



EXPLORE TOMORROW

PROGRAM AND ESTATE PLANNING INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Davis Musser, A Passion for Exploration

I come from a family of explorers. It's in my genes. My whole family was adventurous and enjoyed exploring nature all around us. My bothers were avid cavers, while I was always drawn to the ocean and its creatures, both along the shore and in the water. To this day, I love to travel.

My grandmother had a huge collection of *National Geographic*. When I visited her as a kid, I'd sit and look at issues that went back as far as the 1920s. I was fascinated by the articles about foreign countries and other cultures—in Africa, Asia, South America—and the human drive to explore our world. Those magazines inspired a passion for exploration that continues to this day. That's what the National Geographic Society means to me.

Today, I worry future generations will not have the same chances to explore our world, because our environment is under attack. In the U.S. Coast Guard, I witnessed the devastating effects of oil pollution on animals and the environment along California's beaches. Now, climate change is pushing more



"It only takes one spark in a child to spur a lifelong fascination."

DAVIS MUSSER,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY LEGACY MEMBER

and more species to the endangered list.

The National Geographic Society has always been a defender of the environment, and I know I can count on them to continue this work for many years to come. That's why I decided to leave a gift to the Society in my will. It was a natural fit for me.

I hope my gift will inspire future generations to learn more about their world; it only takes one spark in a child to spur a lifelong fascination. As a lifelong learner myself, I believe investing in education creates

a better future, and the National Geographic Society is doing precisely that. Their work is building a brighter future for generations through education and exploration. I feel good knowing my dollars will make a difference even after I'm gone.

DAVIS MUSSER is an Alexander Graham Bell Society Legacy member, having made a gift to the National Geographic Society in his will. He lives in Virginia and loves to travel, frequently by train.

HEADER PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL NICHOLS | DONOR PHOTO COURTESY OF: DAVIS MUSSER



Mira Rai: National Geographic Adventurer of the Year

Mira Rai comes from a rural village in eastern Nepal where, as a woman and the eldest of five children, she was expected to fetch water and tend the crops and livestock. Opportunities for a better life beyond that are few and far between in such villages—especially for girls. “Generally there are no opportunities,” says Rai, who was forced to leave school at age 12 to help at home. “None. Access to education is limited for girls. Women don’t have that much time to study.”

In search of a chance at a different life, Rai joined the Maoist rebels at age 14 to earn money to help her family. Rai was trained as a soldier, but left before her training was put into action. Traveling to Kathmandu, she ran in a few races and looked for work, but had little luck. Just as her hope and money were about to run out, she found herself at the starting line of her first big trail race—entirely by accident. At the time, it was impossible to know what she thought was a casual jog in a national park would turn into the race that would change her life.

For those 31 miles, hailstones and rain pelted down. It was farther than she had ever run. But Rai, the only female competitor, completed the race.

Richard Bull, co-founder of Trail Running Nepal, was impressed. He helped Rai secure lodging, visas, and opportunities to race. In 2015, after reaching the podium at multiple international races, Rai

snagged second place in the Skyrunning World Championships.

When an injury forced Rai to take a break from running, she organized the first ever running race in her home village. More than 100 people showed up to run around the hills of Bhojpur. Inspired by the passion of the runners, Rai is now on a mission to empower the people of Nepal through sports. She’s lobbying the Nepalese government to help develop running as a mainstream sport and train runners to compete.

“I’ve received messages from girls all over Nepal who say they want to be like me and run like me,” Rai said. “Instead of having nothing to look forward to, they have something to at least reach for.”

Rai’s story is one of empowerment, breaking the cycle of poverty and traditional expectations for women. By literally running with the opportunities life presented her, she is an inspiring example of how pursuing a path to a better life can raise you from a difficult situation.

For her incredible dedication, passion, and pursuit of a better world, we are honored to have named her the 2017 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year.

A GIFT THAT PAYS YOU BACK

You can receive safe, steady payments at an attractive rate—and receive a charitable tax deduction—with a National Geographic Society charitable gift annuity. Your gift will provide security for you and protect the planet for generations

Pictured here is a sample charitable gift annuity rate table. Payments for annuities with National Geographic begin at age 60.

Please call us at **(800) 226-4438** to receive a free, personalized illustration of how a charitable gift annuity can benefit you.

Age	Rate %
60	4.1
65	4.7
70	5.1
75	5.8
80	6.8
85	7.8
90+	9.0



WILL SAVING **BIG CATS** BE YOUR LEGACY?

By leaving a gift in your will or naming the **National Geographic Society** as a beneficiary of a retirement account, mutual fund account, life insurance policy, or other account, you can pass on your passion for exploration, science, and conservation to future generations.

Call us today at (800) 226-4438 to receive a free, informational brochure on all the ways you can include the National Geographic Society in your plans.





Unsealing the Reputed Tomb of Jesus

For the first time in centuries, the most venerated site in the Christian world was opened to researchers. In October 2016, National Geographic archaeologists and others were present when the tomb believed to be Jesus of Nazareth's was unsealed. The tomb has miraculously survived centuries of change inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City.

The tomb contains a limestone shelf that was hewn from the wall of a cave. Since at least 1555, and most likely centuries earlier, that burial bed has been covered in marble—probably to prevent overeager pilgrims from taking bits of the original rock as souvenirs.

