



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

National Park Legacies

Gift and Financial Planning Information

Winter 2012

YOUR LEGACY—NPCA'S COMMITMENT

NPCA is committed to – protecting the places where our country grew up, the landscapes and wildlife that have challenged explorers and inspired poets, and the battlefields where so many fought in the noble effort to preserve the American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Working together, our 2011 victory highlights include advocating for (the):

- Removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams in Olympic National Park which will result in the return of native salmon runs on a restored Elwha River.
- Limiting of federal budget cuts to the National Park Service's operations budget.
- Protection of 1,400 acres of state-owned lands in Grand Teton National Park from private development that would have threatened elk, bison, and pronghorn migration.
- Declaration of the historic Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, as America's newest national monument.

Taking action

In 1872 America's national parks were set aside to be untouched pristine places. Today, NPCA must constantly defend against threats to adjacent lands that would cause irreparable harm to the parks.

As we move another year closer to the National Park Service's 2016 centennial, our parks face tremendous risks and complex challenges.

Investing in National Parks for our heritage and our economy

Yellowstone, Gettysburg, the Statue of Liberty, and the Flight 93 Memorial are among the many national parks that we, as Americans, own together. The cost of keeping this magnificent collection of places well-managed and accessible to everyone is quite a bargain for a park system that inspires visitors from around the world and produces nearly 270,000 private sector jobs across the country.

Creating your park legacy

Continue reading to find out how your gift to NPCA may also offer special tax savings, increased income, and other benefits. And learn about Alida Struze's legacy gift to support NPCA's continued park protection work on Page 4.

Above: Valley Forge National Park, Pennsylvania © Aimin Tang/iStockphoto. Below left: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming © Heidi Laga/BIGSTOCKPHOTO. Below right: Redwood National Park, California © Tashka/BIGSTOCKPHOTO



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MEMBER: ALIDA STRUZE

TAILOR PLANS TO MEET NEEDS

Personal financial planning takes on more importance today than ever before, and a variety of needs must be considered.

With advances in healthcare allowing people to live longer, healthier lives, security during retirement concerns most Americans. Perhaps an aging family member will require long-term care. You may want to provide educational expenses for a child, grandchild, or other loved one. Decisions you make now can ensure that you will be able to meet these and other needs.

Making charitable gifts

Your past and present support of charitable causes, such as National Parks Conservation Association, may mean a great deal to you but, in times of economic uncertainty, you wonder if you can continue your charitable gifts without taking away from important personal responsibilities.

Charitable gifts need not affect your family's future security. In fact, with careful planning, such gifts can be included in your estate plan, often with welcome benefits to you and your loved ones.

Generally, the best way to accomplish objectives is to have your plans prepared by professionals.

Such plans may include a will, trusts, life insurance, annuities, or retirement accounts.

The will as cornerstone

A well-planned will is the cornerstone of many estate plans. Most people rely on a will to:

- Distribute assets not covered by joint ownership arrangements, trusts, or other plans.
- Designate who they want to care for minor children.
- Provide for management of property for a loved one, if needed.
- Make gifts to charitable organizations they wish to remember, such as NPCA.

By preparing and maintaining an up-to-date will, you may save your heirs from problems that can arise when you fail to plan.

Plan now

Your attorney and other advisors can assist you in assuring that your plans meet your current needs while incorporating your goals for your long-term security and that of your loved ones. NPCA will be happy to help you and your advisors as you consider the charitable dimension of your plans.

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. ©MMXII RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NFX2-12

Below: Golden Gate Bridge, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California © Michelle Gibson/iStockphoto



MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Many of our friends have asked about ways they can continue their support while still fulfilling important personal responsibilities. Gifts to NPCA can be made from arrangements you may already have in place, or you may choose to use special gift opportunities that feature current tax savings, increased income, and other benefits.

You can make meaningful, lasting gifts in one or more of the following ways:

