



Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

BEQUESTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a charitable bequest?

A charitable bequest is a gift made through your will or trust to a nonprofit organization such as the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation. Just as you can provide for family and friends through your estate, bequests help you support the future well-being of organizations you cherish. Bequests are essential to fulfilling our mission of supporting 4-H programs in Massachusetts, now and in years to come.

Who should consider a bequest to the 4-H Foundation?

Anyone can create a legacy for the 4-H Foundation through a bequest. Since our founding, donors from all walks of life have honored us with bequests gifts, and each one—regardless of the amount—is a unique and meaningful gift.

How do I create a bequest?

Our handout, “Giving By Bequest,” describes some of the more common forms of bequests and provides sample language for you and your attorney. If you include the Foundation in your plans, we look forward to welcoming you to the Heritage Circle.

Will my bequest be tax deductible?

Historically, charitable bequests have been deductible for federal estate tax purposes and are usually exempt from state inheritance taxes. Consult your attorney to learn how a charitable bequest might provide tax benefits for you, your estate and your heirs.

What if I've already written my will or trust?

You can amend a will or trust to make a gift without rewriting the entire document. Your attorney can prepare a legal document, called a codicil, adding a new provision while reaffirming the other terms of your will, or help you draft a similar amendment for a revocable trust. Ask your attorney about the best options for you.

What other options are there, besides wills and trusts?

You can also make a gift through a retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial account such as a brokerage account. Typically all you need is a Change of Beneficiary form, with the legal name (Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, Inc.) and tax ID (04-2303708) of the organization. Gifts of retirement plan assets may offer tax advantages: while heirs will pay income tax on inherited IRA funds, a tax-exempt

This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice.

charity receives the full amount. By saving less heavily taxes assets for heirs, you may be able to give more to heirs *and* charity.

How will my bequest be used by the Foundation?

All unrestricted bequests are placed in our Endowment Trust, which is carefully managed by our Board of Trustees to provide long-term financial security and reliable income for the Foundation. Please see our Endowment Policy guide or investment policy and performance history.

Can I direct my bequest to a special purpose?

We encourage unrestricted bequests, so that each gift may be applied to the highest priority need at the time it is received. If you wish restrict your gift, we ask that you include language allowing the Board of Trustees to apply your gift to an alternate purpose if your original intention is no longer possible, or practical, at the time the gift is received. Please see the suggested bequest language in our handout "Giving by Bequest," or call us for more information.

What is the 4-H Heritage Circle?

The Heritage Circle was created to honor those who have included a gift to the Foundation in their future plans, and to inspire others to follow this generous example. Members receive special recognition in donor listings and events, as well as occasional updates and invitations just for Heritage Circle members. Anonymous members are warmly welcomed.

How can I get more information for my attorney?

The 4-H Foundation is glad to talk with your attorney to review options and discuss your giving plans, with your permission. We do not provide legal or financial advice to any donor. Contact Laurie Flanagan to request an info package for advisors.

What if I need to change my will?

We understand that estate plans evolve over time. A bequest enables you to make a generous provision for the future that can be revoked or amended at any time and does not restrict your resources today.

I've already included 4-H in my plans. Should I notify you?

We hope that you will share news of your plans with us, so that we can recognize your generosity and welcome you to the Heritage Society. We always respect donor preferences for recognition, including requests for anonymity.

For a confidential conversation about a bequest gift to meet your unique needs and interests, contact Laurie Flanagan, Executive Director at (508) 881-1244 or lflanagan@mass4Hfoundation.org, or write to 22 Eliot St., Ashland, MA 01721.

***Thank you for considering a bequest to the
Massachusetts 4-H Foundation.***

Your generosity and vision are greatly appreciated!