

# RURITAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

## *A Short Guide to RNF Programs*



REVISED 2.21.23

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

- **Deposit:** Participating clubs **deposit \$300** with RNF. Mailed checks along with the [\*Build Your Dollars Deposit Form\*](#) 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 2023 Award Year, the scholarship is **\$650**. RNF Trustees determine the scholarship amount yearly.
- **Student application deadline:** The [\*Build Your Dollar Scholarship Claim Form\*](#) is due to the RNF office **by 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:** Upon receipt of the completed claim form, the RNF office will mail the club a BY\$ scholarship check payable to the club for presentation to the 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).
  - 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.

### 3. TOM DOWNING FELLOWSHIP

- **About:** Being named a Tom Downing Fellow is the **highest recognition** given by the RNF. Fewer than 1% of Ruritans 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:

- PERMANENT FUND (\$1,000 or more)
- 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY FUND (greater than \$2,000) – RNF adds \$100 once the fund reaches \$2000
- CORNERSTONE FUND (greater than \$5,000) – RNF adds \$500 once the fund reaches \$4,500
- FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION FUND (greater than \$10,000) \*
- SPECIAL PERMANENT FUND (greater than \$20,000) \*
- GOLDEN 68 FUND (greater than \$50,000) \*
- PLATINUM FUND (greater than \$100,000) \*
- DIAMOND FUND (greater than \$500,000) \*

\*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.
- 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.