What Will Your Legacy Be?

"I then bequeath the whole of my property… to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

—James Smithson

British scientist James Smithson’s simple gift in his will cost him nothing during his lifetime, but gave perpetual life to his personal values. Smithson understood the power of knowledge and believed in the promise of a new nation. His generous gift enabled America to establish the Smithsonian Institution in 1846.

Today, it is the largest museum and research complex in the world. Smithson could not have imagined the impact of his gift and the significant contributions the institution would make to the greater good.

We invite you to create your own legacy at the Smithsonian. When you leave a charitable gift in your will, trust or by beneficiary designation, you become part of the great story of our nation and ensure that your values and ideals live on.

Your gift will help the Smithsonian’s museums and research centers remain exciting places of learning and discovery. With thoughtful planning, you can fulfill your personal goals, increase your family’s financial security and receive significant tax benefits.

The Smithsonian belongs to every American. Thank you for considering a gift to strengthen our national treasure and support the work of talented curators, scholars and educators.

The following pages offer some popular ways to create your legacy at the Smithsonian.

Benefits for You

Most legacy giving opportunities enable you to:

• Retain control of your assets during your lifetime
• Change your beneficiaries at any time
• Provide for loved ones and the Smithsonian
• Make your gift in honor or memory of someone special
• Participate in the Smithsonian Campaign
• Designate your gift to benefit your favorite Smithsonian museum or program
• Leave a gift of any size
WAYS TO GIVE

Giving By Beneficiary Designation

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS
Naming the Smithsonian as the beneficiary of a retirement plan account is a smart way to give. Income from a retirement account often is taxed more heavily than other assets and so may become a liability for your loved ones. Because the Smithsonian is tax exempt, 100 percent of your gift will go toward creating your legacy.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT, BANK & BROKERAGE ACCOUNTS, LIFE INSURANCE
Another simple way to have a lasting impact is to name the Smithsonian as the beneficiary of a certificate of deposit, bank or brokerage account or life insurance policy.

DONOR-ADEIVED FUNDS
Consider naming the Smithsonian as a beneficiary of any contributions remaining in your donor-advised fund. Or designate the Smithsonian to receive a portion of the remaining account value, leaving the balance for your family or friends to continue your legacy of philanthropy.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS
• Contact your retirement plan administrator, bank, broker or insurance company and request a beneficiary form.
• Write “Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Federal Tax ID Number 53-0206027” as a sole, partial or contingent beneficiary of your account.
• Sign and return the form to your plan administrator and keep a copy for your files.
• Share a copy with the Smithsonian.

Amelia Earhart set two of her many aviation records in this Lockheed 5B Vega, which she called her Little Red Bus. Gift of the Franklin Institute, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian

A GIFT TO CREATE A LEGACY
Mary Brunot earned a math degree from Cornell University and worked on mainframe computers for General Electric. A fan of the National Air and Space Museum, she started out as a subscriber to Smithsonian magazine, became an annual donor, then recently named the Smithsonian as the beneficiary of her brokerage accounts. Her gift was easy to set up.

“As Americans, we all have a duty to make sure the Smithsonian is around for successive generations.”
—Mary Brunot
Giving Through a Will or Trust

Leaving a gift in your will or revocable living trust is a wonderful way to ensure that your support of the Smithsonian impacts generations to come.

You may designate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your residual estate to the Smithsonian, while leaving other assets to your family and friends.

There is no minimum requirement. Every gift makes a difference.

Many donors to the Smithsonian express satisfaction about making a decision to leave their legacy to a trusted and enduring institution.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

• Provide your attorney with the sample language below:
  "I give [the residue of my estate], or [___% of the residue of my estate], or [the sum of ___ dollars] to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., for its general purposes or for the benefit of [name of museum, research center or program]."

• Include this information:
  Legal Address
  Smithsonian Institution
  1000 Jefferson Drive, SW
  Washington, DC 20560
  Taxpayer Identification Number
  53-0006027

• Share a copy of your documents with the Smithsonian.

WAYS TO GIVE

A GIFT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

Smithsonian National Zoological Park volunteer Ann Bissell has spent more than a decade helping to care for elephants. In her will, she leaves a gift that will support the zoo’s elephant programs and research at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

“Caring for elephants has been a moving, life changing experience. Knowing that through my legacy gift, I can help provide for their welfare in the future, gives me an indescribable sense of peace."—Ann Bissell
WAYS TO GIVE

A Gift that Pays You Back

When you create a charitable gift annuity with the Smithsonian, you receive stable annual payments for life and a charitable income tax deduction in the year you make the donation. A gift annuity is simple and flexible and gives you the satisfaction of making a gift that benefits you now and the Smithsonian later.

YOUR KEY BENEFITS

- Establishing a gift annuity with appreciated assets may help reduce capital gains tax.
- A gift annuity is a creative way to meet the long-term financial needs of a spouse, parent, sibling or friend.
- If you want immediate tax savings but don’t need payments until later, choose a deferred annuity.
- A portion of your payment is tax-free.
- The older you are when your payments begin, the higher your payment rate.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

- Request a personalized illustration of your gift annuity options. Email legacy@si.edu or call 888.419.7584.
- Make a gift to the Smithsonian of $10,000 or more.
- Sign and return a simple contract.
- Receive fixed payments for the rest of your life or the lives of up to two beneficiaries.

GIFTS THAT HONOR HERITAGE

Retired Army Colonel Charles Moriyama and his wife Helen attended the 2011 Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring Japanese American World War II veterans. The medal is now on permanent display at the Smithsonian. The Moriyamas were inspired to establish two gift annuities that will support the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

“Our charitable gift annuities provide us with reliable payments and help the Smithsonian to tell the story of our generation and ancestry.”

—Charles and Helen Moriyama
In recognition of your generosity and commitment, we welcome you to the Smithsonian Legacy Society and a lifelong relationship with the Smithsonian. This group of philanthropists shares a love of learning and a commitment to the future of the institution.

The Legacy Society provides you with opportunities to connect with others interested in learning more about the Smithsonian’s important work and newest endeavors. As a Society member, you will be among the first to learn about new exhibitions and programs and be included in special donor receptions and events, such as the Annual Smithsonian Weekend and unique travel opportunities.

Your gift will be noted in the Smithsonian Annual Report, or you may choose to remain anonymous. Please talk with us about how you can be part of the historic Smithsonian Campaign with your legacy gift.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN-JOSEPH VAN HAELEWYN, DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING, 888-419-7584 OR LEGACY@SI.EDU.
WE’RE HERE TO HELP

There are many ways to give. The Smithsonian has the expertise to guide you in considering the options described in this brochure, or other gifts, such as real estate or charitable trusts.

We encourage you to discuss this important process with your loved ones and financial and legal advisors.

To tell us about a gift you have planned or to explore the best giving opportunity for you and your family, please contact us.

John-Joseph van Haelewyn
Director of Planned Giving
888.419.7584 or legacy@si.edu