

FOURTEENERS FOREVER: Leaving a Sustainable Legacy of 14er Protection



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation



*Lloyd Ahearn on the
summit of Mount Bierstadt
in September 1996.*

Your Personal 14er Legacy

Mountains have been a major part of my life since I was a child. I climbed my first peak at age 15. Two years later I summited California's Mount Shasta, my first 14,000-foot peak. Within weeks of moving to Colorado in 1996 to embark on a career in mountain protection I climbed my first Colorado 14er: Torreys Peak. By summer's end I had summited three more 14ers.

Colorado's 14ers are special places. Their craggy ridges, scenic wildflowers and unique wildlife draw people from across the globe. Their physical challenges test us, even on the easiest routes. The seemingly limitless summit views inspire us and fill us with wonder. Many 14er enthusiasts I speak with say that the times they share with family and friends climbing Colorado's 14ers are among the most exhilarating, most fulfilling days of their lives, creating memories that last a lifetime.

Since 1994 Colorado Fourteeners Initiative has built sustainable summit trails, restored damaged alpine vegetation and educated hikers to ensure that the unique tundra ecosystems found on Colorado's 14ers remain vibrant and healthy for decades to come. It is a job made harder each year as more people climb these much-loved peaks, putting pressure on hiking trails and fragile 14er ecosystems.

CFI's Board of Directors recently set up the "Fourteeners Forever Legacy Society" to recognize farsighted individuals who have made legacy gifts to protect the 14ers for future generations to enjoy as we have. The Board set the goal that every Director will make an estate gift to CFI. Unless otherwise directed by a donor, the Board's policy is that all legacy gifts will be placed in CFI's general endowment to fund on-going mountain stewardship work for decades to come.

After evaluating my family's future financial needs, I recently took steps to create my personal legacy by making Colorado Fourteeners Initiative the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. It was a quick, easy step to take to ensure these mountains that have given me so much are there for others to enjoy in the future. I hope you will consider your options and join me in CFI's Fourteeners Forever Legacy Society by making an estate gift today.



Regards,
Lloyd F. Athearn, Executive Director

Legacy Gift Type:  **Life Insurance Policy Beneficiary**

Legacy Gift Planning Tools

Like ski runs, gift planning tools come in many levels of complexity, from quick and easy to time-consuming and complex. Planned gifts allow you to make substantial gifts to support CFI's on-going 14er stewardship work in ways that generally offer tax benefits, allow you to change your mind at a later date and without affecting your current financial situation. This partial list provides an overview of some ways you can help establish your personal legacy of 14er protection. The information set forth below does not constitute tax or legal advice and you should be sure to consult your attorney, financial advisor or estate planner to determine the right approach for your situation.

Quick and Easy

These options can be performed in a few minutes with easy-to-complete forms obtained from the company that administers your plan, policy or account. They are the easiest options for making a legacy gift to CFI.

● **Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation.** Consider listing CFI as a percentage beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), workplace-sponsored retirement plan or other retirement account. Even a small designation for charity (1%-5%) can result in a substantial legacy gift. Due to taxes, the balance of your retirement account may be worth much more to CFI than to your heirs.

● **Life Insurance Policy Beneficiary Designation.** Consider making CFI a percentage beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or make CFI a contingent beneficiary that will only be paid out if all of your primary beneficiaries are no longer living. Some companies provide employees with a small life insurance policy. If your dependents are already covered by another, more generous life insurance policy, consider making CFI the beneficiary of the workplace life insurance policy.

● **Payment/Transfer on Death Beneficiary Forms.** Non-retirement investments (eg. stocks, bonds, securities) and bank accounts can in some states be transferred directly to charities upon death using a "payable-on-death" (POD) or "transfer-on-death" (TOD) form.

More Complicated

Wills and trust documents are among the most common tools utilized to leave money to charitable causes. Preparing these documents generally involves the use of attorneys, estate planners or other financial planners.

