



## How to Remember NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus in Your Estate Plan



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### Bequests

A bequest in a will or trust is the most common estate gift made to Northern Illinois University (NIU). Since a bequest is a gift at death, donors are not faced with giving money away during their lifetime which they may need for living expenses. Bequests to the NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus are relatively simple to make and come in many forms, the most common being a percentage of one's estate. This gift provides donors an opportunity to deepen their commitment to the mission of Lorado Taft and help pass onto loved ones the values that guided their lives.

***The official bequest language for Northern Illinois University Foundation is: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Northern Illinois University Foundation (TAX ID # 36-6086819) [percentage of the estate, written amount, or description of property] for the ongoing needs of the NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus.***

### Gifts with a Beneficiary Designation

Another smart way to give is to make Lorado Taft the beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or pension plan. There are two advantages of giving this way: 1) these gifts avoid the tax that heirs would pay if they were named beneficiary (it is better to give other assets to family) and 2) these gifts avoid probate and therefore are put to work much sooner at Lorado Taft than probated assets.

Also, consider making Lorado Taft the beneficiary of a life insurance policy if the reason you purchased the policy is no longer a factor (e.g. children's education). Or you can transfer ownership of a paid-up whole life or universal life policy and Lorado Taft can use the cash value to fund the gift.

### Life Income Gifts

#### ***Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)***

A CGA is an agreement between a donor and the NIU Foundation in which the donor transfers assets to the NIU Foundation (normally cash or appreciated securities) in exchange for payments for life. When the gift matures, the remainder can go to Lorado Taft. Payment rates are fixed and are based on a person's age. Contact us for an illustration on how a gift annuity can benefit you. Joint CGAs (usually established by married couples) are also available.

### Endowing Your Gift

Any of the above gifts can be designated as endowments for Lorado Taft through the NIU Foundation. Endowments generate earnings that benefit Lorado Taft forever. The principal is invested for the long term, sustaining the mission of Lorado Taft in perpetuity.

<http://niu.planmylegacy.org/>





## About the NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus

Located just outside the city of Oregon, Illinois, the NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus has a rich history. During the summer of 1898, the noted American sculptor Lorado Taft and a small group of artists, architects and scholars came to the estate of Wallace Heckman, an idyllic property located on a wooded bluff overlooking the Rock River.

They established a summer retreat as a place to work, exchange ideas and socialize in peaceful isolation away from the distracting pressures and oppressive summer heat of the city. This enclave became known as the Eagle's Nest Art Colony and flourished until the death of its last original member in 1942.

In 1951, Northern Illinois University acquired a portion of the Heckman estate including heavily wooded areas, open fields, ravines and the site of the original art colony. Named in honor of

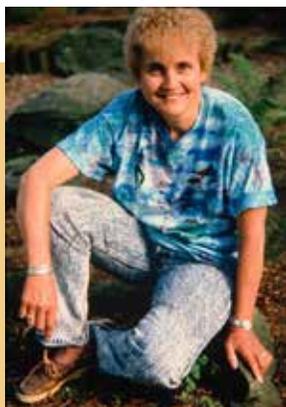
Lorado Taft, today the 141-acre campus has become the university's outdoor education and conference center.

For the past six decades, thousands of participants have come to the Taft Campus to teach and learn in the outdoors and to experience the vitality and sense of renewal envisioned by Lorado Taft in 1898.

The Lorado Taft Field Campus provides resident outdoor education programs to 6000+ elementary and middle-school students each year. Groups come from many districts throughout the Northern Illinois region. Taft's Outdoor Education Program teaches an appreciation, understanding, and awareness of the natural community by studying and interacting with the natural world. Underlying a visit to Taft is the belief that learning is not restricted to the classroom, but is also accomplished in the world around us.



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### DONOR PROFILE

**Joy Valentine, '68 M.S. Outdoor Teacher Education, loved the outdoors, hiking, camping, birdwatching, stargazing and cross-country skiing. She was the first recipient of the Lorado Taft Outstanding Alumni Award. When she died in 2008, she remembered the NIU Lorado Taft Campus in her estate plan. Her gift is helping to nurture in thousands of campers each year the same insatiable curiosity she had for the outdoors.**