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# Virginia 4-H Foundation

## 4-H Endowments

The Virginia 4-H Youth Development Program requires substantial, consistent, and permanent funding so it can continue to provide innovative youth development programming. Endowment funds help to fill this need.

### What is an endowment?

4-H alumni, friends, or businesses may establish endowments to benefit Virginia 4-H youth development programs through the Virginia 4-H Foundation — a portfolio of accounts within the Virginia Tech Foundation. An endowment established through the foundation serves as a permanent, named tribute in honor or memory of a loved one, in recognition of a business or organization, or as a legacy to your commitment to 4-H.

Gifts are invested in perpetuity, and only a portion of the earnings from invested contributions is used to fund programs and activities. Some of the income can be reinvested in the endowment's principal to enhance the fund's buying power over time.

Spending must be requested by Extension faculty or staff, and the endowment agreement — signed by the donor, the program and the foundation — guides spending decisions.

Endowments may also be established to provide support for particular program areas, such as academic scholarships, support for 4-H camps support, or patronage of specific projects or focus areas.

### Local Program Endowments

Endowments for local 4-H programs are permanent accounts funded through individual donations, business and corporate contributions, and fundraising. Each local program determines how income generated by its endowment will be used to support its priorities. This income may support local 4-H programs through member scholarships and awards, educational workshops and program resources, and volunteer training and support.

### How does an endowment fund help 4-H members?

- Provides financial assistance for youth participating in local, state, and national 4-H youth programs.
- Allows participation in special regional and national educational seminars and conferences.
- Provides adult volunteer leadership training programs
- Can be established to provide academic scholarships for 4-Hers to attend college or vocational school.
- Supplies the local 4-H agent with the resources needed to provide outstanding programs for 4-H youth.

#### Virginia 4-H Foundation

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## Who manages the endowment?

The Virginia 4-H Foundation is a portfolio of endowed and non-endowed accounts within the Virginia Tech Foundation. The Virginia Tech Foundation manages the 4-H endowments by investing the principal so it generates annual income that is available to benefit the specific 4-H program the endowment was established to support. Endowments are invested for long-term growth over time. The market value of the endowment and its corresponding earnings typically increase over time.

Endowments are intended by their donors to permanently support important Virginia or local 4-H programming and activities. The overriding principle of the foundation's consolidated endowment program is simple: Funds should be managed so that a gift today will fund your objective in perpetuity. For example, if your goal is to fund a scholarship, the money is managed to maintain the real value of the endowment and keep pace with inflation.



## How is a fund established?

Endowments can be funded through a variety of methods, including cash donations, securities, real estate, or through deferred gifts such as estate bequests. Endowments can be funded over a one to five year period through a single gift or a combination of gifts. Planning an estate gift can be as simple as naming the Virginia Tech Foundation on IRAs, insurance policies, or other beneficiary designation forms or providing the following language to your attorney for inclusion in your will or living trust.

I leave (for example: \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate, or \_\_\_\_\_  
[dollars], or the residue of my estate) to the Virginia Tech  
Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation located in Blacksburg, Va.,  
to support Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H programs.

If you would like to designate your estate gift for a specific 4-H program or purpose, please contact the development office of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to create a fund agreement that will document your wishes.



Establishing a 4-H endowment  
ensures support to 4-H that truly  
lasts forever.

[www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give)

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