

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to be a member?

Organization membership is open to all philanthropic organizations (e.g., foundations, public charities) that award charitable donations to more than one recipient annually.

Individual membership is open to any person who is not affiliated with a philanthropic organization but awards charitable donations to more than one recipient annually.

My organization has multiple trustees who want to use your resources and attend programs. Is there a limit on how many individuals can be linked to our membership?

No. For organization members, all staff, trustees, and family members affiliated with the organization are eligible for member benefits.

Does your membership renewal cycle operate on a calendar year?

No. Membership dues are paid annually based on the month you join. We also give members the option to join or renew for two years to enjoy uninterrupted access to member benefits and keep dues at current prices regardless of any future increase.

Do membership dues count toward a foundation's 5% minimum distribution?

Yes. Membership dues count toward a foundation's minimum 5% distribution requirement as a qualifying administrative expense. Registration fees for Exponent Philanthropy programs and contributions above dues to the organization can also be counted toward the 5% requirement.

How does SignaturePLUS membership differ from Signature membership?

SignaturePLUS membership includes all the benefits of Signature membership plus quarterly legal updates and up to 10 hours of direct consultation with carefully chosen attorneys.

Can I change my membership level after I join?

Signature members may upgrade to SignaturePLUS membership at any time; the additional cost will be pro-rated based on the number of months left in your membership cycle. Your membership renewal date will stay the same. SignaturePLUS members may downgrade to Signature membership at their time of renewal.

We are setting up our foundation but don't yet have nonprofit status. Can we join?

Yes. You can join now as organization member, then send us your updated information when available. Or, you may join as an individual member, then update your membership to an organization membership once the foundation is up and running.