of the board and the organization. Traditionally, the retreat is held at one of the sites.

### **2. Attend Board – Staff Day**

This informal afternoon event is an opportunity for Board and staff to meet and exchange ideas and goals for the organization. This is generally held in early September during staff training.

### **3. Volunteer time as requested by the Executive Director and/or Board President**

### **4. Financial Contributions:**

- Contribute regularly (appropriate to your means) to ENH scholarship or capital improvement campaigns.
- Each board member is responsible for either giving/obtaining \$1,000 annually to the scholarship fund.

### **5. Serve as an advocate for Exploring New Horizons in the SF Bay Area**

### **6. Participate in the solicitations of donations by corporations, foundations and individuals.**

### **7. Maintain a degree of familiarity with the issues, concerns and trends in the field of outdoor education.**

## **BOARD ROLE**

1. Set policy for the organization.
2. Hire, direct, and evaluate the Executive Director.
3. Authorize expenditures and income through an annual budget.
4. Execute strategic planning activities, annually evaluate and update the organizations "Three and Five Year Strategic Plan".
5. Assure the organization's compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
6. Ensure the effective future governance of the organization through recruitment of new board members to the Board of Trustees.
7. Evaluate the performance of the Board as a whole, as well as each individual member of the Board, relative to this Responsibility Statement.

**For More Information** please contact ENH's ED, Tracey Weiss at [tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org](mailto:tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org) or 831-338-3013, or contact ENH's Board President, Sheila Nickolopoulos at [Sheila\\_curtis@hotmail.com](mailto:Sheila_curtis@hotmail.com) or 415-595-6134.

For more information about ENH please visit our website <http://www.exploringnewhorizons.org/>.

*Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age in any of its policies, procedures or practices.*