

OUTWARD BOUND MEMBERS COUNCIL



The Members Council of the Outward Bound Trust comprises between 20 and 30 individuals elected from the Outward Bound Trust financial membership. The Members Council (MC) plays a key role in the governance and support of the Outward Bound organisation in New Zealand. This role is defined formally in the Outward Bound Trust Deed as ‘to be responsible for the protection of the ethos and philosophy of Outward Bound, by insuring that the Trust remains economically viable’.

What does the Members Council do?

To undertake this role, the MC has responsibility for the appointment of the Board of Directors of the Outward Bound Trust and the three independent trustees of the Outward Bound Foundation. The MC therefore provides ‘check and balance’ governance to ensure that the Board's decisions and direction are in accordance with the Outward Bound philosophy and values. The Board takes the primary financial responsibility, and the MC role in this regard is one of overview.

In addition to its formal role, the MC provides essential support for the Outward Bound organisation in the form of projects and activities undertaken from time to time. MC members also provide an important link to the community at large, which is called upon when required to support activities that strengthen the organisation. Members are appointed for a one year term.

Who can be a Councillor?

Eligibility requirements:

- You must be a financial member of the Outward Bound Trust. Membership is by way of an annual \$80 donation, or a \$1,000 donation recognises you as a life member.
- You must be nominated by and seconded by existing financial members of the Trust.
- Your nomination must be approved by the Council and the election passed by vote at the Trust Annual General Meeting.



In order for the MC to carry out its role effectively and play its part in the support and strengthening of the Outward Bound organisation, it is important that members bring to the Council key attributes they can actively contribute. These are:

- A working knowledge of Outward Bound (OB). Members should have completed an Outward Bound course or alternatively have close knowledge of OB through other involvement
- Commitment and passion about the OB philosophy and goals and a desire to actively support the OB organisation
- Well networked in their local community
- Experience in organisational management either in the business or not-for-profit sectors and have skills in this regard that can benefit the OB organisation
- Of character and standing that is aligned with the OB values.

What is expected of me as a Councillor?

The key requirement is that you are engaged in your role as a Councillor and contribute actively throughout the year rather than just attending the formal meetings.

The Member's Council meets formally at least twice a year, at the Annual General Meeting (held at Anakiwa) and a mid-year meeting held in varying locations. Attendance at least one of these meetings is essential. Assistance with travel costs is available, if required. In addition, special meetings may be called from time to time.

The Chair of the MC may appoint members to specific action committees.

You must be active in your local community when called upon to support OB actions and initiatives. You need to actively build your knowledge of OB and the organization, and support OB working groups from time to time.

You'll be an active 'ambassador' for OB in the community in accord with the organisations communication guidelines. You'll also need to commit to the role of Councillor for more than one year. Although Councillors are elected for a one-year term, it takes time to build an effective knowledge of the organisation.

You're able to proactively look for opportunities that strengthen OB, presenting these to the MC for potential action.