



Donor Recognition Programs FAQ

Your support of the Minnesota Zoo Foundation helps the Zoo create connections with people and wildlife and inspires the community to become stewards of our planet. The Minnesota Zoo Foundation has various giving programs that, in turn, help you nurture your own connection with the natural world.

What is the Minnesota Zoo Foundation?

The Minnesota Zoo Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit established to manage fundraising efforts and donor relationships on the Zoo's behalf. The Foundation exists to raise money in support of the Minnesota Zoo's mission to connect people, animals, and the natural world to save wildlife.

Do donors receive special benefits?

We are sincerely grateful for donor support, and we aim to bring our donors closer to the mission they invest in. Depending on a donor's giving level, we offer special benefits to express our appreciation and deepen donor connection to the Minnesota Zoo. Please take a moment to explore the full range of these exclusive donor benefits by visiting [MNZoo.org/Benefits](https://mnzoo.org/benefits). Your contribution not only makes a difference but also helps you become more engaged in our mission. Thank you for your invaluable support!

INDIVIDUAL DONOR PROGRAMS

What is the Friends of the Minnesota Zoo donor recognition program?

The Friends of the Minnesota Zoo Foundation program is a donor recognition program recognizing donors who generously support this important mission with gifts starting at \$300 annually or \$25 monthly.

Benefits include an annual donor-membership to the Zoo that provides admission for two adults living at the same address, along with dependent children or grandchildren ages 21 or under. Minnesota Zoo Foundation donor-members may also bring two complimentary guests with each visit and receive invitations to insider events and experiences throughout the year. View the full benefits grid at [MNZoo.org/Benefits](https://mnzoo.org/benefits).

What is the Director's Circle donor recognition program?

The Minnesota Zoo Foundation Director's Circle is a donor recognition program recognizing donors who generously invest in the Zoo's efforts to preserve wildlife and connect the community to the natural world. Director's Circle giving starts at \$1,200 annually or \$100 monthly.

Director's Circle donors receive all the Friends benefits listed above along with donor recognition in the published donor lists (such as the annual impact report or donor wall), and access to reserved parking spaces at the Zoo (first come, first served).

Director's Circle donors who give \$3,000 annually or \$250 monthly also have the opportunity to gift a Friends of the Minnesota Zoo donor membership to another family.

Director's Circle donors who give \$6,000 annually or \$500 monthly will have access to a unique behind-the-scenes experience (benefit still in development).

View the full benefits grid at [MNZoo.org/Benefits](https://mnzoo.org/Benefits).

What is the President's Club donor recognition program?

The Minnesota Zoo Foundation's President's Club is a donor recognition program recognizing the visionary leaders focused on shaping the future of the Minnesota Zoo through their annual contributions of \$10,000 or more – including gifts to the annual fund, designated funds, and capital campaign. President's Club donors help pave the way for the Zoo's future, ensuring that the Zoo can continue to engage communities and inspire people to care for wildlife for generations to come. President's Club donors receive all Director's Circle benefits as well as invitations to exclusive President's Club events and experiences.

Every donor in the President's Club is assigned to a dedicated Foundation liaison, guaranteeing regular and personalized communication tailored to their unique interests and commitment to our mission.

View the full benefits grid at [MNZoo.org/Benefits](https://mnzoo.org/Benefits).

When can I expect my qualifying gift's donor-member benefits to be activated?

We process donations and activate donor-member benefits as quickly as we are able. Please allow our staff up to 10 business days from the time we receive your donation to activate your donor-membership. If you are making plans to visit the Zoo, please reach out to us and we can ensure your membership is active on your member record, which will be required in order to access member pricing. Donor benefits are subject to change without notice, may not be exchanged, and have no monetary value.

How do I renew my Friends of the Minnesota Zoo or Director's Circle donor membership?

To renew your donor membership go to [MNZoo.org/FriendsRenew](https://mnzoo.org/FriendsRenew).

What are insider events and experiences?

