

# RURITAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

## *A Short Guide to RNF Programs*



REVISED 3.4.2025

### 1. BUILD YOUR DOLLARS (BY\$) SCHOLARSHIP

- **Deposit:** Participating clubs **deposit \$300** with RNF. Mail checks along with the [\*Build Your Dollars Deposit Form\*](#) starting in January until deadline, must be postmarked **on or before September 1** to be eligible. Clubs determine the scholarship recipient.
- **Scholarship amount:** Varies from year to year based on number of clubs participating and RNF portfolio performance. For the 2025 Award Year, the scholarship is **\$650**. RNF Trustees determine the scholarship amount yearly.
- **Student application deadline:** The [\*Build Your Dollars Scholarship Claim Form\*](#) is due to the RNF office postmarked **on or before June 30**. If a student is not selected by June 30, the options are:
  - (a) request \$300 refund returned to the club,
  - (b) carry-over for one year to the Build Your Dollars program, or
  - (c) leave as a donation to the RNF fund of the club's choice.
- **Scholarship issuance:** Beginning April 1, and upon receipt of the completed claim form, the RNF office will issue a BY\$ scholarship check, made payable to the club, for presentation to the scholarship recipient.

### 2. BIRTHDAY CLUB

- Birthday Club recognition is based on club donations of \$2 dollars per full member (certificate) or \$10 per full member (plaque). Donations are added to club's requested fund.
  - Membership totals are counted as of the date of the club's check.
- Awards are presented at the District Convention based on fiscal year donations from October 1 through September 30.
- Use the [\*Birthday Fund Donation Form\*](#).

### 3. TOM DOWNING FELLOWSHIP

- **About:** Being named a Tom Downing Fellow is the **highest recognition** given by the RNF. A very small percent of Ruritans over time have been recognized as a Tom Downing Fellow.
- **Criteria:** To award a Tom Downing Fellowship, the club, district, individual, or combination of these listed must submit a **\$500 donation** using the [\*Tom Downing Fellowship Donation Form\*](#). On receipt, the RNF will provide a plaque and lapel pin for presentation to the recipient.
  - A Tom Downing Fellowship is non-transferable and is available for non-members. A Tom Downing Fellowship is a great way to recognize a community member.

#### 4. PERMANENT FUND (minimum \$1,000)

- Many clubs, district cabinets, and individual club members and their families have established permanent funds of \$1,000 or more. These funds can be named in honor or memory of an individual or to recognize a club or district. For information on current fund balance, contact your District Foundation Chairperson or assigned RNF Trustee.
- Permanent Funds can be funded by lump sum or through individual gifts over time.
- A plaque is awarded if the fund reaches Permanent Fund status (\$1,000) within one year of first donation, or a certificate if it takes longer than one year.

##### Levels of Permanent Funds:

- \$1,000 PERMANENT FUND
- \$2,100 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY FUND – RNF adds \$100 once the fund reaches \$2,000.
- \$5,000 CORNERSTONE FUND – RNF adds \$500 once the fund reaches \$4,500.
- \$10,000 \* FRIENDS FUND
- \$20,000 \* SPECIAL FUND
- \$50,000 \* GOLDEN 68 FUND
- \$100,000 \* PLATINUM FUND
- \$500,000 \* DIAMOND FUND

\*Eligible for Endowed/Contract Fund status

#### 5. ENDOWED/CONTRACT FUNDS

- Individuals, families, clubs, or districts (using a new district fund with new money from 2017 onward) may memorialize or honor someone with a named, endowed scholarship.
- Allows the donor who establishes the fund to select a scholarship selection committee that chooses a scholarship recipient each year.
- The check is made payable to the postsecondary institution.
- Available options are either a **20-year limited-term** contract or a **perpetual** contract. The specific terms and conditions of the Endowed Funds are established by these two contract options between the donor(s) and the RNF. For more information, contact the RNF.

#### 6. WALMART SPARK GOOD ROUND UP!

- Donate using the Walmart Spark Good Round Up where customers can round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate their change to Ruritan National Foundation.
- Sign up at <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood> for purchases on Walmart.com.

#### 7. INVEST TODAY...IMPACT TOMORROW

- Join our 5-year initiative with a challenge of donating 60¢ a day to your Foundation. It's a small sacrifice – less than the cost of a soft drink or a cup of coffee.
- By the program's culmination on our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, your support will have a profound and lasting impact on the education of young minds and tomorrow's leaders!
- **When you complete the program:** you will have contributed \$1095. This can establish a permanent fund or grow your current fund. You will also receive a program polo.
- Use the [Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow Donation Form](#).