



How to Remember Audubon with Beneficiary Designations of IRA/Retirement Accounts, Bank Accounts, CDs, Life Insurance

A beneficiary designation lets you pass any amount you wish to Audubon free of estate and income taxes. Given a choice about how to divide up your assets in your estate, philanthropically inclined people find it more tax-efficient to give retirement assets to Audubon and leave their heirs other property. This strategy saves both income taxes and estate taxes, as Audubon, which is tax-exempt, can draw the funds without paying income taxes, and if your estate is subject to tax the estate can take a charitable deduction for the amount left to Audubon. Designating retirement/financial accounts to your heirs/non-charity beneficiaries may substantially diminish the inheritance. So every five years we suggest you check that all your beneficiary forms are in order and up to date.

The simplest way to make the gift is by directly naming Audubon on the beneficiary designation form. Because your gift does not come to us until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.

We suggest using the following language in preparing a will or living trust:

I bequeath _____ (dollar amount or % of estate) to the National Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with its principal offices located at 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014, to be used for [its general support or for the support of its mission in the state of _____ or for a specific program, Center or Sanctuary _____].

Tax ID # 13-1624102.

Beneficiary forms for retirement plans and insurance policies do not typically allow for this much wording. Our suggestion in this case is to name “National Audubon Society, Inc.” and include our tax ID number. Then, if you wish for your gift to support a specific state or program, attach a letter stating this wish to a copy of your beneficiary form, and keep these documents with your will.

It is important to note that naming a beneficiary within the framework of your will is not sufficient; you must complete the appropriate paperwork provided by your plan’s administrator. Also Federal law requires that a married person designate his/her spouse as the beneficiary under this plan unless the spouse consents to the naming of another beneficiary. If you are married and have not designated your spouse as 100% primary beneficiary, you must mail in a signed and notarized Spousal Consent Form in order for the designation to be valid. These forms are available with your plan’s administrator.

It is also helpful to have this information in our files so that we may honor your wishes to the best of our ability. So we provide a **Legacy Confirmation Form** for you to complete and return to us. Contact us to request one.

Beneficiary designations are one of the simplest, fastest and most successful ways to give to Audubon as these legacy gifts are the sustaining foundation of our vital conservation work!

Should you have any questions, please call or email Heather Hackett, Gift Planning Specialist, at (772) 546-1233 or hhackett@audubon.org