What Is The 50th Reunion Gift?

Reflecting upon our years at Amherst in anticipation of our 50th Reunion, it is appropriate to consider what legacy we might pass on to students who follow us. The torch to the left is an apt symbol of that process. Passing the torch to younger classes and adding our resources to keep it bright is a way we can ensure that Amherst remains among this country’s elite educational institutions.

As the last major milestone for Amherst alumni, the 50th Reunion is the occasion for many to make the most significant gifts of our lifetimes. Such gifts are often many times larger than those made in the years since graduation, representing the accumulated impact of Amherst’s education over a lifetime.

The College has made it easy to assemble our 50th Reunion Gift, which will include all contributions made to the College for any purpose - the Annual Fund, endowment gifts, planned gifts, testamentary intentions, in-kind gifts, etc. All gifts, pledges, and intentions made from our 46th year through the 50th Reunion year will be counted toward the Class of 1967’s 50th Reunion Gift. Payments on pledges made during this period may continue through June 30, 2021.

Someone from our Class will contact you about your participation, but basic gift options are described below.
Ways To Support The 50th Reunion Gift

Annual Fund Gifts to Support Amherst Today
Annual Fund gifts are the most direct way for us, individually and as a Class, to share the gift Amherst gave us with today’s students. Historically, 50th Reunion classes have made their largest Annual Fund class gift since graduation, with record class participation. Thanks to the generosity of classmates who have committed $10,000 each to a 50th Reunion Match Program, every increased dollar of Annual Fund support over your most recent Annual Fund gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to the total of their matching commitment. In some circumstances, the match will be higher. We have a 1967 Society to celebrate gifts of $1,967 and above. Please consider joining this society with an increased gift.

There are many good reasons to support the 50th Reunion Gift with your largest lifetime Annual Fund gift. The Internal Revenue Code was amended last year to extend previously expired authority that allows IRA owners age 70-1/2 and older to directly transfer up to $100,000 tax-free to Amherst and other eligible charities.

50th Reunion and Johnson Chapel Associates
Johnson Chapel Associates are alumni and friends who include Amherst College in their estate plans, either by informing the College of testamentary intentions (naming Amherst as a beneficiary in your will or living trust, life insurance policy, or retirement account) or making life-income gifts (annuities and trusts). Life-income gifts return income for life to the donor and a beneficiary; the remainder supports the College. Making a testamentary gift benefits Amherst at the time of a donor’s death. Each year, these gifts provide approximately $3 million in bequests or beneficiary disbursements to advance the work of the College.

Including Amherst in your estate plan creates a lasting legacy of your support, and it is easy to do. Some estate provisions can be completed in less than five minutes. Here are the main options:

1. Name Amherst in your will or living trust. The traditional revocable gift is a testamentary bequest or a provision naming Amherst in your living trust. In a will or living trust, you can leave the College a portion of your estate, either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the residuary estate. When you write a new will or living trust or amend an existing document, consider including Amherst as a designated charity.
2. Make Amherst a beneficiary of your retirement account (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.).
3. Make Amherst a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or donor-advised fund.
4. Donate assets in return for lifetime income. Charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities provide secure lifetime income with annual payouts of 5% or more. Amherst receives the remainder value at termination.

Endowment Gifts
If you can celebrate your 50th Reunion with a gift of $200,000 or more, you can endow a scholarship in a name you select to help needy students attend Amherst, enrich student experiences through internships, and any of many other purposes. These gifts can be pledged over up to five years. Gifts for financial aid, internships, or other purposes can also be made at levels below $200,000. These gifts, too, can be made by pledges, which can be combined with Annual Fund pledges.

Please contact any of us listed on the first page with any questions about 50th Reunion Gift options.