



SORKIN CORPORATE SERVICES Nonprofit Board Member Support

Summary of Services

The Sorkin Center at Compass partners with companies to introduce their employees to nonprofit board service. Sorkin services include training for existing and prospective board members, placing individuals on nonprofit boards, and convening board members from nonprofits across the local community.

The Sorkin Center supports corporations with philanthropic and volunteer efforts, as well as with staff leadership and professional development. We work with Human Resources, Corporate Social Responsibility, Community Relations, and Corporate Foundations tasked with training and placing C-suite and line staff on nonprofit boards. The goals of Sorkin Corporate Services are to leverage corporate talent to positively impact the nonprofit community, provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for employees, and in turn, enhance the company's brand as a trusted, invested employer and corporate citizen.

Why should corporate employees serve on nonprofit boards?

Business professionals who serve on nonprofit boards gain significant leadership and professional skills, make valuable professional connections, and receive great personal satisfaction supporting an organization whose mission resonates with them. Engaging employees in nonprofit board service helps companies broaden the impact they have on the social sector and the community in which they work.

How does the Sorkin Center support corporate employees?

Introduction to Nonprofit Board Service

For employees considering board service, Sorkin staff will introduce the responsibilities and requirements of board service, including considerations for choosing a nonprofit board, an overview of different types of nonprofits, and information on what nonprofits seek in board members. This training can be coupled with Sorkin's On Board placement services to both train and match staff members onto an appropriate nonprofit board.

On Board - Board Placement

Sorkin provides board matching and placement services for corporate staff. Our interview team interviews corporate employees to identify interests and skillsets for nonprofit board service. With an extensive nonprofit database and even deeper knowledge of nonprofit organizational

needs, the Sorkin Center is ideally suited to serve corporate and staff interest in becoming more involved in their respective communities. Specific corporate ethos and culture will be considered when identifying nonprofit matches. An employee board placement program can enhance corporate brand reputation with employees and the community in which the company operates, and can enhance corporate social responsibility goals.

Sorkin Summit - Nonprofit Board Best Practices

The Summit is an annual conference for nonprofit board members, potential board members, and social enterprise stakeholders interested in learning about the fundamental components of highly effective boards. Corporations can sponsor their employees to attend. The Summit includes presentations, expert panels and community building with nonprofit leaders, board members and other community members dedicated to making their community a better place to work and live.

Training modules are led by Sorkin leaders with deep knowledge and expertise in board management and governance. The sessions include a holistic introduction to high impact boards and the fundamentals of board membership including:

- **Finance** - Addresses topics such as what makes nonprofit financials unique, financial stewardship, accounting for grants, nonprofit cash flow, the Form 990 and Audited Financials, and risk management including policies, insurance, fraud, and internal controls.
- **Fundraising** – Focuses on the critical responsibility of a nonprofit board with respect to fundraising. Topics include how board members fundraise, understanding why donors contribute, and telling your nonprofit's story.
- **Governance** – Covers the foundations and characteristics of good governance, the role of a nonprofit board versus staff, the responsibilities of the organization to board members, and the role of committees.

Tailored Employee Training

Sorkin experts provide customized trainings for your staff of experienced or first-time board members. Companies may also host a training for the board members of boards on which their employees sit or board members on boards of nonprofits supported by the company. Board best practice topics include those covered at the Sorkin Summit, as well as additional modules such as how boards can work as a team, and more. Corporate staff training sessions usually run one to two hours, depending on topics covered.

Contact The Sorkin Center

For more information about Sorkin Corporate Services, including pricing and scheduling, please contact Sorkin Center Executive Director Amy Cress at (773) 396-6747 or acress@compassdc.org.

About The Sorkin Center at Compass

As part of Compass, the Sorkin Center builds on Compass' years of experience and expertise in the local nonprofit sector. The Sorkin Center also offers Retreat Facilitation and Strategic Planning services for nonprofits.