

# Become a *Board Member*

In 1887 John A. Mitchell, the original editor of Life magazine, raised \$800 to send 266 New York City children to the newly organized Life Fresh Air Farm in Branchville, Connecticut. Throughout our evolution from Life's Fresh Air Farm, to Life's Camps, to current day Trail Blazers, we continue to be guided by the same vision and mission: to help young people grow within by going outside. We create and provide opportunities to develop critical life skills through outdoor experiences and outdoor programs, accessible to all, that equip and empower youth to lead productive lives.

Each of our nature-based programs addresses an essential need for every-day New York and New Jersey families: our exciting summer overnight camp and day camp adventures ensure that all young people have safe and exhilarating opportunities to grow during the summer months; our affordable school programs bring much needed play and nature to the school environment, helping young people develop essential social emotional skills and science knowledge; and our leadership/workforce development programs provide young people with key experiences and training that prepare them to thrive in adulthood. Our programs instill the values of caring, cooperating, community, empathy, leadership, the proper use of nature and its resources, and the knowledge that all individuals are empowered to make life good for themselves and those around them.

## BY THE NUMBERS



## BOARD SERVICE AT TRAIL BLAZERS

Trail Blazers is in an exciting period of growth, expanding our portfolio of summer and year-round programs to engage over 1,200 young people each year. Our strategic plan, which considers the current youth development environment and emerging needs in our community, aims to cement Trail Blazers' position as a premier provider of youth services. As a member of our Board of Trustees, your expertise will directly contribute to guiding the organization as we emerge into this next stage and scale our impact. The Board supports the work of Trail Blazers and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance.

## BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

### GOVERNANCE and OVERSIGHT

Work collaboratively with fellow board members and staff to ensure Trail Blazers provides high quality programming in service of our mission by participating in committees and task groups including strategic planning, program quality, DEIB, finance, and fund development.

### FUNDRAISING and NETWORKING

Ensure Trail Blazers has sufficient resources through individual fundraising, special events, and outreach to your community and networks.

### TERMS and PARTICIPATION

Board members serve 3 year renewal terms, attend 5 board meetings each year, and are expected to actively support and engage in volunteer events, fundraisers, board committees, and work groups.

## INTERESTED?

Please visit our website at [www.trailblazers.org](http://www.trailblazers.org) for detailed descriptions of our programs, reach, and impact.

If you are interested in Board Service at Trail Blazers, contact Shanna Gumaer, Executive Director at [sgumaer@trailblazers.org](mailto:sgumaer@trailblazers.org).

