



Sarah P. Duke Gardens

FAQ: Gifts to the Memorial Garden

1. What is the Memorial Garden at Sarah P. Duke Gardens?

The Memorial Garden at Sarah P. Duke Gardens is a beautiful and peaceful area where the life of a loved one is remembered and celebrated. Although it sits on two acres in our Historic Gardens between the Rose Garden and the Hanes Lawn, the Memorial Garden has the feel of a private wooded retreat. A winding path leads from the courtyard up a tree-lined hill to a cul-de-sac bordered by lush plants and flowers. Along either side of the path are limestone bricks engraved with the names and stories of the people whose ashes are buried there.

2. Can I have my ashes (or the ashes of a loved one) buried in the Memorial Garden?

Yes, with a signed Memorial Garden agreement and your completed gift, ashes can be buried in a biodegradable urn (provided by the family) or can be placed directly in the ground. You may also choose to preserve the ashes and have a marker placed in your designated spot. A gift of \$25,000 per individual is required to be eligible for burial in the Memorial Garden.

3. May I choose the burial location?

We are happy to tour the Memorial Garden with you to show you the available locations. A signed Memorial Garden agreement will secure the burial location you have chosen.

4. May I decide on the wording for my stone(s)?

The text is to be mutually agreed upon and approved by Duke Gardens and the donor. There is a three-line maximum and no more than 25 characters per line.

5. If I am married, can my spouse have his/her ashes placed next to mine?

Yes, your spouse or other family members may have their ashes buried next to or near yours.

6. Can we hold a service at the Memorial Garden?

Yes, you are able to have a burial service at the Memorial Garden. Because of the Garden's design, space is limited. Often, families will have a larger memorial service that compliments the more private and intimate burial service held at the Memorial Garden. Duke Gardens will work with the donor or donor's family to find an appropriate date and time for the burial.

7. How do we deliver the ashes to the Gardens?

Ashes can be mailed or hand-delivered to the Gardens. If shipped, ashes should be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, 420 Anderson Street, Durham, NC 27708.

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WAYS TO GIVE

1. What are some of the ways I can make my gift?

A new gift of \$25,000* per person to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Endowment Fund makes you eligible for a burial spot in the Memorial Garden. You can make your gift in one of the following ways:

- a) An outright gift of \$25,000 (in cash or appreciated securities)
- b) A pledge of \$25,000 to Duke University that is payable within five years of the date on which the pledge is made
- c) A charitable bequest gift included in a will or trust, a beneficiary designation of a retirement account or another type of deferred gift (see FAQ #4 below)
- d) A charitable gift annuity (CGA), a type of life income gift that provides a fixed income to you and future support for Duke (see FAQ #5 below)

** The minimum giving level required for burial in the Memorial Garden is \$25,000 as of July 1, 2017, but this minimum giving level may increase in the future. Regardless of how your gift is made, Duke must receive your gift in full before ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden.*

2. Is my gift to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Endowment tax deductible?

Yes, a portion of your gift is tax deductible. Duke University estimates that the non-deductible, fair market value of goods or services for the opportunity to be buried in the Memorial Garden is \$500. Please consult with your own tax advisors and legal counsel to determine how your gift will affect your individual tax and financial situation.

3. What happens if I die before completing my pledge?

The pledge agreement creates a binding and enforceable contractual obligation between the donor and Duke University. It is understood that any portion of the pledge that remains unpaid at the date of the donor's death shall be deemed a binding legal obligation owed to Duke University by the donor's estate.

4. Are there any requirements for making a bequest or other type of deferred gift to the Memorial Garden?

Yes, in order to reserve a space in the Memorial Garden with a bequest, a donor must:

- a) Be sixty-five (65) years of age or older
- b) Direct your bequest to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Endowment Fund
- c) Make sure the bequest meets the minimum giving level in effect on the date your gift is received by Duke University. You may want to consult with an estate planning attorney to discuss adding language to your will or living trust to account for any increases over time in the minimum giving level for the Memorial Garden

5. Are there any requirements for giving to the Memorial Garden through a CGA?

Yes, to reserve a space in the Memorial Garden with a CGA, the following terms must be met:

- a) The CGA's deduction value must meet the minimum funding level for a burial spot
- b) Annuity payments should begin when the income beneficiary is sixty-five (65) or older
- c) The CGA's remainder should be directed to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Endowment Fund

6. Who should I contact for more information?

Kate Senner, Director of Development & Major Gifts, Sarah P. Duke Gardens
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