Major Gifts and Legacy Giving

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax free gift directly from your IRA to support the Gault School of Archaeological Research. This type of gift can also satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution without increasing your taxable income.

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a tax-advantaged way for individuals age 70½ or older to make gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charity like the Gault School of Archaeological Research.

Key benefits for donors:

- Reduces taxable income: QCDs do *not* count as taxable income, unlike regular IRA withdrawals.
- Can satisfy Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs): Once donors reach RMD age (currently 73), a QCD can fulfill part or all of their RMD without increasing their tax bill.
- No need to itemize: Donors who take the standard deduction still receive the full tax benefit.
- Helps manage Medicare premiums: Lower taxable income can reduce IRMAA surcharges.

Annual limits: Donors may give up to $111,000 in 2026 via QCDs. Married couples can each give up to the limit from their own IRAs.

How it works: The donor instructs their IRA custodian to send the gift directly to the Gault School of Archaeological Research. The donor cannot receive the funds first.

Why donors choose QCDs: For many retirees, QCDs are the most tax-efficient way to give, especially for larger gifts or for donors who do not itemize deductions.

To discuss leadership gifts, multi-year commitments, or planned giving, contact
Executive Director Raegan King at raegan@gaultschool.org
or Board Treasurer Mike McBride at mike@gaultschool.org