

Structuring Year-end 2021 Donations Options to Maximize your Tax Advantages

CARES Act Tax Provisions Scheduled to Expire

- An expanded charitable giving incentive that allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 in charitable cash contributions for single filers (\$600 for married couples) this year only.
- For those who do itemize their deductions, the law allows for cash contributions to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2021 calendar year only.



Gifts of Appreciated Assets

Giving appreciated assets, such as publicly traded securities owned for at least one year, can result in significant tax benefits. Donors are entitled to a charitable deduction equal to the full fair market value of the securities (e.g. stocks, bonds, mutual funds) and there is no tax on the gain. For details, go to: https://legacy.usafa.org/what-you-can-give/stocks-bonds Donations of real estate, although subject to thorough due-diligence, also benefit from gain exclusion.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs

If you own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are over the age of 70½, you may make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to the Air Force Academy Foundation from a standard IRA. At age 72, when required minimum distributions (RMD) must begin, there are advantages to arrange a direct QCD transfer. The IRA administrator can send to the Foundation all or a portion of the RMD (up to \$100,000). The amount will not be included in your adjusted gross income. This gift opportunity may be particularly appealing if the standard deduction threshold precludes you from itemizing deductions, including for charitable gifts. For more information go to: https://legacy.usafa.org/sites/default/files/IRS%20Charitable%20Dlstrbution.pdf

Donor Advised Funds

Donor-advised funds (DAF) have become an increasingly popular tactic in financial management and philanthropy. You simply give an amount to a DAF, which are offered by various investment firms and community foundations, and then request distributions to the charities of your choice, at the time most advantageous for them. A charitable tax deduction is available in the year of the gift to the DAF. The Air Force Academy Foundation is a willing recipient of DAF distributions, and more information is at: https://legacy.usafa.org/what-you-can-give/donor-advised-fund

Bunching

Due to the tax law that went into effect beginning in 2018, many donors are no longer able to itemize deductions, including their charitable gifts over the temporary \$300 allowance. If you desire to use more than the standard Schedule A deduction, consider the strategic "bunching" of charitable gifts. Combined with deductions for state and local taxes, mortgage interest, etc., making gifts for multiple years in one tax year can enable itemizing all deductions, bringing you tax benefits that may have been absent without "bunching."

Gifts that Give You Income for Life

Another tax-wise alternative is to use your appreciated assets to fund life income gifts, such as gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts. This kind of gift allows you to avoid tax on some or all of your capital gain, and you will receive income for life. A current income tax deduction may be available for the year you establish the life income plan. Several options are available, depending on your circumstances, and the Air Force Academy Foundation can provide illustrations comparing them and showing the various benefits. For more information go to: https://legacy.usafa.org/how-you-can-give/giving-and-generating-income

Gifts of Beneficiary Designations

An attractive option is to designate the Air Force Academy Foundation as the future recipient of some or all of what's left in various accounts you currently hold. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Retirement Plans, such as an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified plan
- Savings and Checking Accounts
- Brokerage Accounts
- Mutual Funds
- Donor Advised Funds
- Insurance Policies

In addition to the satisfaction of making a future gift to help the Air Force Academy, your benefits may include estate tax savings.

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Disclaimers: The above information pertains to calendar year 2021; tax laws may change in future years. The Air Force

Academy Foundation is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice or assistance in

specific cases, the services of an attorney and/or other professional advisors should be obtained.

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