When the marble cladding was first removed in October, National Geographic researchers were part of the team. A marathon 60-hour work session revealed another marble slab with a cross carved into its surface. The team was astounded to discover the original limestone burial bed intact underneath.

"I'm absolutely amazed. My knees are shaking a little bit because I wasn't expecting this," said Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic's Archaeologist-in-Residence. "We can't say 100 percent, but it appears to be visible proof that the location of the tomb has not shifted through time."

Afterward, the tomb was resealed in its original marble cladding and may not be exposed again for centuries—or even millennia. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Before the tomb was resealed, extensive documentation was performed on the surface of the rock so that National Geographic archaeologists and others could continue their studies.

National Geographic photographer Oded Balilty was on hand to document the tomb's unsealing for the public—one of only 30 people who had access to the open tomb. He said, "I opened a window and showed people something that I don't think will happen [again] in my lifetime. I gave them the chance to see it. That's a great feeling."

This November, the National Geographic Museum will present "The Tomb of Christ: Restoring the Church of the Holy Sepulchre." This exhibition will allow visitors to visit this iconic place in an entirely new way. With state-of-the-art projection, sound, virtual reality headsets, and interactive visuals, visitors will be transported to the site of the church to explore and learn more about this sacred place.

For more information on the upcoming "The Tomb of Christ: Restoring the Church of the Holy Sepulchre" exhibition at the National Geographic Museum, visit us online at www.natgeo.org/dc to sign-up for the latest news on upcoming events and exhibitions.

Family Comes First

When considering how you would like your assets to be shared after your lifetime, we understand that family comes first—and we think that’s how it should be.

But did you know that you can provide for your family’s future while also leaving a legacy for exploration with a gift to the National Geographic Society?

Leaving a gift to the National Geographic Society in your will is one of the simplest ways to support research, conservation, and exploration. With a gift in your will, you retain control over your assets during your lifetime; your gift costs you nothing now.

It’s a wonderful way to have a bigger impact on the causes you care about and to ensure your values endure beyond your lifetime. You simply indicate that a portion of your assets will go to the National Geographic Society in your will or trust.

Many people choose to designate a certain dollar amount or a percentage of their estate, or even specify that anything left after their family is provided for will go to the National Geographic Society.

The most important thing to remember about a gift in your will or trust is that you remain in control throughout your lifetime. We understand that circumstances change, and you are free to change your mind at any time.

If you are considering a gift to the National Geographic Society in your will, we are here to help. Please return the enclosed form to request our free, no-obligation brochure, or you can contact us toll-free at (800) 226-4438 or by email at plannedgiftinfo@ngs.org.



From left to right: Susan Goldberg; Ted Melfi; Janelle Monae; Margot Lee Shetterly; Taraji P. Henson; Pharrell Williams; Octavia Spencer; and Kevin Costner

Students Inspired by "Hidden Figures" Cast

National Geographic held a screening of *Hidden Figures* in December, hosting more than 350 students from D.C.-area schools. The students saw history come to life by watching the acclaimed film and participating in a panel discussion with the cast and creators.

Guests included Pharrell Williams, Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Kevin Costner, and Janelle Monae, along with the film director, Theodore Melfi, and Margot Lee Shetterly, the author of the book on which the film was based.

WORDS TO PROTECT WHAT'S PRECIOUS TO YOU

To leave a gift to the National Geographic Society in your will or trust, share the following language with your attorney or adviser:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the National Geographic Society, a nonprofit corporation located in Washington, D.C., federal tax ID #53-0193519 (insert a sum, percentage, specific property, or residue/remainder).”

Is it time to create or update your will?

To determine if now is the time to create or update your estate plans, use this short checklist:

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has it been three or more years since you last reviewed your plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you retired, changed jobs, or made changes to your retirement plan?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you recently sold a business or property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you decided to leave a gift for a favorite charity in your will?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your children reached adulthood (age 18 or older)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has your health or the health of a loved one changed?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has your marital status changed?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you recently moved to another state?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the circumstances of your executor or beneficiaries changed?

If you answered “yes” to any of the questions on this checklist, it’s time to create or update your estate plans.

For additional information, we are glad to provide you with a complimentary copy of our Exploring Your Legacy brochure. Request your copy by returning the enclosed reply form or by visiting natgeo.org/give/future-gifts.

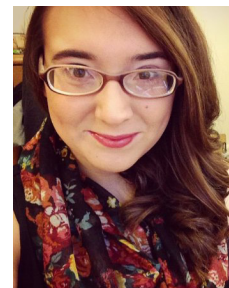
Make the most of your IRA

If you are over age 70 ½, you can make donations to qualified charities, like the National Geographic Society, directly from your IRA. When making a donation directly from your account, you save by not paying income tax on the distribution, and it counts towards your required minimum distribution. For more information on making a gift through your IRA, contact us toll free at (880) 226-4438.



We’re Here to Help

For more information on how to create your legacy with the Society or to inform us of a gift you have already left for us, please call us at **(800) 226-4438**.



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This publication is intended to provide only general gift, estate, and financial planning information and is not a comprehensive review of the topics. Please consult your legal and financial advisers when planning your gift.