



What Are the Keys to Successful Reunion Fundraising?

THE ART OF THE ASK

Asking your classmates for a gift is similar to any other invitation. The way you ask will depend on your relationship with your classmates and their relationship with the College. It will also depend on your style.

Successful interactions have common elements that increase your chances of a positive outcome.

1. Introduction and rapport building. Identify yourself in the first line of your text or email or as you begin your phone call. Find common ground by mentioning Middlebury and your Reunion.

2. Purpose. Explain your role and why you're reaching out. Be friendly, but also be up-front. Tell classmates that you're in touch to ask them to contribute to Middlebury and add to your class Reunion gift.

Some alumni wonder about the impact of smaller gifts and if their participation matters. In a typical fiscal year, gifts of \$250 or less from alumni and parents total nearly \$1 million. In recent years, that is enough to provide about 20 students with Middlebury's average financial aid grant of approximately \$49,000.

In a Reunion year, participation is part of the celebration. Reunion classes encourage gifts of all sizes as a way for classmates to be involved with their Reunion, even if they can't attend.

3. Articulating the need. Middlebury's top fundraising priorities are the Annual Fund and financial aid.

- **The Annual Fund:** Year after year, the Annual Fund plays an important role in helping Middlebury thrive, providing essential funding that supports every aspect of the Middlebury experience. Annual Fund gifts can be spent as they come in, making an immediate impact on the lives of students and faculty.

- **Financial aid:** Middlebury provides financial support to nearly half the student body, with an average grant of approximately \$49,000.

4. Urgency. Remind your classmates of the benefit of giving now. The sooner a gift arrives, the sooner it can be put to work on campus.

OVER



Middlebury
College

Middlebury, VT 05753
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5. Expressing gratitude. Thank your classmates for their time and for considering your request. Annual Giving can provide you with thank-you cards and a template.

OTHER TIPS

- **Lead by example.** [Make your own Reunion gift](#) before reaching out to your classmates and share your reasons for contributing.
- **Practice.** It's okay to be nervous. You can kick-start your outreach by reviewing the sample solicitations in the Middlebury Volunteer Portal (MVP) at go.middlebury.edu/mvp.
- **Remember.** Any gift made between July 1 and June 30 will count toward your class Reunion gift.

- **Understand why.** If a classmate says no to giving, it can be an opportunity to understand why. Share that feedback with [Middlebury staff](#). Many alumni are grateful for the opportunity to express their concerns.

- **Get in touch.** If you are not able to address objections, please [contact us](#). We're happy to provide resources or be part of the conversation.

- **Stay in touch.** The Annual Giving staff, as well as members of the Alumni and Parent Programs staff, are here to help you do this important work. Call us at 888-367-6433 or email supportmiddlebury@middlebury.edu. You can also find contact information on our [Reunion volunteer resources](#) page.

CONTACT US

Annual Giving

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go.middlebury.edu/reunionvols