

## Trustee Profile



**Name:** J. Eric Smith

**Employer:** Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund

**Position:** President/CEO

**Education:** B.S., Political Science, United States Naval Academy  
M.A., Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany

**Affiliations:** Voting Member and Trustee, American Institute for Economic Research; Treasurer and At-Large Trustee, Association of Midwest Museums; Class Treasurer and President Emeritus, Naval Academy Alumni Association

**Skills:** Fundraising, Communications and Public Relations, Strategic Planning, Management, Writing and Editing, Advocacy, Operations Development and Implementation.

**Why you are serving on TREE Fund board?** As an avid outdoorsman, hiker, urban explorer and lover of green spaces, I am a life-long beneficiary of the arboriculture industry's contributions to the health and beauty of our planet. I am excited by the opportunity to help the industry address the challenges to the urban and community forests posed by climate change, urbanization and other ongoing social and scientific changes. There are few things more powerful than knowledge, and I believe that the types of primary research and education programs that the TREE Fund makes possible can and should be widely communicated and leveraged to benefit as many communities, businesses, citizens and industries as possible.

**TREE Fund Committees you chair/serve on:** TREE Fund Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Finance Committee.

### **Biography** (150 words or less)

J. Eric Smith is a nonprofit professional with 30 years of leadership experience in the public sector. The South Carolina native is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Naval Supply Corps School, and the University at Albany. He served for ten years with the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, first as an active duty Naval Supply Corps Officer, then as a civilian employee of the U.S. Department of Energy. Since leaving Federal service, Eric has worked in the nonprofit sector as a fundraising professional, communications and public relations director, operations manager and chief executive officer. As a volunteer, he currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Institute for Economic Research and in leadership capacities with the Association of Midwest Museums and the Naval Academy's alumni organization. Eric has also had an extensive career as a freelance writer in both traditional print and digital media, and since 1995 has maintained a vibrant online presence of both creative and professional writing at [jericsmith.com](http://jericsmith.com). He has been married to healthcare attorney Marcia Brom Smith since 1989, and Marcia and Eric are the proud parents of Katelin Smith, a human resources professional in Des Moines.