

The Wikipedia Legacy Society



**A GUIDE TO MAKING A PLANNED GIFT TO
THE WIKIMEDIA ENDOWMENT**



Wikipedia was launched in 2001 with a big ask:

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

Now, with 50 million articles in over 300 languages and more than 500 million users every month, it is the only non-profit site in the top-ten-most-visited sites on the web. With approximately 250,000 volunteers contributing each month, Wikipedia is also the world's largest participatory resource. Our community shares the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to access knowledge — for free, without restriction, without limitation, without bias. Forever.

Together, we've made Wikipedia a beacon of free knowledge for the world. Now, you can spark the minds of future generations with a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment.

The Wikipedia Legacy Society

The Wikipedia Legacy Society is a group of donors working together to ensure that Wikipedia provides free knowledge to the world, forever. They have each committed to making a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment through their estate planning.

If you would like to join the Wikipedia Legacy Society, please complete the Legacy Society Pledge at the end of this guide or online at www.wikimediaendowment.org.



Jimmy Wales,
founder of Wikipedia

Ways to make a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment

This guide provides information on ways you can make a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment. While we encourage you to talk with your financial or legal advisor about your specific situation, we are sharing general information about four of the most common planned gift options in the United States as a primer for your legacy giving.

PLANNED GIVING OPTION #1: BEQUESTS

You can gift a portion or all of your estate to the Wikimedia Endowment through your will or trust. This is called a bequest, and there are several ways to structure it:

Specific Bequest: This specifies an exact dollar amount or a specific item of property that you leave to the Wikimedia Endowment. The language in a will for such a gift would read, for example, “I bequeath \$5,000 to the Wikimedia Endowment” or “I bequeath my vacation home to the Wikimedia Endowment.”

Residuary Bequest: Using this bequest structure, you can leave specific assets to loved ones while giving the remaining or “residuary” amount to the Wikimedia Endowment. For example, “After all other gifts, I bequeath the remainder of my estate to the Wikimedia Endowment.”

Contingent Bequest: You can designate the Wikimedia Endowment as a contingent beneficiary in case of a certain event. For example, “I give 5% of my estate to my friend Jane Smith, if she survives me – or, if not, to the Wikimedia Endowment.”

How to make a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment through a bequest:

Here is sample language that you can add to your will to make a Legacy Gift to the Wikimedia Endowment:

“I give, devise, and bequeath [the sum of _____ USD (or other currency) OR _____ percent of the rest and residue of my estate] to the Wikimedia Endowment, c/o the Wikimedia Foundation (tax identification number 20-0049703), a charitable corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, United States, currently located at 1 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, California 94104, United States, to be used for its general charitable purposes at its discretion.”

Do you need a basic will?

In partnership with FreeWill, you can generate a basic will, free of charge. Go to www.freewill.com/wikipedia. The process takes about 20 minutes.

PLANNED GIVING OPTION #2: LIFE INSURANCE

You can make this gift simply by naming the Wikimedia Endowment as a beneficiary of either an existing policy or a new policy that you purchase for this purpose. In either case, a portion of your premiums may be immediately tax deductible, depending on your situation, even though the Endowment won't receive the gift until you pass on.

How to make a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment through a life insurance policy:

You can make the Wikimedia Endowment the beneficiary of your life insurance policy by completing a "Change of Beneficiary" form either online or by requesting the form from your insurance company. List the Wikimedia Endowment, c/o the Wikimedia Foundation Tax ID: 20-0049703 as the beneficiary on the form of all or a portion of the policy's value.

PLANNED GIVING OPTION #3: RETIREMENT ASSETS

Retirement assets, such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and 401(k)s, are often the most heavily taxed assets in an estate. That's because these funds have enjoyed tax-free growth over a long time period. Compared to other assets, they can be the most tax-burdened assets to leave to your heirs, making them ideal for charitable giving.

How to make a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment with retirement assets:

To gift your remaining retirement assets, list the Wikimedia Endowment, c/o the Wikimedia Foundation (Tax ID: 20-0049703) as a beneficiary of your account. You can often make this change by logging in to your account online or requesting a "Change of Beneficiary" form from your retirement account administrator.

