



ROOTS & BRANCHES FOUNDATION

Shaping Our Jewish Future

Get Involved. Get Connected. Give Together.

Applying to participate in Roots & Branches Foundation is a two-part process: this written application and an informal, informational interview with an alum of Roots & Branches. The application deadline is Monday, May 22, 2017, at noon, but in order to guarantee you will receive an alumni interview, please apply or let us know that you plan to apply as early as possible. You can request an interview by emailing Emily Kornhauser ekornhauser@rcfdenver.org.

Each year Roots & Branches Foundation brings together a diverse, talented and motivated group of Jewish people, ages 25 and 40 who work together to make a difference in the Greater Denver community.

Roots & Branches members...

- Engage in strategic philanthropy – identify a community need or opportunity, learn about nonprofits working in that area and award grants totaling up to \$50,000.
- Leverage time, talent and personal philanthropy.
- Connect Jewish values to the good they seek to do.
- Learn about and connect with Greater Denver and Boulder's Jewish communities.
- Become a part of the next generation of funders at Rose Community Foundation.

The Funds

The Jewish Life Program Area at Rose Community Foundation funds this program and provides a grantmaking pool of \$30,000 and up to \$10,000 in additional funds to match donations from Roots & Branches members. All members are asked to make a personally meaningful donation. There is no recommended contribution amount and all amounts donated are confidential. Member donations are matched dollar-for-dollar and members grant 100% of their donations to the community.

The Meetings

Members of Roots & Branches Foundation will meet for six sessions over six months, from July through December 2017. Rose Community Foundation staff supports the group and facilitates its meetings.

2017 Meeting Dates and Times

Meetings will be held at various locations throughout Greater Denver and Boulder community.

1. Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
2. Wednesday, August 9, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
3. Wednesday, August 23, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
4. Tuesday, October 10, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
5. Sunday, November 19, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
6. Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Additionally, there will be a group service project in September (date, time and location to be determined) and a Shabbat celebration for members and their partners on Friday January 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

The Commitment

All applicants should reside within the Greater Denver community of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, and should identify as Jewish.

Members are required to:

- Attend and participate in all meetings (one pre-approved absence is permitted).
- Spend time outside of meetings reading, researching issues and meeting with nonprofits for site visits. Site visits will take place from October 16 - November 16, 2017.
- Make a personally meaningful donation to the Roots & Branches grantmaking pool. We recognize that members have diverse circumstances and we believe philanthropy is defined by intention and commitment, not by gift size, so there is no recommended donation amount and amounts contributed are kept confidential.

Members of Roots & Branches Foundation work together in consensus; all voices and perspectives are considered before a final decision is reached. This kind of collaboration requires participants to be curious, open, patient and committed to process, not just outcomes. Working as a team in this way is rewarding, but we realize it is not for everyone. We ask applicants to consider their comfort with group collaboration before applying.

Application and Selection

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Applications will be acknowledged by email within two business days. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement, call Emily Kornhauser at 303.398.7417.

Each year, more people apply to participate in Roots & Branches than there are spaces in the program. All applications are reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Rose Community Foundation staff, volunteer leaders and Roots & Branches alumni. Applications are reviewed blind; all personally identifying information is removed before selectors receive applications. The selection committee also considers alumni interview feedback on each applicant. The committee discusses each application and selects members primarily for their demographic, professional, personal and Jewish diversity and for the degree to which each applicant stands to benefit from and contribute to the Roots & Branches experience.

2017 Application

We recommend that you periodically save your progress on this application, using the button at the bottom of this page.

First Name: *

Last Name: *

Email Address *

Cell Phone Number *

Street Address *

Address Line 2

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Employer: *

Job Title: *

How long have you lived in the Greater Denver or Boulder area? *

Age as of July 2017: *

Gender: *

I am... *

Single

Partnered/in a committed relationship

Do you identify as Jewish? *

Yes

No

Other (please describe)

Which best describes you? *

Conservative

Modern Orthodox

No Denomination

Orthodox

Reconstructionist

Reform

Renewal

- Secular - just Jewish, not religious
- Traditional
- Other (please describe)

We believe meetings are better with a meal! Please let us know of any dietary restrictions or preferences, we try to be as accommodating as possible: *

- Strict Kosher: I require a certified Kosher meal
- Flexible Kosher: I will eat vegetarian meals out
- Vegetarian
- Vegan
- Gluten Free
- Dairy Free
- None
- Other

Application Questions

Please use details and examples in responding to the application questions below. There are no "right" answers. Diversity of experience and perspective is an important selection criterion for us, so your answers should help the selection committee "hear" your voice. Responses to questions 1 through 6 should each be one to two paragraphs in length and a maximum of 200 words. At the bottom of the screen, there is a button you can use to save your progress.

1a. We want to get to know you! Tell us about yourself in a short third person bio. Include your academic and professional journey, life achievements, extracurricular interests, surprising facts, hopes and dreams. This is your chance to convey your personality. If you are selected, these bios will be shared with your fellow members. *

1b. Please upload a headshot to accompany your bio. This will be left off the application the selection committee sees and is used for the program if you are selected.

2. Why are you interested in participating in Roots & Branches Foundation? What do you hope to gain or learn from this experience? In what ways will the group benefit from your participation? *

3. What does being Jewish mean to you now and what has your Jewish journey been like so far? We are looking for people with diverse Jewish identities and backgrounds. Judaism may be a relatively big or small part of your life. If your Jewish experience so far has been limited, tell us about that. *

4. Please tell us about someone or something that inspires you to give. *

5. Describe a significant professional, volunteer or academic accomplishment. What difference did you make? What was meaningful to you about this experience? *

6. What do you like about working in a group? What are your strengths and weaknesses when working in a group? *

7. Please list previous or current volunteer, leadership or other activities within the Jewish community. Specify previous or current for each. *

8. Please list previous or current volunteer, leadership or other activities outside of the Jewish community. Specify previous or current for each. *

9. How did you hear about Roots & Branches Foundation? *

10a. Have you applied to participate in Roots & Branches Foundation before? *

Yes

No

10b. What year(s)? *