



# Leatherback Legacy Circle

Leatherback Legacy Circle recognizes and honors the extraordinary individuals whose estate and life income gifts will provide future support for The Leatherback Trust and its mission to promote the conservation of leatherbacks and other turtles at risk of extinction.

**The Leatherback Trust**  
**legacy@leatherback.org**

*The Leatherback Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.*





# The Leatherback Trust

Welcome to The Leatherback Trust's *Leatherback Legacy Circle*. We are pleased you are considering a testamentary gift to The Leatherback Trust. The Leatherback Legacy Circle gives you the opportunity to make a meaningful difference for imperiled sea turtle species around the world. Your planned gift can support our mission today or you may design a plan that benefits The Leatherback Trust after your lifetime. All planned gifts support The Leatherback Trust's research, advocacy, and education initiatives to protect critically endangered East Pacific leatherbacks and other imperiled sea turtles worldwide. Their future is in our hands.

You do not have to be of a certain age or affluence to participate. You just need a plan. The Leatherback Legacy Circle offers several types of planned gifts to consider, and each one provides a meaningful, financially beneficial way to prepare for your future and to plan for the future of The Leatherback Trust sustain long-term sea turtle conservation efforts. We are happy to work with you and your tax and legal advisors to structure the type of planned gift that best fits your financial and philanthropic goals.

For more information, please contact us at [legacy@leatherback.org](mailto:legacy@leatherback.org)





## BEQUESTS AND ESTATE PLAN GIFTS

Over the years, The Leatherback Trust has benefited from the kindness of thoughtful people—donors, board members, supporters, and volunteers—who wished to provide for The Leatherback Trust’s mission through their giving. You may choose to make a gift of cash, securities, real estate, or other assets to The Leatherback Trust now, or also through a bequest in your will or living trust. This can be accomplished by adding a codicil to your current will or by making an amendment to your living trust. Your gift may be a specific bequest of a designated sum or asset, or it may be a percentage of your residuary estate.

Possible advantages of a bequest include:

- You will become a member of the Leatherback Legacy Circle.
- Outright gifts from your estate are entirely free from federal estate taxes.
- Bequests generally are not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes.
- You will memorialize a lifetime commitment to sea turtles and their habitats.
- You will have the option to create a separate fund named for yourself or in the name of someone you wish to honor or memorialize. Named funds remain visible at The Leatherback Trust through the people and activities they support. This visibility also encourages others to give.

### Sample Bequest Language

A bequest can be as simple as including the following language in your will:



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#### **For an Unrestricted Gift:**

*I give and bequeath to THE LEATHERBACK TRUST, INC. the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (or, \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate), for such purposes as THE LEATHERBACK TRUST shall determine to be in the best interests of the organization.*

*I give and bequeath to THE LEATHERBACK TRUST, INC. (all my right, title and interest in the following described personal property \_\_\_\_\_) OR (\_\_\_\_ shares of stock in \_\_\_\_\_ company).”*

#### **For a Restricted Gift:**

*I give and bequeath to THE LEATHERBACK TRUST, INC. the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (or, \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate), to be used for [state the specific purpose, department, or fund].*

Even if you have an existing will, you can add an amendment, or codicil, at any time. Since a codicil doesn’t replace the original will, it can be an inexpensive and simple way to make a bequest to The Leatherback Trust.



## IRA AND OTHER RETIREMENT PLAN GIFTS

You can maximize the impact of your retirement plan assets—including IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, and TSAs—by designating The Leatherback Trust as your primary or secondary beneficiary. The assets you provide to The Leatherback Trust will not be subject to estate tax or income tax, and consequently, the entire balance will be preserved for The Leatherback Trust.



Possible advantages of an IRA or Other Retirement Plan Gift:

- You will become a member of the Leatherback Legacy Circle.
- Coordinating retirement planning and charitable giving can be especially beneficial if you have accumulated substantial retirement assets and wish to reduce income and estate taxes.
- Beneficiary designation gifts are easy to set up, and it is simple to change the beneficiary should your circumstances change.
- You will avoid both income and estate taxes levied on the remainder left in your retirement account.
- You will memorialize a lifetime commitment to The Leatherback Trust and imperiled sea turtles worldwide.

You may also be able to make qualified charitable distributions to The Leatherback Trust from your IRA.



## LIFE INCOME GIFTS

Life income gifts enable you not only to make a meaningful legacy gift to The Leatherback Trust but also to retain the income from your gift during your lifetime—providing income benefits comparable to, or in some cases exceeding, those that might be earned in non-charitable vehicles. Learn more about your life income gift options:

### Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a great way to make a gift and create an income stream for you or a loved one. In exchange for your charitable gift, you or your loved one will receive a fixed annuity for life, part of which may be tax-free. Additionally, you will receive a charitable tax deduction and a potential reduction in gift and estate taxes. The size of the payment is determined at the time the gift is made and will not fluctuate with the financial markets. Your gift to establish a charitable gift annuity also assures that the Leatherback Trust can continue its mission to protect and conserve endangered sea turtles worldwide for years to come.

The Leatherback Trust has partnered with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) to issue charitable gift annuities at amounts of \$25,000 or more. With assets of approximately \$6.5 billion under management, SVCF provides the expertise and financial resources required to back The Leatherback Trust's charitable gift annuities.



