



Buena Vista Audubon Society

A Guide to Planned Giving

Who We Are

Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) is an authorized chapter of the National Audubon Society. It is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-deductible, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our federal taxpayer identification number is 23-7292749. A copy of our most recent financial statement is available on request.

Providing for the Buena Vista Audubon Society in your estate planning creates a timeless legacy, helping to assure that future generations will also be able to appreciate and enjoy the natural beauty of our community. All donations are used to maintain and operate the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center and further the chapter's mission to provide nature-oriented educational and recreational programs for its membership and the community. BVAS regards bequests and other planned gifts as permanent investments in our chapter's work. Estate gifts are generally used to fund the BVAS Endowments. Endowment revenues are used to support the chapter's programs, while the principal of the endowment is kept intact. Donors may choose to have their gift used for a specific project, or dedicated to honor a friend or relative. Please feel free to contact BVAS for more information and assistance.

Planned Giving—Achieving Your Charitable, Tax, and Estate Planning Goals

There are a number of different methods of structuring a charitable contribution to Buena Vista Audubon Society in order to best reflect the individual needs and financial circumstances of the prospective donor. This guide is meant for general informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or financial advice. BVAS strongly recommends that each person considering a planned gift consult with his or her own financial and legal advisors.

Cash Donations and Tax Deductions

A supporter wishing to make a large cash donation may, of course, simply write out a check payable to Buena Vista Audubon Society and mail it to our post office address. An alternative would be to instruct your financial institution to wire the amount of the donation directly to the BVAS general checking account. Please contact us for address and wire instructions. All donations are formally acknowledged in writing. Your financial advisor can provide you information regarding IRS regulations which limit the amount of tax deductions allowed for charitable donations in a given year.

Buena Vista Audubon Society has embarked on a multi-year fund-raising campaign designed to fund its major endowment fund. Rather than make a one-time large cash donation, a supporter may wish to make a pledge of cash donations to be made over a period of several years. Please contact us to discuss your pledge and set up a schedule for your donations. We will provide the documentation necessary to substantiate your tax deduction, and will automatically send a reminder when it is time for your next donation.

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Appreciated Securities—A Double Tax Deduction

While a prospective donor could sell shares of stock or mutual funds and use the proceeds to fund a cash donation to BVAS, in some cases a gift of the unsold shares of those holdings may be of greater advantage to both the donor and BVAS. If the value of those stocks or mutual funds has increased from the time of their original purchase, selling those appreciated holdings would result in a capital gains tax liability. The amount of money available for the charitable contribution would be reduced by the amount of the capital gains tax imposed on the donor. By directly donating shares of appreciated assets to BVAS, the donor would avoid a capital gains tax liability, BVAS would receive a donation equal to the full market value of the holdings at the time of the gift, and the donor would receive a tax-deduction also equal to the full market value of the holdings being donated. As a non-profit corporation, BVAS would then be free to sell the donated stock, mutual funds, or bonds with no tax liability.

A donation of shares of stock or mutual funds can be arranged by instructing your broker to transfer the donated shares to the BVAS brokerage account. Please contact BVAS for a letter of instructions to help facilitate a gift of securities.

Charitable Gift Fund—A Cost Effective Way to Establish Your Own Family Foundation

A prospective donor may wish to maximize tax deductions in one year while spreading out the distribution of that donation over several years or among several different charitable organizations. One method of accomplishing this is by establishing a charitable gift fund account, now being offered by the San Diego Foundation, Oceanside Charitable Foundation, and Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, as well as most large financial brokerage houses. The account is established with an initial contribution of cash, stocks, mutual funds, or bonds, which are immediately converted to cash by the account manager. This non-reversible contribution is fully tax-deductible by the account holder (the donor) in the year in which it is made. The account holder designates how the money in the account is to be invested, generally among several choices of mutual fund-type investments offered by the financial institution. The account holder can then instruct the account manager to distribute contributions from the account from time-to-time to qualified non-profit organizations like BVAS. The value of the account will change over time depending upon the amount of contributions distributed from the account each year and the investment performance of the account portfolio. The financial institution handles all the paperwork and documentation, manages the portfolio, distributes the donation checks as directed by the account holder, and issues a periodic account statement. Please contact BVAS if you would like the names of several institutions offering charitable gift fund accounts.

Combining Charitable Giving with Increased Income and Tax Deductions

Some prospective donors may be interested in committing to a donation of certain assets upon their death, but would like to have those assets provide them with an annual income stream during their lifetime. Perhaps their assets are tied up in stock or mutual fund investments which may have appreciated in value over time but which do not provide sufficient annual distributions of income or dividends. Depending on the amount of the assets in question, a gift annuity, pooled income fund, or charitable remainder trust might be an appropriate program to consider. Buena Vista Audubon Society will work with the prospective donor to set up an account with the donor's choice of any one of a number of charitable foundations or funds which offer this service. The donor would receive an agreed-upon lifetime monthly income stream, and BVAS would be listed as the beneficiary on the account. Based on life expectancy tables, the donor would receive a partial tax credit for a charitable donation. Upon death of the donor and spouse, BVAS would receive the balance of the donation.

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Gift by Will—Leaving a Lasting Legacy

A prospective donor may make a gift to Buena Vista Audubon Society by naming the organization as a primary or contingent beneficiary in their will. A bequest may be anything of value--money, securities, land, a house, collectibles, books. It can be for a specific amount of money or property, or for a percentage of the estate. Please contact BVAS if you are contemplating a gift of real estate, other assets with attached obligations, or items which might not be readily liquidated. A bequest can be for all or a portion of the residual of the estate (that portion remaining after all specific bequests to others are fulfilled). Creating or amending a will is a legal matter to be handled by an attorney. BVAS has prepared the following suggested language for an amendment to a will:

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath (dollar amount, percentage of estate, or percentage residuary) to Buena Vista Audubon Society, P.O. Box 480, Oceanside, California, 92049, for its general purposes.”

The donor can fill in the nature and amount of their desired gift, take the recommended language to their attorney, and ask that the amendment be made a part of their will. Upon the donor’s death, the executor to the estate will contact BVAS and arrange for the gift to be transferred from the estate. While the donor does not receive any direct financial benefit during his or her lifetime as a result of naming BVAS as a beneficiary, estate taxes could be reduced for other heirs as a result of the gift.

Life Insurance and Retirement Plans—A Way to Contribute No Longer Needed Assets

Another method of making a significant donation to BVAS is for the donor to list BVAS as the beneficiary on a life insurance policy, IRA account, or retirement plan. This option may especially appeal to those who are retired and whose families may no longer need protection from loss of earnings, the usual reason for taking out a life insurance policy in earlier years. Changing the named beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement plan generally requires completing a new beneficiary form. The form should include the following information:

<i>Legal name of new beneficiary:</i>	<i>Buena Vista Audubon Society</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>2202 South Coast Highway Post Office Box 480 Oceanside, CA 92049</i>
<i>Taxpayer Identification Number:</i>	<i>23-7292749</i>

Other Donations

Buena Vista Audubon Society would be happy to consider any gift of value offered by a prospective donor. BVAS must follow specific procedures before accepting any gifts of real property to officially determine value and identify any potential problems for the donor and BVAS. Please feel free to contact us!

Please Let Us Know

If you have included Buena Vista Audubon Society in your estate planning, or are considering doing so, please let us know. Not only does it help in our financial planning, we would also like to officially recognize you and express our appreciation to you personally. Of course, if you wish your contribution to remain private, we would be happy to honor your request.