The Beauty Makes Us Better

1916 Society member Susan Fraker shares why she included the National Park Foundation in her estate plans.

In the early 1960s, my parents made two cross-country car trips with three kids, no air conditioning, and no seatbelts. On one trip, we visited the southern national parks, and on the other, the northern ones. I was a blasé teenager, but the parks made a big impression on me.

When my own boys were young, we visited my husband’s home state of Oregon every summer. Those family vacations were wonderful, but after my husband died, when the boys were just 8 and 12 years old, our first trip to Oregon without him was painful.

I knew the three of us needed to create a new family tradition. So when I stumbled on a book about the great lodges of the American West, I had an inspiration: We would visit every lodge in that book—12 in all—plus the national parks they were built to serve. Over the next five summers, until my older son left for college, we made our way to Yellowstone, Glacier, Bryce Canyon, Yosemite, Crater Lake, and many more parks. We spent at least a night in each lodge, but we also camped out.

The parks were a bracing change from our lives in New York City. During one trip we camped in Death Valley. After we had settled into our tent for the night, we heard a commotion. We hurried outside to see our campsite neighbors pointing at the sky—to the Northern Lights. My boys had never seen them before. It was a magical night.

Henry David Thoreau said, “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” That’s why I’ve made the National Park Foundation a beneficiary of my IRA. I know the Foundation will spend my money wisely to preserve the parks for the next 100 years—and beyond. No place on earth is more beautiful than our national parks, and I truly believe the beauty we see there makes us better people.

Anyone can include a gift to the National Park Foundation through their retirement plan, will, or other estate plans. To find out more, contact us today and start a personal and confidential conversation about how a planned gift might work for you.
50th Anniversary Legacy Challenge

In honor of the National Park Foundation’s 50th anniversary, our board of directors is encouraging future support of America’s national parks. To do so, they will match 10% of each new substantiated planned gift to the National Park Foundation (up to $500,000) throughout this anniversary year.

For your gift to qualify, it needs to be established or identified between January 1 and December 31, 2018. All you have to do is include the National Park Foundation in your estate plans or notify us that you have already included us in your plans.

The Legacy Challenge is easy:

– Include the National Park Foundation in your will for any amount. You can leave a specific amount, such as $10,000, or use a percentage from 1% to 100%. Or, you can also make the National Park Foundation a beneficiary of your trust, IRA/retirement plan, or life insurance policy. You can even establish a new life-income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity.

– Tell us about your future gift by filling out and returning an Estate Gift Notification Form.

– To substantiate the gift, send us a copy of the page (via mail or email) that lists the National Park Foundation in your plans.

Now is the perfect time to act.

Your planned gift to secure the future of the national parks has never had greater value. The commitment you make now will generate a 10% cash match, courtesy of the National Park Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Complete your gift before December 31, 2018 and your gift will qualify for the Legacy Challenge and generate an outright gift of up to $500,000 to the National Park Foundation.

To learn more, or to request an Estate Gift Notification Form, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (202) 796-2500, or email us at PlannedGiving@nationalparks.org.
Do Your Plans Still Fit?

When was the last time you updated your will? Even the best and most well-thought-out plans can become out-of-date over time.

Many donors tell us that they decided to create or update their will after a major life event. Life-changing experiences offer an opportunity to update your plans and make sure everything is still current and appropriate.

Have you moved? Do you have any new children or grandchildren since you last reviewed your plans? Have you recently visited a park that you want to support through your estate plans?

As your life changes, your will needs to change too. When facing these important changes, many people decide to include a percentage gift to their favorite charitable organizations, such as the National Park Foundation.

Through your past generosity to the National Park Foundation, you have shown how compassionate you are. Planning for the future will give you peace-of-mind and ensure that your wishes are expressed and carried out to support our country’s national treasures — the national parks.

I Need a Will, But Where Do I Start?

The National Park Foundation has complimentary information that can help you plan or update your will. Our free Estate Planning Preparation Booklet will guide you through the most difficult part of putting your estate plan together: collecting your thoughts and information before you visit your attorney. This booklet is not a will, nor is it a legal document. It is designed to assist your attorney in the preparation of your will.

If you would like to receive a copy of this booklet, or if you have any questions on how you can include the National Park Foundation in your estate plans, return the enclosed reply card, call us at (202) 796-2500, or email us at PlannedGiving@nationalparks.org.

The 1916 Society

The 1916 Society was created to honor all those who have included a future gift intention to the National Park Foundation through an estate plan, such as a will, trust, life-income arrangement, or as a beneficiary of a retirement or life insurance plan. Named for the founding year of the National Park Service, the 1916 Society recognizes thoughtful donors who have chosen to support and protect the future of our national parks. In listing the 1916 Society donors who have given their permission for their names to be published, we express our gratitude for their profound commitment to the national parks both now and in the future.

