



Bequests

An excellent way for you to support Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's mission is to leave us a bequest in your will, living trust or with a codicil. One significant benefit of making a gift by bequest is that there is no cost to you during your lifetime. Another benefit is that you are able to leave a lasting legacy.

Types of Bequests

There are a number of ways you can make a bequest to Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC).

Specific Bequest. A specific bequest involves making a gift of a specific asset such as real estate, a car, other property or a gift for a specific dollar amount. For example, you may wish to leave your home or \$10,000 to ESLC.

Percentage Bequest. Another kind of specific bequest involves leaving a specific percentage of your overall estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 10% of your estate to ESLC.

Residual Bequest. A residual bequest is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 30% of the residue of your estate to ESLC.

Contingent Bequest. A contingent bequest is made to charity only if the purpose of the primary bequest cannot be met. For example, you could leave specific property, such as a vacation home, to a relative, but the bequest language could provide that if the relative is not alive at the time of your death, the vacation home will go to ESLC.

Bequest Benefits

A bequest is generally a revocable gift, which means it can be changed or modified at any time. You can choose to designate that a bequest be used for a general or specific purpose so you have the peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended. Bequests are exempt from federal estate taxes. If you have a taxable estate, the estate tax charitable deduction may offset or eliminate estate taxes, resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs.

Bequest Language

In order to make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney. Your attorney can help you include a bequest to ESLC in your estate plan. We have provided some basic bequest language to assist you and your attorney.

Sample Testamentary Language

“I give (_____ dollars) or (a specific asset, such as securities, real estate or other property) or (all) or (_____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate) to Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, a nonprofit organization located at 114 S. Washington Street, Suite 101, Easton, MD 21601, Federal Tax ID #52-1711989, for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy’s general use and purpose.”

Restricted Bequests

If you are considering a bequest but would like to ensure that your bequest will be used for a specific purpose, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you and your attorney to help you identify ways to give and meet your charitable objectives. We will also work with you and your attorney to craft language to accomplish your goals.

If you are making a restricted bequest, we recommend that your attorney include the following provision to give ESLC flexibility should it no longer be possible for ESLC to use your gift as you originally intended:

“If, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, it shall become impossible for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to use this bequest to accomplish the specific purposes of this bequest, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy may use the income and principal of this gift for such purpose or purposes as the Board determines is most closely related to the restricted purpose of my bequest.”

Contact Us

Please contact Melissa Canoni at 410-690-4603 or mcanoni@eslc.org if you have any questions about how to make a bequest to Eastern Shore Land Conservancy or to request any additional information that might be helpful to you and your attorney as you consider making a bequest to us.

If you have included a bequest for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy in your estate plan, please let us know. We would like to thank you and recognize you for your gift. You will find a Bequest Intention document on the next page.

While we are happy to explain different options to you about estate planning, you should only rely upon advice from your attorney or tax planning professional.



Bequest Intention Form

Documenting Your Bequest Intention:

To support the mission of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, I have included a bequest to Eastern Shore Land Conservancy as part of my estate plan.

Please keep this bequest intention anonymous.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Signature

Date

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Melissa Canoni at 410-690-4603 or mcanoni@eslc.org.

Please mail this form to:
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
114 S. Washington Street, Suite 101
Easton, MD 21601