



ZION
NATL PARK
FOREVER
PROJECT

ZION FOREVER PROJECT

2026 Call for **Board of Directors**

Supplemental Applicant Guide

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the terms of service for board members?

Board members serve three-year terms and may serve up to four consecutive terms, for a total of twelve years.

How many board members are currently on the board, and what is the anticipated size after the search?

The Board of Directors currently has eight members. Through this search, Zion Forever Project seeks to add 2–4 new board members. The ideal board size is twelve members.

What is the board meeting schedule and location?

The Board of Directors meets three times per year in Southern Utah. A virtual option is available, though in-person attendance is strongly encouraged. Board members also participate in quarterly virtual committee meetings and are encouraged to attend events throughout the year.

What is the expected annual time commitment for serving on the board?

We estimate approximately 20-40 hours per year, including board meetings, committee meetings, and event attendance. Committee chairs and other leaders can expect additional time commitments. Each board member typically serves on one committee.

Are travel expenses covered for board meetings?

Yes. Board members may submit travel expenses for reimbursement.

Are most board members based in Utah, or are members located nationwide?

The current board is approximately evenly divided between members based in the Greater Zion region and members located in other parts of the country. We welcome candidates from across the country, whether rooted in the Greater Zion landscape or bringing a broader national lens.

Is there a required minimum for personal giving or a formal “give/get” policy?

There is no required minimum gift amount. Board members are asked to prioritize Zion Forever Project as one of their top three philanthropic commitments at a personally meaningful level. In addition to personal giving, board members are expected to support fundraising efforts by leveraging their networks, making introductions to potential donors, and actively participating in donor cultivation activities.

Sample Candidate Profiles

To give prospective applicants a sense of the leadership and experience we're seeking, we've outlined three sample candidate profiles, one for each of the priority expertise areas we are seeking in this search. These are illustrative, not prescriptive. We welcome candidates whose backgrounds may look different from these examples but who bring relevant expertise, strong networks, and a passion for public lands.

SAMPLE PROFILE:

Government Affairs and Political Acumen

Background

A seasoned government affairs or public policy professional with 15+ years of experience navigating the political and regulatory landscape affecting public lands at the state or federal level. May come from a background in retired elected office, former political appointments (such as within the Department of the Interior or USDA), legislative advocacy, lobbying, or government relations within the conservation or outdoor recreation sector.

Candidates may bring some combination of the following:

Key Expertise

- ◆ Deep understanding of federal or state land management policy, legislative processes, and regulatory frameworks
- ◆ Experience working with Congress, federal land agencies such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, or U.S. Forest Service, and/or state-level natural resource policymakers
- ◆ Proven ability to build coalitions and navigate complex policy debates affecting public lands, conservation, and recreation access
- ◆ Understanding of how changing regulations and policy shifts at the federal and state levels can directly impact park operations and conservation priorities

Connection to the Work

- ◆ Strong personal or professional ties to public lands issues in the West or nationally
- ◆ Track record of advancing balanced, pragmatic approaches to conservation, public access, and natural resource stewardship

What This Candidate Brings to the Board

- ◆ High-level relationships across government, policy, and advocacy networks
- ◆ The ability to help Zion Forever Project anticipate and respond to policy developments that affect the greater Zion landscape
- ◆ Credibility and influence in legislative and regulatory spaces where public lands decisions are made

SAMPLE PROFILE:

Land Conservation and Stewardship

Background

An experienced conservation professional with 15+ years of direct involvement in land protection, stewardship, or conservation real estate. May come from a background leading or advising a land trust, managing conservation transactions for a national organization, practicing conservation or environmental law, or serving on the board of a conservation organization that has navigated the complexities of land trust accreditation.

Candidates may bring some combination of the following:

Key Expertise

- ✦ Hands-on experience with conservation easements, land gifts, land acquisitions, and long-term stewardship strategies
- ✦ Deep understanding of the legal, financial, and operational dimensions of protecting land, including the accreditation process and the governance standards it requires
- ✦ Experience working with landowners, public agencies, and conservation partners to advance landscape-scale protection
- ✦ Familiarity with federal funding mechanisms such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other conservation finance tools

Connection to the Work

- ✦ Career dedicated to protecting working lands, wildlife habitat, and critical landscapes
- ✦ Familiarity with the challenges and opportunities facing conservation organizations in the Intermountain West or similar regions

- ✦ An understanding of what it takes to build internal capacity for land conservation, from governance and compliance to transaction management and long-term stewardship

What This Candidate Brings to the Board

- ✦ Practical expertise to help guide Zion Forever Project as it pursues land trust accreditation and expands its land conservation strategy
- ✦ The ability to “see around corners” by anticipating the operational, legal, and governance complexities that come with managing and protecting land
- ✦ Relationships within the national land trust and conservation community

SAMPLE PROFILE:

Philanthropic Reach and Strategic Connections

Background

A well-connected leader with strong ties to philanthropic, civic, or business networks, particularly in major metro areas such as Salt Lake City/Park City, Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, Washington D.C., New York City, or other key national markets. May come from a background in foundation leadership, family philanthropy, corporate leadership, or entrepreneurship with deep civic engagement. What distinguishes this candidate is the strength and reach of their relationships and their willingness to activate those networks on behalf of the mission.

Candidates may bring some combination of the following:

Key Expertise

- ✦ Strong connections to individual donors, family foundations, corporate leaders, or civic networks that can help elevate Zion Forever Project's visibility and reach
- ✦ Experience building strategic relationships that advance the goals of mission-driven organizations
- ✦ A track record of connecting people, organizations, and resources around shared causes, whether through board service, fundraising leadership, community engagement, or industry influence

Connection to the Work

- ✦ A personal passion for public lands, conservation, or outdoor recreation
- ✦ Active engagement with philanthropic, civic, or community organizations, particularly those connected to conservation, environment, or stewardship

- ✦ An understanding of how strategic relationships and visibility in key markets can help an organization reach its next level of impact

What This Candidate Brings to the Board

- ✦ The ability to open doors to new communities of supporters and help Zion Forever Project build meaningful relationships in markets in and beyond Utah
- ✦ Credibility and influence within networks that can help elevate the organization's profile and connect it with new partners, advocates, and champions
- ✦ A collaborative, relationship-driven approach to helping the organization grow its base of support and deepen engagement with people who care about public lands