



National Park Legacies

Gift and Financial Planning Information

January 2014

PRIME TIME FOR PLANNING

The beginning of the year offers an opportunity to make a fresh start in many areas of life—some make resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle; others to make a career change; still others to take more time to relax...perhaps at a favorite national park.

This is also a time when many people review and update their long-range financial and estate plans. With changes in tax laws just a year ago, it may be time to review your estate plans to be sure they will still accomplish your goals.

Changes may require action

Even if the new tax laws did not impact your will, living trust, or other estate plans, many other typical life events may have affected your arrangements.

Have you moved to another state? Has the makeup of your family changed? Have you experienced fluctuations in the value of your assets? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may need to revisit your plans to make sure they reflect your current wishes and objectives for the future.

The choice is yours

It is important to periodically review your will and other plans. Complete, up-to-date and legally valid estate plans will ensure that your wishes for your family, other loved ones, and charitable interests, such as National Parks Conservation Association, will be carried out.

Through your plans, you can provide for your family's future financial security and support those organizations that are important to you. There are a number of ways you can remember NPCA in your plans. After loved ones have first been provided for, you can leave the remainder of your estate, a percentage of your estate, or a specific dollar amount.

You can also provide for the future of the national parks by naming NPCA to receive all or a part of life insurance proceeds, retirement plan remainders or bank accounts.

To learn more

Read on for more information about ways you can balance the needs of your loved ones with your philanthropic goals.

Above: Grand Canyon Panorama View, Arizona © Songquan Deng/BIGSTOCKPHOTO
Below left: Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC © Orhan/BIGSTOCKPHOTO Below right: American Goldfinch (Carduelis tristis) in Tree with Snow © Steve Byland/BIGSTOCKPHOTO



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GETTING YOUR PLANS IN ORDER

As you consider strategies for accomplishing your personal and charitable objectives for 2014 and beyond, you may want to take the time to do the following:

- Determine the value of your assets and any income they produce.
- Define your goals for the management and future distribution of those assets.
- Review the needs of loved ones and consider any changes that may be needed on your plans.

You may have more than you think

Make a comprehensive list of your assets, including their original cost and current market value. This list may include:

- Your home and any other real estate.
- Vehicles, collections of value, and other personal property.
- Bank accounts, including checking, savings, and certificates of deposit.
- Life insurance policies.
- Retirement accounts.

Shaping up your plans

The next step is to meet with your professional advisors to set out your personal and philanthropic goals. An attorney, your accountant, life insurance



Hikers viewing East Maui Volcano

Haleakalá National Park, Hawaii © Maridav/BIGSTOCKPHOTO

representative, or other specialist can help you consider your specific circumstances and structure an estate and financial plan that best meets your needs.

This step may also help relieve you of unnecessary taxation and burdensome administrative details and decisions, bringing peace of mind to you and those who rely on you for financial security.

Please let us know if we can help you and your advisors as you consider the charitable dimension of your plans.

Aerial View of the Headwaters in Denali National Park, Alaska © Richard McMillin/BIGSTOCKPHOTO



EASY WAYS TO GIVE

When planning for the future distribution of their assets, many people are surprised to learn of a number of easy ways to provide for gifts to NPCA and/or other charities after first providing for loved ones.

Wills and Trusts. NPCA can be named to receive a specific sum or piece of property, or the remainder (“what’s left”), after gifts to loved ones have been satisfied.

Bank and Investment Accounts. In many states, it is possible to title investment and bank accounts so that what remains at death passes to the charitable organization you name, free of estate tax and outside the probate process.

Life Insurance. You can name NPCA the beneficiary of a life insurance policy without changing your will or other estate plans.

Retirement Plans. If you leave the balance of an IRA or 401(k) to heirs, estate and income taxes could consume a large portion of your loved ones’ inheritance. You can simplify matters for your heirs by directing all or a portion of what remains in your retirement accounts to NPCA and leave more tax-favored assets to your heirs.

With careful planning, you can easily provide for charitable interests after first remembering loved ones.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMXIV RIFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NFX2-14



Double Arch

Arches National Park, Utah © rblekiki/BIGSTOCKPHOTO

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

Your plans for the future might include the following:

- Peace of mind
- Providing for loved ones
- Remembering special friends
- Making your gift of a lifetime to NPCA

Your desire to benefit National Parks Conservation Association can be a vital part of your plans. Charitable gifts can be included in your estate plan, sometimes with welcome benefits to you and your loved ones. Please contact us for more information.

LOVE OF NATIONAL PARKS INSPIRES CREATIVITY AND GENEROSITY

Living in the California desert at the base of Joshua Tree National Park, Rich Gerston is never far from nature. He has always had an affinity for the outdoors, finding inspiration, beauty and purpose in it.

Rich is a man who wears many hats: he is a published environmental education author, formerly a professional pianist, a retired teacher with a master's in geography, founder of the Resident Outdoor School in Thousand Oaks, California, park volunteer, and former Park Ranger at Grand Canyon National Park. Through all of his endeavors, one common thread remains—his love of nature. America's national parks, where he has created countless wonderful memories, have been a source of great joy for Rich.

Rich's book, a teachers' guide for the environment, *Just Open the Door*, is a collection of 300 lesson plans he developed to teach elementary and middle school students about the beauty and importance of enjoying and preserving the natural and human environments. This desire to educate future generations is the reason

that Rich has decided to include NPCA in his estate plans with a bequest in his will.

When asked what he would like others to know about NPCA, Rich noted the Association's

importance as an aid to our National Parks System. In his personal plans, Rich has focused on education, desiring to impart knowledge to future generations about the importance of wilderness conservation just like noted author and naturalist John Muir. Rich calls Muir his, "great hero and guiding light. I go through life content in the knowledge that his goals are being carried on," said Rich.

Rich finds his creative inspiration in nature, saying "I'm a nature essayist, feeling nature's voice and inspiration when

I'm 'lost' in a remote area...thus

the inspiration to write." Through dedicated and generous donors like Rich, NPCA hopes to ensure that future nature enthusiasts have the opportunity to find inspiration in America's national parks for many years to come.



Mather Legacy Society member
Rich Gerston



Geyser in Yellowstone National Park © dermerzel21/BIGSTOCKPHOTO



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NPCA's Recommended Bequest Language

Including NPCA in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of NPCA's work for years to come. NPCA's Board of Trustees has suggested the following language to include NPCA as a beneficiary of a will or trust: "I give _____ (specific amount, percentage, or residuary share) to the National Parks Conservation Association, having its principal offices at 777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723. (Federal Tax Identification Number 53-0225165)." If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include NPCA.

