

Thank you so much for making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution to the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter through the Sierra Club Foundation! What motivated you to make this generous gift?

I have always donated to charitable organizations but not to this extent. My motivation comes from growing up with parents that always helped others.

Why did you decide to make a gift to the Lone Star Chapter through your IRA?

I have supported the Sierra Club for many years. It was just recently that I discovered that I could direct my contributions to the Lone Star Chapter which is my preference. Before I retired, I consulted with my Investment Advisor. We discussed several options, however because my investments were made while I was still actively employed and through a state retirement plan, those investments were not taxed. Because they were not taxed, that meant that as I reached the age when the government required that I take mandatory withdrawals, I had to look at the best options for my tax situation. The best option available is the Qualified Charitable Contributions through my IRA. It is available even though I do not itemize deductions and it does not affect my adjusted gross income.

What was the process like?

The process was very simple. You simply work with your investment advisor, contact the Lone Star Chapter, and they work with you to complete the necessary forms for the donation to be deducted from my IRA and send it to SC Lone Star Chapter. The federal government has a requirement that a certain percentage of your IRA be drawn every year. For me, that was the amount that I contributed to the Lone Star Chapter. My advisor and the Sierra Club handled all of the necessary documents.

What might you say to someone who may be considering making a gift through their IRA?

Speak with your investment advisor and make sure you meet the age requirements and also have your advisor explain how the process works. Have them explain what your responsibilities are and what they will handle for you.