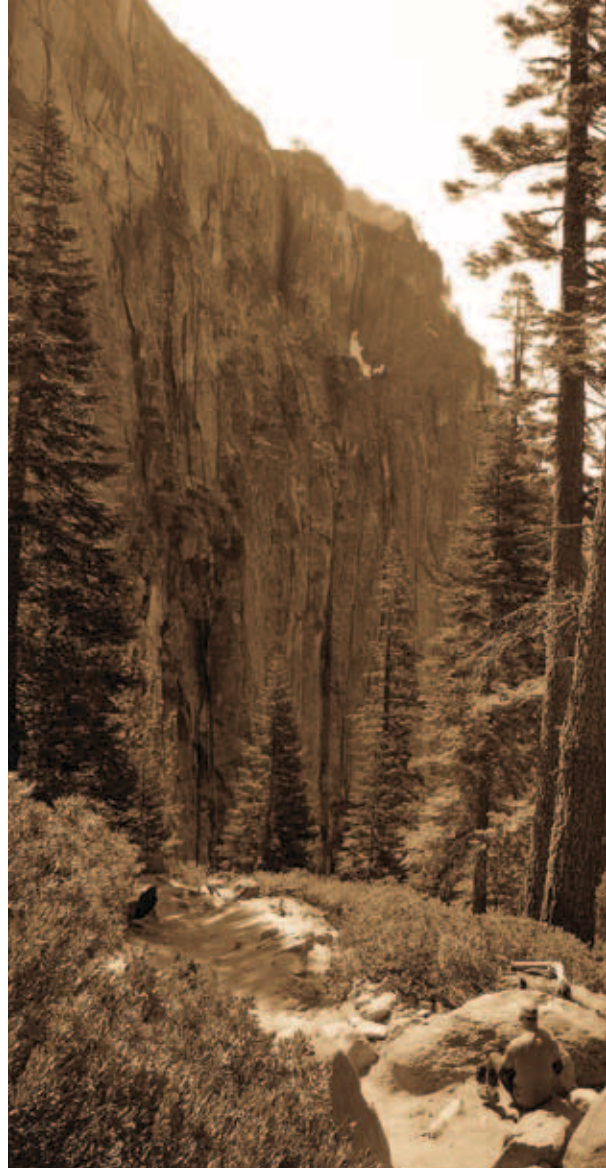
- Through your will or living trust.
- By naming NPCA as a beneficiary of all or a portion of the remainder of retirement plan accounts.
- By giving a share in the proceeds of life insurance policies no longer needed for their original purpose.
- By naming NPCA to receive what remains in an investment account.

Multiple benefits

There are also ways that enable you to support NPCA today while retaining income for yourself and/or your loved ones.

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may benefit from professional asset management, as well as capital gain and other tax savings. It is also possible to provide for charitable gifts for a period of time before transferring assets to loved ones on a tax-favored basis.

For additional information, please call us toll-free at 1-877-468-5775 or visit our website at www.npca.org/giftplanning.



Yosemite National Park, California
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A QUICK OVERVIEW

A good estate plan provides security for you, your loved ones, and others you wish to provide for. Take a few minutes to answer the following True or False questions to discover if your plans are adequate for your needs.

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- ☐ ☐ I have a will or living trust in place to provide for the distribution of my property at death.
- ☐ ☐ My plans have been professionally reviewed in the last three years.
- ☐ ☐ My marital status has not changed since my last review.
- ☐ ☐ The person I named to settle my estate is still willing and able to serve.
- ☐ ☐ I have not moved to another state since my last review.
- ☐ ☐ I have remembered those charitable interests I wish to support beyond my lifetime.

If you answered False to any of these questions, consult your advisors to be sure your plans reflect your current wishes.

SAVING THE NATIONAL PARKS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

One of Alida Struze's earliest memories involves the great outdoors. "We would visit relatives on their farm in Pennsylvania, and the first thing my brother and I would do was go into the woods," Alida said. "I can still remember the smell of the moss and fern, and the coolness of the forest."

Alida grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, during the Great Depression. Now 90 years old, she has lived in the same Cleveland home for 77 years, and retired at age 88 after working 42 years with the Legal Aid Society. "I never married, but I call the children of my friends and neighbors 'my kids,'" Alida said. "I feel blessed to have 'my kids,' without whom life would be dull."

Alida is still drawn to nature and believes we must each do what we can to protect it. Alida's trip to the Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon in 1986, and another tour in 1991 including Yellowstone and Mt. Rushmore, sparked an even greater interest in the future of our nation's most important natural areas—the national parks.



Alida Struze

"I will never forget feeling like an ant as I looked at the towering mountains at Zion," Alida said. "And seeing the beauty and majesty of the Grand Canyon was the realization of a dream for me. I know there are many national parks I will never see, but I want them saved for the next generation."

Alida's love of the environment and nature has led her to support National Parks Conservation Association with a bequest in her will. "I am frightened when I hear about those who seem ready to destroy the beauty of nature rather than preserve it," Alida said. "I'm not rich, but I want to leave something to those who are working so hard to protect the environment, like NPCA. I made this gift because I want these beautiful natural places preserved for future generations."

If you would like to join Alida Struze and other friends of NPCA in helping to preserve our national parks for future generations, please contact Morgan Dodd at 1-877-468-5775 or return the enclosed card for more information.



Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
© Kipp Schoen/iStockphoto



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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 Directors 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.

