



CIRCLE OF LIFE SOCIETY

*Creating a Wildlife Legacy
for Future Generations*





When a youngster watches the amusing acrobatics of the snow monkeys, or gazes into the intense eyes of an Amur leopard, a connection is made that can last a lifetime. Each year at the Minnesota Zoo, more than one million guests connect with animals and take part in a growing commitment to help conserve wild animals around the world.

But will these magnificent animals be there for the next generation?

When you make a planned gift to the Minnesota Zoo, you're helping ensure that connections like these are made each and every day, and that future generations will live in a world that thrives with wild animals. The Minnesota Zoo is deeply engaged in helping people learn about animals, and inspiring action on behalf of our world's vanishing wild places.

The Minnesota Zoo is a center for environmental education and a refuge for animals that are in danger of extinction. From the Amur leopard and the Asian wild horse to the Mexican gray wolf, the Minnesota Zoo is a catalyst for species survival. Your gift will help meet the need to expand our educational impact throughout the state, to provide ever-improving care for animals at the Zoo, and even to return endangered animals to the wild. Your gift will help continue our legacy of connecting people, animals and the natural world.



A PLANNED GIFT BENEFITS THE ZOO... AND YOU!

By making a gift to the Minnesota Zoo through your Will or Estate Plan, you play an important role in supporting the Zoo's mission *to connect people, animals and the natural world*. Your gift to the Minnesota Zoo helps ensure that the Zoo's award-winning exhibits, education programs and conservation initiatives are available to future generations while giving you significant benefits today.

You also will receive the *peace of mind* that you have made a difference to our world's wildlife and to future generations.

- ◀ Amur leopards are the world's most endangered wild cat, with only 30 remaining in the wild. Visitors to the Minnesota Zoo get up close and personal with Amur leopards in our *Russia's Grizzly Coast* exhibit. A gift to the Zoo gives our guests the opportunity to learn about Amur leopards, and encourages them to contribute to the conservation of these beautiful cats and other threatened wildlife.

MAKE THE ZOO'S LEGACY BECOME YOURS

There are several ways to include the Minnesota Zoo in your estate plans, including an immediate outright gift, a charitable bequest made in a will, gifts that generate income, and gifts of stock, mutual funds and real estate. Minnesota Zoo Foundation staff members are happy to meet with you about a gift; we also recommend that you work with an attorney to ensure appropriate estate planning.

Bequests

A bequest allows you to make a gift to the Zoo without affecting your family's current financial security. While a bequest offers no immediate income tax benefits, it can reduce or even eliminate estate taxes.

You can make a bequest to the Minnesota Zoo through your Will or by designating the Zoo as a beneficiary of your insurance policy or retirement plan. To include the Zoo in your Will, we suggest the following language:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, a non-profit Minnesota corporation, located at 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124, the sum of \$ ____ (or, ____ percent of my estate, or, ____ percent of the residue of my estate) to be used for such purposes as the Board of Trustees determines at the time this bequest becomes effective."

If you prefer, Minnesota Zoo Foundation staff are happy to talk with you and your legal advisor regarding the designation of your gift.

Insurance Policy: Naming the Zoo as a primary or secondary beneficiary of an insurance policy is a very simple way to give a significant gift.

Retirement Plan: The Minnesota Zoo Foundation can be named as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of the residual balance of a qualified retirement plan.

Income-Generating Gifts

Gifts to the Zoo that create a stream of income and a charitable income tax deduction for you include charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder unitrusts.

Charitable gift annuities are one of the most popular planned gift options. Gift annuities can provide you with a guaranteed fixed income for your lifetime as well as significant tax benefits. In an uncertain economy, the stability of a charitable gift annuity is very attractive to donors who wish to avoid risk.

Charitable remainder unitrusts give you payments that fluctuate annually with the fair market value of the trust.

Gifts of Stocks or Mutual Funds

While many donors prefer to make gifts of cash, many contribute gifts of appreciated stocks or mutual funds as they can provide a double tax benefit: you can receive an income tax charitable deduction *and* you reduce or avoid capital gain taxes on the appreciated value of the securities.



A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE... RECOGNITION TODAY

The Minnesota Zoo's *Circle of Life Society* recognizes and honors donors who have made gifts of future support to the Minnesota Zoo. These gifts expand our endowment, improve Zoo exhibits and facilities, and support conservation and education activities both here and around the world. The *Circle of Life Society* gives the Zoo the opportunity to thank you today for the support you are providing for the Zoo tomorrow.

- ◀ The Asian wild horse, once completely extinct in the wild, is making a dramatic turnaround, thanks in part to the Minnesota Zoo. One of the Zoo's former stallions was successfully released into the wild, and has sired six horses that are now producing offspring of their own. Your gift will be instrumental in helping the Zoo re-introduce other species back into their native habitats.



GIVING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



Harry Haynsworth, Dean Emeritus of William Mitchell College of Law knows that “as a lawyer it is important to live your life in a manner consistent with what you believe.” So it comes as no surprise that with seven grandchildren who love animals, Harry and his wife

Pat made a planned gift to the Minnesota Zoo.

“A planned gift provided a way for us to make a much larger gift to the Zoo than would otherwise be possible,” said Harry. “I hope our support to the Zoo will provide future generations with increased opportunities to learn about animals and the environments that sustain them.”

Harry is the past Chairman of the Board of the Minnesota Zoo and has actively worked with the Minnesota Zoo Foundation to help raise money for the Zoo.

- ◀ The Zoo's **Mentor Adventures Program** is based on best practices identified in research on effective out-of-school youth enrichment programs. Serving 5th–8th grade low income and minority youth, the program introduces students to scientific concepts concerning animals and wildlife biology. Your planned gift can help give students opportunities to explore environmental issues and excite them about science and science careers.

If you have questions or would like to discuss giving opportunities, please call the Minnesota Zoo Foundation at 952-431-9237.

- Please contact me to discuss a potential planned gift to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation.
- I/we have included the Minnesota Zoo Foundation in our Will.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE (WORK) _____

PHONE (HOME) _____

PHONE (CELL) _____

EMAIL _____

MINNESOTA ZOO FOUNDATION
13000 ZOO BOULEVARD
APPLE VALLEY, MINNESOTA 55124

952.431.9237 • MNZOO.ORG

WHY THE CIRCLE OF LIFE?

The Circle of Life celebrates the interconnectedness of people, animals and the natural world. While the circle of life moves from birth to death, what is most important is what happens in between — learning from others and making sure the next generation is equipped to begin the circle of life all over again.

At the Minnesota Zoo, guests learn about the challenges animals and the natural world face each and every day. Our guests feel both concern and hope, and they are inspired to take action on behalf of our world's wildlife. For members of the *Circle of Life Society*, that action is providing financial support for the future — gifts that will ensure the circle of life for all life continues for the next generation.

CIRCLE OF LIFE SOCIETY BENEFITS

The Minnesota Zoo provides *Circle of Life Society* members benefits and recognition in appreciation for support:

- inclusion in the Minnesota Zoo annual report and on the Zoo's donor wall; and
- invitations to special Zoo events, including:
 - annual Director's Dinner
 - annual *Circle of Life Society* Reception
 - exhibit previews and openings.



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