

SOCIETY OF THE LION & SHIELD



First for Wildlife Endowment "CHAPTER CHALLENGE"

- **What is the SCI Foundation Chapter Challenge?**

This challenge is a special **VOLUNTARY** request to chapters and others to make a ***\$10,000 pledge to the SCI Foundation "First for Wildlife Endowment."*** The pledge may be paid out over 4 or 5-years.

This is an opportunity to support SCI Foundation in a simple way. For as little as a \$2,000 contribution over 5-years your chapter can help build the long-term sustainability of the Foundation. Plus, you or your chapter will be part of the new endowment recognition program through our Society of the Lion and Shield giving levels. Your annual giving will enable you to move up each "Animal" level as your giving grows and receive associated stewardship benefit gifts and special recognition.

This request to chapters is above and beyond the 30% that is already given to SCI or SCI Foundation. This giving option is also different than other gifts---such as operational support for AWLS or another program.

In addition to chapters, Individuals may want to make the pledge as part of their personal philanthropy. Or perhaps give through a business-related donation. Additionally, all ranges of gifts are welcome, but our focal range for this challenge is \$10,000.

- **Where does the money go?**

All funds received will go into the "First for Wildlife Endowment." This is a new restricted investment account that is separate from the Hunter Legacy 100 Fund. Donations and interest earned will be "locked in" this investment account until the endowment reaches a suitable interest rate return for use with SCI Foundation mission-focused grants. The principal will always remain in the endowment. The SCI Foundation board will administer the funding process through a grant selection committee for

wildlife conservation and education. Below are just a few examples of past projects. With your help we can do much more!

- **International Conservation:** SCI Foundation has provided over \$100,000 for equipment and tools to help combat the increase in poaching of the black rhinoceros in southern Africa.
- **Science-based Wildlife Research:** In the past six months, SCI Foundation has donated \$350,000 to fund multiple predator/prey projects in the U.S. and Canada, such as the woodland caribou research in Newfoundland. The results of these studies will help properly manage predators and prey in systems where both exist.
- **Conservation Education:** Since the year 2000, SCI Foundation has awarded \$300,000 to sixty-one college students majoring in wildlife management, natural resource management, or a related field of study.

In order to have greater impact on the species we love to hunt and to ensure future generations of hunters have the same opportunities, we need to continue to raise funds to support these types of programs.

- **Why this and why now?**

The SCI Foundation Board of Directors wants to see the First for Wildlife Endowment promoted and encourage its growth. Everyone who is interested can contribute toward this fund either as part of this challenge or via a planned gift. Our phase-one campaign will be to secure \$10 million over the next five years, and \$50-million or more in the next 10-plus years. These funds will enable SCI Foundation to become more self-sufficient and greatly reduce our reliance on SCI grant support, while taking our mission and vision to a whole new level.

We won't get there without your help.

- **Why participate? What are the benefits?**

ALL chapters who participate will receive a **special stewardship gift** and will be recognized as follows:

1. **First for Wildlife Banner and Plaque** for the chapter to proudly display at all Chapter functions.
2. **Donor wall listing** at convention
3. **Recognition of Chapter participation in SCI publications**
4. **Each Chapter at \$10,000 or above will be recognized during Chapter Awards night at the SCI Annual Convention**
5. **Chapters will be listed in the SCI Foundation Annual Report.**
6. **Chapters will be listed as a donor on the SCI Foundation Web Site**
7. **Chapters will be acknowledged as part of the newly updated Society of the Lion and Shield at their giving level.**

- **Promotion: The word needs to be spread far and wide!**

Aside from traditional marketing, word-of-mouth is critical to the success of this undertaking. Chapter leaders and representatives who refer other chapters or individuals and play the role of a Chapter Advocate (*someone who has made the pledge and is willing to promote it to others*) will be eligible for a special gift from SCI Foundation.

- **May others outside of chapters participate?**

The over-arching goal of this promotion is to grow interest and support of SCI Foundation by giving to the First for Wildlife Endowment. All are welcome to participate and at any level of giving. Individuals, corporations and other entities may take the challenge and make a tax-deductible gift.