These are unique opportunities designed to bring donors closer to the mission and report on the impact of their generosity. Experiences may include lectures, donor previews for seasonal offerings or exhibits, open-house style events, and other opportunities that arise to bring donors closer to the mission. Insider events and experiences vary by giving level and by current features and offerings at the Minnesota Zoo.

Is my contribution tax deductible?

The Minnesota Zoo Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law. To claim a donation as a deduction on your U.S. taxes, please keep your email or mailed donation receipt as your official record. Some types of transactions (such as event tickets, event-related transactions, etc.) may have a fair market value that impacts the tax-deductible portion of your gift. Please review your emailed receipt or physical acknowledgment letter for details about your specific gift, and always consult your tax advisor for your situation.

Is my gift refundable?

Donations to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation are nontransferable and nonrefundable. Your gift will be used to help the Minnesota Zoo Foundation support the Minnesota Zoo's mission of connecting people, animals, and the natural world to save wildlife.

How can I be assured that my generosity will be put to good use and make a positive impact?

The Minnesota Zoo and the Minnesota Zoo Foundation carefully track their finances. Annual Reports, audits, and 990 tax forms can be reviewed on our [Annual Reports and Financial Statements page](#).

The Minnesota Zoo is accredited by the [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#) which requires us to meet rigorous standards in all areas including finances.

As a donor, you will receive the Minnesota Zoo Foundation's quarterly donor newsletter reporting on the impact of your support.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Zoo often so you can see your contributions making a real difference!

As a donor to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, what can I help make possible at the Minnesota Zoo?

Supporting the General Operations Fund ensures your donation goes where it's most needed. Alternatively, you can choose to direct your gift toward specific initiatives that are available at the time of the gift like capital campaigns, conservation efforts, or education programs. Connect with the Foundation to learn about current opportunities.

Can I give a donation directly to the Minnesota Zoo?

The Minnesota Zoo Foundation is a separate 501(c)3 non-profit established to manage fundraising efforts and donor relationships on the Zoo's behalf, so all gifts in support of the Zoo come through the Foundation. The Minnesota Zoo is a state agency and focuses its efforts on running the many other aspects of the Zoo.

How can I make a difference with the Minnesota Zoo Foundation?

Your generosity powers this important mission to connect people, animals, and the natural world to save wildlife. Your financial gift will make a lasting impact helping save wildlife for generations to come. Below you'll find the many ways you can support the Zoo's mission. Unsure of the best giving option? We are here to help you choose the method that is right for you.

- **Online Donations:** Easily give online at MNZoo.org/Give.

- **Phone Donation:** Call us at 952.431.9237 with your credit card information to make a donation.
- **US Mail:** Send your contribution by check, payable to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, to 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124.
- **Monthly Giving:** Sign up for affordable and easy monthly donations (minimum of \$10 or more) using your credit card, debit card, or bank account.
- **Workplace Giving:** If available at your workplace, consider allocating a portion of your workplace giving to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation. It's a straightforward way to make a real impact and support something special in our community. Contact your human resources department to get started.
- **Employer Matching:** Did you know? You can magnify your impact through your employer's matching gift program. It's an easy way to double your donation and further your support. See if your employer has a matching gift program and [request your matching gift today!](#)
- **Donor Advised Funds:** Unlock the potential of your Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to make a difference! Consider directing a gift from your DAF to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation. Your support can create a lasting impact on wildlife conservation and education. [Learn more about DAF giving.](#)
- **IRA Contributions:** Maximize your impact and minimize your tax liability! Consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation. It's a tax-savvy way to support our mission while fulfilling your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- **Legacy Giving:** Leave a lasting legacy for generations to come! Join the Minnesota Zoo Foundation's Circle of Life Society by naming us as a beneficiary in your will, retirement account, or life insurance policy. Become a part of something truly special and make a profound impact through the power of legacy giving. [Learn more about Circle of Life legacy giving with the Minnesota Zoo Foundation.](#)

Contact the Minnesota Zoo Foundation

We're here to help! It's important to us that we connect you to the Minnesota Zoo in a meaningful way

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