

RURITAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

A Short Guide to RNF Programs



REVISED 02.10.2026

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 2026 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 percentage 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 21st 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. INVEST TODAY...IMPACT TOMORROW

- Join our 5-year initiative with a challenge of donating 60¢ a day to your Foundation. It is a small sacrifice – less than the cost of a soft drink or a cup of coffee.
- By the program's culmination on our 60th 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 an Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow polo shirt.
- Use the [Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow Donation Form](#).

7. CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Did you know that many employers offer Employee Matching Programs? These programs may match your charitable contributions—whether through volunteer hours or financial donations. Check with your employer to see if they participate and help double the impact of your generosity. Ruritan National Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.