



CHARITY REFERENCE GUIDE 2026

Important information for a successful year with Birdies for Charity

ABOUT BIRDIES FOR CHARITY®

Birdies for Charity is the charitable arm of the John Deere Classic, offering participating **501(c)(3)** organizations the opportunity to generate contributions through one-time flat pledges or donations.

Since 1971, the John Deere Classic has delivered over \$206 million, most of it through the innovative Birdies for Charity program. It is the generous and hardworking nature of this area that makes the John Deere Classic #1 on the PGA TOUR in charitable contributions per capita.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The 2026 Birdies for Charity program runs from April – October 8, 2026. While the program will officially kick-off in April, you can get started early! We will start accepting new pledges after November 1, 2025.

Key Features

- No administrative fees – John Deere underwrites all program costs so charities receive 100% of every donation designated to them.
- Birdies for Charity promises a **BONUS** of at least 5%, and up to 10% on all eligible donations.
- Supporters may also contribute to the **BONUS FUND**, which benefits all participating charities. The **BONUS FUND** (Bird #1041) grows through donations, special events, grants, and a generous matching grant from John Deere.

*All charities will be guaranteed a 5% BONUS on amounts up to their prior year pledge total, or \$100,000 whichever is greater.

Donation Eligibility

All contributions must:

- Come from individual donors
- Support charitable programs or operations
- Not support capital campaigns, endowments, or brick-and-mortar purposes

CONTEST OVERVIEW:

A lucky supporter of the Birdies for Charity program will win a 2-year lease on a new Lexus courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities. To enter, donors simply guess the number of birdies that will be made by PGA TOUR players during the John Deere Classic.

- All guesses must be on an official pledge card and received at the tournament by July 1, 2026
- Only 1 grand prize is awarded to one person who correctly guesses the # of birdies made. Ties are determined by a random drawing. Judges' decision is final.
- Official and complete rules are available at www.birdiesforcharity.com/about/rules

CHARITY SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS:

- Charities must be publicly supported and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 charitable organization
- Submit an online application and upload the organization's 501(c)3 IRS determination letter
 - Apply at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/charity-sign-up>
 - Once approved, charities will receive a registration confirmation email including their assigned Bird # and next steps
 - Applications must be received by May 29, 2026 to be eligible for the 2026 program
- Charities must be located within 125 miles and in IA/IL
- There is no need to sign-up each year. Once you are assigned a Bird #, you will use that year after year. To remain active, charities are required to fill out a 501 (c) 3 Verification Form each year.

HOW CAN BIRDIES FOR CHARITY SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- Birdies for Charity administers the program and contest at no cost to participating organizations.
- Creates pledge forms for your organization to print and distribute and maintains your organization's presence on www.birdiesforcharity.com
- Marketing of the Birdies for Charity program
- Record all pledges and donations that we receive for your organization
- Work directly with donors making contributions of \$1,500 and above through the Partner Program
 - Partner Forms can be printed from www.birdiesforcharity.com/about/pledge-forms
- Present the grand prize
- Handles all invoicing and collecting of payments for pledges turned in without payment
 - Each donor is invoiced twice to collect their pledged amounts
 - Pledge payments are due September 2nd. All paid pledges received before September 2nd will be included in your pledged amount eligible for a **BONUS**.
 - Cash, checks, and credit card payments are accepted for pledges. If cash or check is turned in with the pledge card, please ensure the payment is attached to the Pledge Form and sent to the Birdies for Charity office. Credit card donations/payments can be made at www.birdiesforcharity.com/donate
 - Donations made online will serve as both pledge & payment. To avoid duplication, no mailed pledge form is necessary if donating online.
- Provide detailed pledge reports periodically throughout the process and final report included with checks that include donor information, amount pledged and paid status
- Disburse Funds
 - Birdies for Charity will deliver checks for 100% of the donations designated to your organization and a detailed list of donors on October 8th.
- Issue **BONUS**!
 - Birdies for Charity guarantees a 5% **BONUS** on all dollars your organization brings in. The **BONUS** check will be included along with your check for pledged amount on October 8th.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Always know your Bird # - this is a unique identifying number for your organization
 - If you do not know your Bird #, or forget, please search for your organization in the Charity list at www.birdiesforcharity.com/charity-list
- Complete and return a 501 (c) 3 verification form each year you participate. This year, they are due by May 29, 2026. We are required to have this form on file for all charities with pledges before we can issue a check in October.
- Visit www.birdiesforcharity.com to access all the materials needed to be successful in your fundraising efforts
 - Pledge & Partner Forms will be available to print
- It is the charities responsibility to solicit pledges for your organization – contact donors and ask them to support your organization through Birdies for Charity (ex, fundraising events, social media, mailings, etc.)
 - Make sure to put your charity name and Bird # on all Pledge Forms before you distribute them
 - Pledges received without a designated charity will be applied to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund. The Bonus Fund benefits all participating charities in the program.
 - Provide accurate and clearly printed information on all pledges
 - Online donations can be made by visiting www.birdiesforcharity.com/donate
 - **Please notify your donors that checks should be made payable to Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation/Birdies for Charity, not your organization.**
- Send ALL pledges and payments to the Birdies for Charity office: 15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244
 - Send all pledge forms with guesses that wish to be entered into the contest to our office by July 1, 2026.
 - Final pledges are due to our office by Friday of tournament week
 - Any pledges received after 7/1 will be returned to the sender notifying them that the pledge deadline has passed and if they still wish to contribute, to direct their donation directly to their charity of choice.
 - Attach any payment to the pledge form that it belongs to. If attaching checks, please be careful not to damage the MICR line.
- Read all mail from Birdies for Charity! Mail is our main form of contact, and we only send important information.
- Check your mail after October 8th and receive BOTH of your checks!
- Follow up with your donors and thank them for supporting your organization through Birdies for Charity!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Birdies for Charity
15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244
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