PLANNED GIVING OPTION #4: BANK AND BROKERAGE ACCOUNTS

Similar to leaving retirement assets to the Wikimedia Endowment, you can name the Endowment as the “transfer on death (TOD)” or “pay on death (POD)” beneficiary for all or a percentage of a bank account, brokerage account, or a certificate of deposit. Typically, in many states, TOD beneficiaries can receive the assets without having to go through probate.

As with other planned giving tools, a TOD designation allows you to retain full control over the assets during your lifetime. You also have the ability to change the beneficiary or close the account

at any time. Funds will only transfer to the Wikimedia Endowment after your death if the designation is still in place.

How to make a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment through a bank or brokerage account:

Rules vary slightly by state, but you can typically contact your bank or brokerage firm and request a beneficiary form, or TOD form, that allows you to name the Wikimedia Endowment, c/o the Wikimedia Foundation (Tax ID: 20-0049703) as a beneficiary of your account(s) once you pass on.

Advantages to these legacy gifts

The legacy gifts described in this guide let you manage your giving with flexibility and confidence. You remain in control of your assets for as long as you need them and can change your mind at any time, for any reason. For example, if your situation changes, you can adjust the amount of your gift as well as your beneficiaries, usually at no cost. This ensures you can protect your loved ones while still providing perpetual support for Wikipedia. Whether you designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the Wikimedia Endowment, your legacy gift will help ensure that the world has access to free knowledge – now and forever.

We’re here to help

If you have questions about making a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss options with you. Send us an email at endowment@wikimedia.org or call us at **415-758-8574**.



Yes! I would like to join the Wikipedia Legacy Society!

I have committed a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment in my estate or financial plans. I have made the following planned gift arrangement:

- Bequest in my will or trust
- Life Insurance beneficiary designation
- Retirement plan beneficiary designation
- Other (please specify):

I would like the Wikimedia Endowment staff to contact me to discuss planned giving options.

Please list me as a member of the Wikipedia Legacy Society on the Wikimedia Endowment website. Please list my name as:

I would like to keep my pledge confidential at this time.

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

This form does not create a legal obligation to donate and you may change your intent at any time. Thank you for pledging a legacy gift to the Wikimedia Endowment.

Please return this form to: **The Wikimedia Endowment, 1 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, CA 94104, United States** or complete it online at www.wikimediaendowment.org



The information provided in this guide does not constitute specific financial, legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorneys and/or financial advisors regarding your particular situation.

The Wikimedia Endowment has been established, with an initial contribution by Wikimedia Foundation, as a Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation. Tides is a philanthropic partner with a 40-year track record of holding and managing charitable funds for nonprofit organizations. The purpose of the Wikimedia Endowment is to act as a permanent safekeeping fund to generate income to support the operations and activities of the Wikimedia projects in perpetuity. An Advisory Board, nominated by the Wikimedia Foundation and appointed by Tides, will make recommendations to Tides related to the Endowment. The Advisory Board may recommend the Endowment be moved from Tides to the Wikimedia Foundation, or other charities recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt organizations, whereby the Endowment may continue to be a permanent, income-generating fund supporting the Wikimedia projects.

PHOTO CREDITS:

COVER: Wikimedians gather in Esino Lario, Italy in June 2016. Photo by: Niccolò Caranti, License: CC BY-SA 4.0

INSIDE: I Love You: The Wall, Paris, March 28, 2011. Photo by: Oh Paris, License: CC BY-SA 2.0; Jimmy Wales at the CC Board Meeting, June 20, 2008. Photo by: Joi Ito, License: CC-BY-2.0; Intergenerational support at Wikipedia Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon, at Eyebeam in New York City, February 1, 2014. License: CC-BY-SA-3.0

1 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, CA 94104

endowment@wikimedia.org wikimediaendowment.org 415-758-8574

WIKIMEDIA
E N D O W M E N T