



Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center

Board of Directors — Position Description



Serving science, education, and community since 1885 — The longest continuous weather record in the United States.

MISSION

The Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center advances public understanding of Earth's weather, climate, and environmental systems while maintaining one of the nation's longest continuous climate records in the Western Hemisphere. As both a National Historic Landmark and an active scientific institution, the Observatory serves as a living laboratory connecting climate research, education, and public engagement.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Serving on the Board of Directors of the Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center offers a rare opportunity to steward and position a significant scientific institution for greater impact across climate research, education, and outreach.

Board members provide strategic leadership, ensure long-term sustainability, and elevate the Observatory's visibility and influence at a time of increasing urgency around climate and environmental understanding.

This role is designed for senior executives, entrepreneurs, and leaders across business, science, policy, and philanthropy who are prepared to contribute their expertise, networks, and leadership to advance a mission of growing national and global relevance.

A UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC & COMMUNITY ASSET

The Observatory is distinguished not only by its historic 141-year climate record, but by the people and community that sustain and advance its work. Board members engage with and support a dynamic ecosystem that includes:

- Meteorologists and weather observers maintaining one of the longest continuous atmospheric records in the United States
- Climate scientists and researchers who rely on the Observatory's data to understand long-term environmental change
- STEM educators delivering hands-on learning experiences to students, teachers, and families
- A dedicated community of members, supporters, and partners who value the Observatory's role in deepening public understanding of weather, climate, and the environment

This intersection of science, education, and public engagement makes the Observatory a uniquely impactful institution—and one where board leadership has tangible, far-reaching influence.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Governance & Strategic Leadership

- Provide mission-driven oversight and long-term strategic direction
- Partner with the Executive Director to advance strategic priorities and growth
- Ensure strong fiduciary oversight, financial stewardship, and risk management
- Review and approve annual budgets, audits, and key organizational decisions
- Monitor organizational performance through defined metrics and outcomes
- Participate in the evaluation of the Executive Director

Ambassadorship & External Engagement

- Serve as a visible ambassador, elevating the Observatory's profile and credibility
- Leverage professional networks to build partnerships and expand reach
- Advocate for the Observatory's role in science education, climate literacy, and historic preservation

Resource Development & Financial Leadership

Board members are expected to play a meaningful leadership role in ensuring the financial strength and long-term sustainability of the Observatory.

- Make the Observatory a top philanthropic priority through an annual personal contribution

- Demonstrate leadership-level financial commitment, commensurate with capacity, and consistent with peer institutions (typically at a five-figure level)
- Actively support fundraising by opening doors, cultivating relationships, and advancing philanthropic partnerships
- Contribute to a culture of 100% board giving and shared responsibility for resource development

Board Engagement

- Prepare for and actively participate in quarterly board meetings and committee work
- Serve on at least one committee or task force
- Support board development, including identifying and recruiting high-caliber members
- Uphold governance best practices, including confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies

QUALIFICATIONS

The Observatory seeks accomplished leaders who bring a strategic mindset, a collaborative approach, and a commitment to mission impact. Ideal candidates will demonstrate:

- Senior-level leadership experience (C-suite, founder, or equivalent)
- A track record of professional achievement and influence
- Experience in one or more of the following: science, climate, education, finance, business, public policy, philanthropy, or nonprofit leadership
- Ability to contribute to high-level strategic discussions and organizational growth
- Strong networks and a willingness to leverage them for institutional advancement
- Sound judgment, integrity, and commitment to fiduciary responsibility
- Demonstrated interest in science, climate, education, or public service

BOARD STRUCTURE & EXPECTATIONS

Term	Three-year term, eligible for one additional term
Meetings	Quarterly board meetings, with committee engagement as needed
Participation	Active engagement in meetings, initiatives, and fundraising efforts
Giving	100% participation in annual giving at a leadership level

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center is committed to building a Board that reflects a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences, strengthening its ability to serve a broad and evolving community.

IMPACT

Board members play a critical role in sustaining a 141-year legacy of weather observation while ensuring its relevance for future generations. Through governance, advocacy, and financial leadership, the Board advances the Observatory's capacity to educate, inspire, and inform in an era defined by climate change.