

Russell Kirk Legacy Society

By remembering the Russell Kirk Center in your estate planning, you become a member of the Russell Kirk Legacy Society. We will include your name and recognize your gift on a prominent memorial in the Russell Kirk Library in Mecosta, Michigan. Please let us know that you intend to include the Kirk Center in your estate planning and you will also receive invitations to events and new publications. We look forward to learning more about your intentions to join us in the Kirk Center's educational mission.

Russell Kirk (1918–1994), historian of ideas, was one of the most influential authors and speakers of the twentieth century. Throughout his life, he labored to conserve and transmit “order, justice and freedom; a tolerable moral order; and an inheritance of culture.”

We invite you to join your legacy to his by remembering the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal in your estate plans.



ESTATE PLANNING AT A GLANCE

Consider designating your bequest to support and promote education in those enduring norms and principles Russell Kirk called the Permanent Things.

Contact Us

The Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal

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The Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal is a nonprofit organization designated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions to it are deductible for income, gift, and estate tax purposes.

The Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal



Since 1995, the Russell Kirk Center has worked to strengthen the intellectual formation of the rising generation in the institutions, beliefs, and practices that are essential to America's civil social order.

Strategies for Leaving a Legacy of Cultural Renewal

There are a number of ways you can support the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal as it seeks to **recover, conserve, and enliven those enduring norms and principles that Russell Kirk called the Permanent Things.**

Careful planning can help you maximize the value of your gift while potentially reducing your tax burden both during your lifetime and beyond. Consider the many assets that we acquire as we go through life—retirement plans, commercial annuities, life insurance, savings, or bonds. All these assets may be good candidates for a tax-saving gift to the Russell Kirk Center, either now or in the future.

Your Will—Why Wills are Important

- ✘ If you don't create your legacy through a will, the government will do it for you!
- ✘ By using a will, you retain full control of your assets.
- ✘ Bequests to charities, properly done, will avoid the estate tax entirely.

Notable Technicalities

If you already have a will, you can generally amend it (without re-writing it) through a codicil that creates bequests for the Russell Kirk Center and other charities.

If you have elected a living trust rather than a will, you can also include the Russell Kirk Center and other charities as trust beneficiaries, similar to creating bequests under a will.

Here is sample bequest language to share with your attorney:

I give, devise, and bequeath (insert amount, percentage, or remainder of estate) to the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, tax identification number 38-3443798, P.O. Box 4, Mecosta, Michigan 49332 for general operations or (donor designated purpose).

Legacy Creation with Retirement Accounts

Retirement accounts—such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and others—can become substantial over time and be a good choice for creating a philanthropic legacy. Usually, retirement accounts that are used to create a legacy for heirs are subject to income tax and may be subject to estate tax as well depending on the size of the estate. If left to non-profit charities, they may not be taxed. So if the combined tax rate is 50% then a gift to charity costs your heirs only .50 on the dollar. This can be a win-win for your heirs and your designated charity.

Legacy Creation Life Insurance

Many have life insurance that has outlived its original purpose of providing security during peak earning years. Therefore, life insurance policies that are no longer needed as a security vehicle for family are a good choice for enhancing philanthropic legacy.

This summary of planned giving vehicles is not intended as financial or legal advice, but we hope you find it a useful overview and retain it for future reference as well. For more information, please call us at (231) 972-5590. You may wish to contact your attorney or tax professional to explore further options. We are also happy to help connect you to an attorney or tax professional as appropriate.