#### *Why are gift annuities so appealing?*

- You will become a member of the Leatherback Legacy Circle
- Your annuity income payments are fixed and are not affected by market turbulence.
- Your payments are secure, backed by all of SVCF's unencumbered assets.
- You may qualify for a tax-deductible donation.
- There may be a potential to increase your cash flow, especially if the annuity is funded with low-yielding assets.
- A portion of the payments you receive may be tax-free.
- Donors might receive a capital gains tax advantage if the annuity is funded with long-term appreciated assets.
- The security of fixed payments can be directed to you or to a loved one, such as a parent, sibling or child.
- Best of all, the residuum will be used for long-term community benefit.



You can contribute cash or publicly traded securities to fund the gift annuity. If you have owned the securities for more than one year and they have appreciated in value, you will not be taxed on the gain when you transfer the securities, provided you are the payment beneficiary. If you are the beneficiary, a portion of the payments you receive will be taxed partly as capital gains and partly as ordinary income, with possibly an additional portion treated as tax-free return of capital. If you contribute cash, your payments will be partially tax-free and partially ordinary income.

Younger donors may want to consider a deferred gift annuity. If you are still working and do not need income now, a deferred annuity can help you supplement the payments you will receive from your qualified retirement plan and Social Security after you retire. By contributing to a deferred charitable gift annuity, you can contribute now but postpone receiving payments until you are 60 or older.

## Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable remainder trust (CRT) offers a way to make a meaningful future gift to The Leatherback Trust, while providing income for life or for a specific time frame to your spouse, partner, and/or your loved ones. After the lives of the individuals named in the CRT or the set period of years, the balance in the trust goes to the charities of your choice. If you are considering a gift of \$250,000 or more, trusts are flexible financial planning tools that can be used to accomplish a wide range of goals. Income from such a trust can supplement other income in retirement years. You can choose the type of trust, the income payment, the number of income beneficiaries, and the charitable gift to suit your needs.

There are two basic types of charitable remainder trusts: the **charitable remainder unitrust** (CRUT) and the **charitable remainder annuity trust** (CRAT). Both options share many advantages with two important distinctions. A CRUT pays the beneficiary a fixed percentage of the principal of the trust as it is revalued annually. This provides the donor with the flexibility to make additional gifts to the trust. A five to seven percent payout rate is recommended, depending on the age of the beneficiary. These payments can be made quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. In contrast, a CRAT pays the beneficiary a fixed dollar amount, which is determined when the trust is established. Additional gifts to this type of trust are not allowed.

Comparison of Unitrusts and Annuity Trusts:

Payment Type:	Charitable Remainder Unitrust	Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
Payment to beneficiary	Fluctuates based on a percentage of the trust's value, determined annually	Provides a fixed dollar payment annually based on a percentage of the trust's initial value
Minimum payout percentage	5%	5%
Additional gifts	May be made at any time	Not allowed



Other benefits of charitable remainder trusts include:

- You will become a member of the Leatherback Legacy Circle.
- Receive income for life or a term of years in return for your gift.
- Receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your contribution.
- Pay no capital gains tax on appreciated assets you use to create the CRT.
- Make additional gifts to the trust as your circumstances allow and receive additional income and tax benefits.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTION FOR YOU

There are several options to help charity-minded individuals receive income during their lives. Below is a comparison of certain types of charitable vehicles:

Type:	<b>Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)</b>	<b>Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)</b>	<b>Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT)</b>
Definition:	A contract in which you or 1-2 other annuitants receive a fixed sum each year for life in exchange for your gift to charity.	A trust that pays a fixed percentage of its value, determined each year, to you or others you name for life or a term of years. The remaining assets then go to charity.	A trust that pays a fixed amount each year to you or others you name for life or a term of years. The remaining assets then go to charity.
Set-Up and Costs:	Set up by staff at SVCF for a fee of \$200.	Set up by a professional advisor. Cost varies with complexity of trust and assets used to fund the trust.	Set up by a professional advisor. Cost varies with complexity of trust and assets used to fund the trust.
Tax Benefits:	Immediate tax deduction on a portion of initial contribution to SVCF. Fixed payments are partially tax-free. Capital gains are spread over life expectancy.	Immediate tax deduction on a portion of initial contribution to trust.	Immediate tax deduction on a portion of initial contribution to trust.



	<b>(CGA)</b>	<b>(CRUT)</b>	<b>(CRAT)</b>
Best When:	Donor seeks fixed income for life. Gift is cash or securities.	Donor seeks income for life or term of years with opportunity for income growth. Can be funded with gifts of cash, securities, real estate or other assets.	Donor seeks income for life or term of years. Can be funded with gifts of cash, securities, real estate or other assets.
Minimum Gift:	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Subsequent Gifts:	Requires a new annuity contract	Allowed	Not allowed
Tax Reporting:	Receives 1099R	Receives K-1	Receives K-1

You may take comfort in knowing that the assets you have built over a lifetime will be managed by an organization committed to protecting sea turtles and their habitats worldwide. The Leatherback Trust has partnered with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to serve as manager/administrator of The Leatherback Trust's charitable gift annuities. Donors may also select their own third-party managers for charitable remainder trusts to The Leatherback Trust, but not for charitable gift annuities.



We are happy to work with you and your tax and legal advisors to structure the type of planned gift that best fits your financial and philanthropic goals. For more information, please contact us at [legacy@leatherback.org](mailto:legacy@leatherback.org)

*The Leatherback Trust is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. This publication is a service to provide general information about charitable gift planning. Potential donors should rely on their own advisors.*