



NextGen Council Candidate Self-Nomination 2026

Natural Lands' NextGen Council are leaders, opinion-shapers, and influencers who envision a future for our region in which conservation is a universally held value and all communities are represented, welcomed, engaged, and invested in the outdoors. The council seeks to support the region's next generation of conservation leaders and attract younger and more diverse constituents who value Natural Lands' mission.

The group, which plays an advisory role, convenes to:

- Raise awareness of Natural Lands throughout the region and promote opportunities for people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s to become involved in and further the organization's mission.
- Advise Natural Lands of opportunities to advance its mission with younger and more diverse constituents—keeping the next generation top of mind.
- Help evolve projects, programs, and events that build bridges between nature and younger audiences in the communities Natural Lands serves.
- Foster connections with and advocate on behalf of our region's underrepresented and underserved communities to advance accessible, meaningful outdoor experiences.
- Provide valuable leadership opportunities and networking for young community members interested in the outdoors and conservation.

NextGen Council members:

- Are in their 20s, 30s, or 40s.
- Are passionate about open space preservation, outdoor recreation, land conservation, and ensuring that all people have access to open space.
- Attend the majority of NextGen Council quarterly meetings.
- Are actively involved with one of NextGen Council's committees, which include Leadership, Events, Promotions, and Partnerships.
- Support NextGen Council efforts by sharing their perspective, passion, and interest with the Council and their personal and professional networks.
- Serve at least one two-year term.
- Make a personally meaningful annual contribution.
- Are committed to Natural Lands' values.

If you meet the criteria above and are interested in being considered for membership in the NextGen Council, please complete the fields below and return this form to:

NextGenApplicants@natlands.org

Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2026, with candidate interviews scheduled on a rolling basis through September. We historically receive many more applications from highly qualified candidates than we are able to accept. We anticipate this year will be similar, as we look to fill just a handful of council seats. All candidates will be notified of the status of their application at the end of October.



Candidate Self-Nomination Form

Full Name:	Pronouns:
Email address:	Phone Number:
Mailing Address:	Current occupation (employer and title):
	Year of Birth:

1. Why are you interested in Natural Lands' NextGen Council?

2. What notable experience do you bring that makes you a good fit for the NextGen Council?

3. One of the council's goals is to expand Natural Lands' reach into new communities across our region. In what ways do you like to engage in your own community or neighborhood?

4. What ideas do you have about ways we could get more young people (in their 20s, 30s, and 40s) involved with Natural Lands? Please share one or two specific or general ideas.

5. Natural Lands' strategic plan commits to building a more diverse organizational leadership—including our NextGen Council—so that our leadership composition reflects the diversity of the region we serve. Citizenship, veteran status, race, gender identity, where we live, and physical abilities are all examples of attributes that enhance diversity. What will you bring that will help us towards this goal?

6. Help us get to know you. If you are spending time outside, what are you doing and where are you?

7. How did you hear about Natural Lands' NextGen Council?



8. How does Council's expected time commitment fit into your schedule? The commitment includes quarterly council meeting at Hildacy Preserve, plus 2-4 additional hours per month for subcommittee meetings, special events, and/or volunteer projects. The 2027 quarterly meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm on January 12, April 13, July 13, and October 12.

9. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

It is not required, but feel free to include your resume or CV along with this form. Please submit this completed form and your CV/resume (if applicable) to:

NextGenApplicants@natlands.org

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to getting to know you.

As a reminder, applications will be accepted through August 2, 2026, with candidate interviews scheduled on a rolling basis through September. We historically receive many more applications from highly qualified candidates than we are able to accept. We anticipate this year will be similar, as we look to fill just a handful of council seats. All candidates will be notified of the status of their application at the end of October.