50th Reunion Giving Q&A

Your 50th Reunion is a time for Carleton to celebrate your class and your longstanding connections and commitment to the College. In this context, the total 50th Reunion Class Gift announced during Reunion Weekend will recognize all types of gifts generously given by your classmates.

So, which gifts exactly are included in the big total we announce on Reunion Weekend?

Included are:

- All Annual Fund gifts made since July 1, 2012 (our 45th reunion year).
- All other types of gifts made since July 1, 2007 (following our 40th reunion) also are included in the 50th reunion gift.

The most popular gift types are:

- Will or trust provisions and retirement plan commitments, which allow us to plan our gifts today to benefit Carleton later.
- Life income gifts, such as gift annuities, which allow us to make a gift to Carleton today, receive a tax deduction, and increase our retirement income.
- Outright gifts to support a particular project (like the Weitz Center for Creativity or the Carleton Athletic Initiative), create or add to an endowed fund (such as a scholarship fund), or as an unrestricted gift to the endowment. This includes gifts made during Breaking Barriers, Creating Connections, Carleton’s recent campaign.

Can any other kinds of gifts be included in that total?

Yes, all types of gifts really are included in your class gift. Other gifts given in honor of 50th Reunions in the past have included insurance policies, art, antiques, real estate, and the income from trusts.

My spouse and I are both alums. Can we plan our 50th Reunion gifts as one big gift?

Yes. Alumni spouses from different Carleton class years do receive recognition for the full value of your household commitment in both class’s 50th Reunion gifts.

What do most people give in honor of their 50th Reunion?

The goal is for everyone to give the gift or gifts that are most meaningful for them. To help give all of your classmates this opportunity, the members of the Gift Committee will learn about the benefits of all the different giving options, then talk with and send mailings to your class to share this information. As a result, most 50th Reunion Class Gifts include a large number of estate and life income gifts, in addition to outright cash gifts.
Does our class get to name anything on campus with our class gift?

Yes. Although your class gift will be made up of many different types of gifts, the reunion planning committee can designate the unrestricted outright portion of the gift to a particular purpose. The gift may be designated to support students, faculty, or a "bricks and mortar" project—or a combination of purposes.

Why should we support Carleton?

Carleton continues to strive for excellence and today is a leader among liberal arts colleges in its academic programs and in teaching. However, Carleton is not a leader in financial assets, especially endowment size. Our gifts can, and do, make a difference at Carleton and help make the education and fun that we had possible for today’s students. Please join with us to ensure that Carleton remains a first-class liberal arts college.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have any questions, or would like more information now, we encourage you to contact anyone on the Gift Committee or call Carleton 50th reunion staff at (866) 208-3889.