■ **Wills, Trusts and Estate Plans.** Several bequest types can be used to donate assets to CFI through your will, or revocable trust. Options include giving CFI a set dollar amount, a specific percentage of your estate, the residual amount remaining after other bequests have been paid, or only if your primary dependents do not survive you. Our website has examples of language that can be used to set up any of these bequests. It is always a good idea to share your bequest plans with CFI to ensure that the language used will reflect your wishes.

Most Complicated

An alphabet soup of acronyms exist to cover increasingly complicated estate planning tools, including Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT), Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA), Charitable Lead Trusts (CLT) and many others. Have your attorney or estate planner contact CFI if you are interested in setting up one of these accounts.

How to Name CFI in Your Will or Trust

When filling out your legacy gift forms and documents, please reference: "Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, and with the principal business address of **1511 Washington Ave, Suite 310**, Golden, Colorado 80401." Our federal tax identification number is 84-1354844.



RICHARD HEPPE

(ENGLEWOOD, CO)

"I moved to Colorado at the age of 26 and embraced the wonderful opportunities for outdoor adventure here. Over the next 26 years I built a professional life, started a family and pursued my passions, one of which was hiking the Colorado 14ers.

My most memorable moments in the high country were when I could enjoy the experience with friends and family. A summit of Mount Sneffels with my family on the occasion of my son's birthday was truly a special moment for all of us.

When I now reflect on the great experiences that can be had on the 14ers, I hope that these precious resources can be maintained for my children and future generations to enjoy as I have been able to. I recently made a legacy gift to the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative to help ensure that this dream becomes a reality."

Legacy Gift Type: ☒ Personal Will



*Waterfall above Blue Lakes near Mount Sneffels.
Photo by Glenn Randall,
www.glennrandall.com.*



MANDY HUGHES

(DENVER, CO)

"My time spent on the summits of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks and the trails leading to them have been among the most exciting, scary and inspiring moments of my life. These journeys have allowed me to practice persistence, patience and gratitude."

"I support CFI because I want to give back to the peaks that have given me so much. By including CFI in my estate plans, I will be able to make a gift far more significant than possible during my lifetime, and I will help ensure that future generations are able to experience these special places, too."

Legacy Gift Type: ☒ Individual Retirement Account Beneficiary

☐ Personal Will




Mandy Hughes pauses on the way to Uncompahgre Peak.



KRISTA HALL (FORT COLLINS, CO)

"I've often said that moving to Colorado in 2000 to attend CSU was the best life decision I've ever made. It opened my eyes to the beauty of the great outdoors, the Rocky Mountains beckoned me to explore them and eventually I caught the 14er bug. Each of the 37 14ers I've climbed has offered the exhilaration of being outside of my comfort zone, and each summit has presented an exquisite reminder of why I'm in love with Colorado. Perhaps someday I will summit all of Colorado's 14ers, but for now I'm grateful for the good fortune of the adventures I've had thus far above 14,000 feet.

About the time I was reviewing my retirement savings accounts I received CFI's 2014 Annual Report with a hand-written "thank you" note for having donated a small amount. I read the report complete with beautiful photos and a vignette about an estate gift that CFI had recently received. I knew immediately I wanted to designate CFI as a beneficiary of my 401k and pension plans. After contacting CFI it took only a few minutes to do."

Legacy Gift Type:  **Retirement Plan Beneficiary**



Krista Hall surveys the view from atop Mount Yale.



JIM DINAPOLI (1955-2014)

"What a fleeting feeling. The summit is not something we may hold long. And it is something which must soon be relinquished to an often long and not infrequently dangerous descent. It is interesting that we place so much human importance on attaining the summit. For truly, is it not the memory of the beauty along the way, both the visual, and the beauty of the vertical dance, that lingers, so much more durably, in the memory?"

—From Jim's 14ers.com trip report following a
Mount Sneffels climb, March 2013

Legacy Gift Type: Outright Bequest in a Personal Will

*Jim DiNapoli on a winter ascent of Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in 2013.
Photo by Matt Grabina.*



Cover Photo: Climbers on Redcloud Peak's false summit.
Photo by Glenn Randall,
www.glennrandall.com.



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