

North Alabama Zoological Society Board of Directors Application Form



Description

We believe that connecting our community to the natural world will help bring awareness to wildlife conservation and inspire others to build a better tomorrow. If you share this belief, please consider joining us as a board member.

Our Mission

In the pursuit of creating a world-class zoo and aquarium, be an organization that:

- 1) connects the communities and visitors of North Alabama with the world's wild places and wildlife;
- 2) is a standard of conservation, research, education, and action of wildlife;
- 3) and inspires a better tomorrow.

Our Vision

Every guest after every visit asking themselves two questions: "When can we come again?" and "How am I going to be involved in improving our world today?"

About North Alabama Zoological Society

North Alabama Zoological Society (NALZS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that has been organized with the expressed objective of creating and operating a zoo in the Huntsville Metro Statistical Area. This zoo will be designed to enhance the social, educational, and conservation experiences of our community and make our area shine even brighter.

The Ideal Board Candidate Has:

- Ability to act in the best long-term interests of the organization and its community and will bring to the task of informed decision-making, a broad knowledge, and an inclusive perspective.
- Visionary leadership abilities and dedication to improving services and outcomes for the conservation, education, and engagement of the zoo.
- Desire to bring diverse perspectives, energy, knowledge, and skills to the Board.
- Professional or homemaking experience and able to act professionally.
- Ability to meet the required time commitments and attend monthly Board or Committee meetings.
- Is prepared for meetings and stays up to date on all communications.

How Our Board Members Make an Impact:

- Serve for the full three years term as a board member.
- Provide perspective and input to the Officers of NALZS.
- Guide the organization through participation on a Board Committee.
- Participate in fundraising through various strategies and engage members of the community in supporting the NALZS's work.
- Participate in the recruitment of new board members.

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Compensation:

This is a volunteer position and there is no compensation currently being offered. Reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of Board duties is allowed in accordance with set policies and procedures.

Estimated Time Commitment:

Active Board participation can range anywhere between 10 to 20 hours monthly. This includes attending board meetings, committee meetings, fundraising, reviewing agenda packet prior to meetings, and making essential telephone calls. In addition, the North Alabama Zoological Society is transitioning from the Startup Stage to the Growth Stage of the Nonprofit Lifecycle. This means that the board is also a working board that is expected to pitch in to help with some of the staff responsibilities at times.

Lifecycle Stages		Idea	Start-up	Growth	Maturity	Institutional
Organizational Elements	Impact	Informal – Need established, best practices integrated & pilot launched	Pilot successful – Lessons integrated into design / Measurement starts	Established in marketplace – Strong results, partner-of-choice & consistent delivery	Consistent results through robust evaluation / Focused on continuous improvement, scale & system-building	Turn-the crank
	Brand	Not utilized	First official marketing materials – Primary method of marketing is word-of-mouth	Build-out of marketing & communication needs, including public & media relations	Sophisticated marketing & communications plan using multiple channels / Everyone equipped to tell story	
	Revenue	Most are in-kind	Limited financial resources – Lives hand-to-mouth	More diverse financial resources with established relationships with funders, but still unpredictable	High degree of financial diversity with established relationships with multiple funders / Endowment exists / Higher degree of financial predictability	
	Operations & Culture	Entrepreneurial Founder using volunteer resources for guidance / Culture is defined by Founder	Flat organization – Decisions are likely made by Founder / Volunteers needed for hands-on support / Culture is action oriented	Founder has hired or becomes Executive Director and is key decision-maker with Board guidance / Increased division of labor & accountability as staff is hired / Culture is results oriented / Volunteers are used as resources	Leadership is often second or third generation from Founder / Clear division of labor & accountability among staff / Culture is well defined and serves as a competitive advantage / Volunteers are seen as Ambassadors	
	Governance	Not yet developed	Formal governance starts – Most likely homogeneous group	Board expansion – More diversity with more focus on planning & oversight	Board is more policy- & strategy-focused / Delegates management to Executive Director	

Thank you for your interest in joining North Alabama Zoological Society! Use this form to provide useful information about yourself and to ensure the best match between you and North Alabama Zoological Society as we consider you for our Board of Directors. Please attach your resume and cover letter to this application before submitting. The following information will be shared with the current Board of Directors and Founders Board.

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Applicant Contact Information			
Name:		Date of Birth:	
Address:	Street:		
	City:	State:	Zip code:
Contact Numbers:	Work:	Home:	Cell:
Email:	Work:	Personal:	
Favorite animal:			
Current Employer:			
Current Job Title:			

What motivates you to become a board member for the North Alabama Zoological Society?
Briefly describe what you can bring to our Board of Directors:
Please describe any prior board experience:
What skills, connections, resources, and expertise do you have to offer and are willing to use on behalf of the organization?

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Please list your current organizational affiliations (names of the organization and your role(s):
What is your experience with zoos and/or wildlife conservation (Either professional or personal)?
What would you like to get out of your participation on the Board, e.g., what types of experiences, skills to develop, interests to cultivate, etc.?
What, if any, conflicts of interest, current or anticipated, might exist that the Board should know about in considering your application?

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The Board of Directors seeks a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. Our goal is to be an equitable and diverse workplace that is representative, at all levels, of the citizens we serve.

Please identify those areas in which you have basic or advanced competencies and areas you are interested in:

Areas of Knowledge, Work Experience or Lived Experience	Basic	Advanced	Interested
Strategic planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board and Governance Experience / Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Not for Profit <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management (upper management exposure and decision making)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance/Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising/Grant writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Real Estate Construction/Architecture/Engineering/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marketing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal/Knowledge and Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Relations/Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Networking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large Event Planning/Execution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guest Experience/Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other skill(s) of yours that you would like to utilize?			

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If you are not selected as a member of the Board, or if you decide not to join:

would you consider a place on our Advisory Board to assist our organization in various ways that match your skills and interests?

- Yes
 No
 Perhaps

would you consider a place on our Staff to assist our organization in various ways that match your skills and interests?

- Yes
 No
 Perhaps

would you consider being a general volunteer to assist our organization in various ways in moving our mission forward?

- Yes
 No
 Perhaps

By my signature below, I certify the information I provided in connection with this application is true, accurate and complete. I also understand that any false statements or deliberate omissions on this document or any other document I provide North Alabama Zoological Society may be grounds for disqualification. I agree to the responsibilities and time commitments that have been outlined in this application.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

For Board Use

		Nominee application received and reviewed by the committee.	Date
		Nominee interviewed by the committee.	Date
		Nominee proposed to the Board.	Date
Board action:		<input type="checkbox"/> Elected <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Date