



## Cash and Non-Cash Gifts

When most people think of gifts, they think of cash gifts. But when it comes to charitable gifts, there may be a better way. Scouting, of course, always appreciates cash gifts – but cash gifts often affect your cash flow and usually represent after-tax dollars. You may not realize that non-cash gifts may have the same impact as cash gifts on your tax liability – and, in some instances, may offer an even better tax outcome.

As a general rule, for property you have owned for more than 12 months, you receive a charitable tax deduction that equals the current, fair market value of the property. could be a significant benefit for some taxpayers. You may, of course, still contribute property that you have owned for less than 12 months, but your tax benefits may be more limited.

Of course, with any gifts, please pay attention to the need to substantiate your gifts. For gifts of more than \$250, this typically requires at least a dated letter or receipt, describing the gift, and identifying you as the donor. For larger, non-cash gifts, more substantiation may be needed. But please visit with your own advisor about the substantiation rules for gifts.

## Closely Held Stock

Often very highly appreciated in value (and expensive to sell), gifts of closely held stock offer the same tax advantages as a gift of common stock. In fact, some donors use these gifts as a way to indirectly transfer ownership to others such as family members, or regain control of the shares and establish a new cost basis for them. The advantages of closely held stock are similar to those of publicly traded stock gifts, but an appraisal may be required to establish market value of shares.

## Stock Options

Stock options can be a valuable and often “painless” gifts to a local council, as you are giving away something you don’t actually own yet. But gifts of stock options can pose certain challenges. For example, gifts of stock options will not produce an immediate tax deduction. The value of the gift won’t be known until after the option is exercised: when it is, your deduction equals the difference between the option price and the stock value. In fact, some stock options may not be contributed, under the terms of the option. If considering such a gift, consult your governing option agreement and advisers.

[\*\*GGAC - Stock Transfer Form\*\*](#)