

INTRODUCTION

The Sons of Norway Foundation is dedicated to preserving and promoting Norwegian heritage and culture, and providing assistance to Sons of Norway members, lodges and communities. The lodge Foundation Director focuses on helping the Foundation fulfill its mission at the local level.

STRUCTURE OF THE FOUNDATION

The Sons of Norway Foundation (U.S.) was established in 1966 and has a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status in the United States.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Governors that operates separate from the International Board. Governors are appointed through an application process.

(Note: In 1971 the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada was formed under the authority of the Canada Corporations Act. While both Foundations have similar goals, their structures, governance and administration are quite different, reflecting the tax laws of their respective countries. This section of the Guide for Leadership is directed toward Foundation Directors in the United States. Foundation Directors in Canadian lodges should contact the President of the Canadian Foundation for guidance in performing their duties and responsibilities.)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The lodge Foundation Director is responsible for promoting the Foundation and for helping the Foundation grow financially. Specifically, the Director is charged with:

1. Promoting the Foundation to the members and the community, increasing awareness of the Foundation and its value as a benefit of membership.
2. Providing information on available scholarships and grants, including application procedures, deadlines and application requirements.
3. Helping the Foundation grow financially by educating members regarding donations, annual pledges and legacy gifts.
4. Referring those who express an interest in legacy giving to the Sons of Norway Foundation Director, as well as informing the Director of their interest.
5. Focusing the lodge's attention on the Foundation in October (Foundation month) by organizing informational, promotional and fundraising activities in recognition of Foundation Month (consider joint efforts with the Social Director).

6. Assisting members and lodge leadership in accessing Foundation information on the Sons of Norway website.

RESOURCES

1. *VIKING MAGAZINE* contains periodic articles on important Foundation deadlines, activities and highlights.
2. Foundation section of the Sons of Norway website (www.sofn.com/foundation) contains the most comprehensive and up-to-date information about the Foundation, including:
 - a. The Foundation video
 - b. Grant deadlines, online application and instructions
 - c. Scholarship requirements, deadlines, online applications and instructions
 - d. Online donation option
 - e. Directions on how to make a legacy gift
 - f. Current fundraisers
3. Periodic mailings from the Foundation, as well as articles in various Sons of Norway online publications, provide current information.
4. The Sons of Norway Idea Bank provides Foundation related topics.

CONCLUSION

Sons of Norway Foundation was started to help fund community outreach, educational goals, humanitarian efforts and cultural exchange. The lodge Foundation Director makes a significant contribution to the success of the Sons of Norway Foundation by providing advice, information, and guidance to lodge members, along with promoting the Foundation's value and importance to lodge members and the community.