Anonymous (50)  
Ellen S. Alberding and Kelly R. Welsh  
Mr. Earl D. Alexander, Jr.  
Judi and Larry Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Al Baldwin  
Carl Balis  
Paul Bardacke, In Honor of Director Jonathan Jarvis  
Arthur W. Bartlett, III  
Mr. James Baumn  
Rett and Michele Benedict  
Scott and Jessie Bergman  
Arnold M. Berke and T. Jacob Pearce  
Rod R. Betsch  
Mrs. Sharon Bidwell  
Isabelle M. Bohman  
Donna Marie Boone  
Robert A. Larson Endowment Fund  
John D. and Beth E. Bouws  
Peter P. Bradley  
Dr. Adrienne Brandriss  
Mr. Albert S. Branson  
Greggory A. Bruce  
Robert and Kathleen Brunswick  
Brett Buchholtz  
Walter and Monica Buzzetta  
Ms. Susan Campo  
John and Patricia Case  
Mr. Donald H. Chadduck  
William and Linda Ciaburri  
James M. Compton, Col. USA (Ret.)  
Timothy Cook  
Phillip R. Cox  
Eva Dahm  
Gloria De Victoria  
Ellen M. de Lalla  
Jim and Kris Dorris
A Gift That Gives Back—Charitable Gift Annuities

Increased Payment Rates for 2018!

We have good news to share with all our donors who want to support the work of the National Park Foundation and provide income for themselves or others—charitable gift annuity rates have increased as of July 1, 2018! That means that at most ages, higher lifetime payments can be locked in when a new gift is made.

Gift annuities are also known as life-income gifts. In exchange for your gift to the Foundation, we agree to pay a lifetime income to you and/or someone else (two people maximum). The income amount depends on the recipients’ age, the amount of the gift, and when the lifetime payments begin.

Example: Mary, age 80, wants to create a legacy gift in support of the national parks but would also like to have additional income. With a gift annuity, she can meet both goals. In exchange for her minimum gift of $10,000, we agree to make lifetime annual payments back to Mary. Because of her age, Mary’s rate will be 7.3%. In other words, each year she will receive $730. The payment amount is fixed for life, and if she itemizes her return this year, part of her gift qualifies for a charitable deduction.

Many donors create several gift annuities over multiple years to help supplement retirement income. And when you use appreciated stock to fund an annuity, you can save considerably on capital-gains taxes.

We hope that you will consider a charitable gift annuity to the National Park Foundation in support of our mission to protect our country’s national parks, connect them to all people, and engage the next generation of national park stewards.

We would be happy to provide a personalized illustration so you can see how a charitable gift annuity might work for you. Simply return the enclosed reply card with your exact age(s) and approximate gift amount, or contact the Office of Planned Giving at (202) 796-2500 or PlannedGiving@nationalparks.org.

Sample GIFT ANNUITY rates, effective July 1, 2018

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United States Marine Corps War Memorial
Your Contributions at Work

Travelling through the winter woods on snowshoes is to experience nature in a most peaceful state. It's a magical experience not found during other seasons, a time when pristine snow beneath your feet crunches and sparkles, and favorite trails are blanketed in awesome winter white. That makes it perfect for the Every Kid in a Park program, which introduces fourth grade students from diverse backgrounds and underserved areas to our national parks. Many have never even been to a park before, let alone are aware of the relaxed sport of snowshoeing. Last year more than 2,500 people enjoyed the original “Snowshoe Experiences” in Michigan’s Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Now, we’re looking to expand the program to include young students from urban areas in Michigan, including Detroit and Grand Rapids. The interest is high. But so are the transportation costs. One estimate: $4,500 for a single Detroit school.

But with your ongoing support, these fourth graders will be able to participate in this healthy, nature-based activity. The transportation grants your gifts make possible connect these kids to this incredible park adventure. Here, they’ll learn all about winter ecology and the majestic power of the glaciers that form the park’s breathtaking landscape. Hiking through the snow into the dunes, they will see winter white for miles in every direction. Since 2011, NPF has awarded more than $2 million to provide free transportation for nearly 300,000 students.

For More Information

Leaving a legacy gift to the National Park Foundation through your estate plan ensures the protection, enrichment, and support of America’s beloved national parks for generations to come.

Contact the Office of Planned Giving:

Nicole Engdahl
Vice President, Planned & Annual Giving
Phone: (202) 796-2500
Email: PlannedGiving@nationalparks.org
Web: www.nationalparks.org/plannedgiving

Augie Bossu
Specialist, Planned Giving
National Park Foundation
1110 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005

To include the National Park Foundation in your will, please use the following language: “To the National Park Foundation in Washington, DC, I give ____% of my estate.” Or you can name a fixed dollar amount.

Our 501(c)(3) federal tax identification number is 52-1086761

This publication is intended to provide only general gift, estate, and financial planning information and is not a comprehensive review of the topics. Please consult with your legal and financial advisors when planning your gift.