



Privacy Policy

As amended by the Board of Directors on August 30, 2023

Higher Ground (HG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible, as allowable by law. You should consult your tax professional for specifics regarding the tax deductibility of cash and in-kind gifts, as auction purchases, event tickets, etc., may not be 100% deductible. For a copy of our most recent annual report, please call (208) 726-9298, via www.highergroundusa.org, or write to Higher Ground at P.O. Box 6791, Ketchum, Idaho, 83340.

Policy

We value your information, and we take your privacy seriously. Higher Ground respects the privacy of the personal and organizational information we are privileged to acquire. Our commitment to privacy includes how we obtain, use, protect, and share information. This Privacy Policy is in conjunction with the Donor Bill of Rights, below.

Obtaining Information:

Cultivating additional individuals to join in the support of HG is critical to the organization's long-term success. If you donate to or contact Higher Ground, we collect and use various Personal Information such as name, address, credit card number, preferences for how you would like to be contacted by HG, phone number(s), and email addresses. We may collect employer information, if your employer participates in our donor match program or if a fundraiser is being promoted by your employer. We may use third-party payment services to process payments. We will retain credit card information only as long as necessary to process the transaction. We may also collect social media identities and interests or opinions if you engage with us directly on social media platforms.

We may use certain Personal Information (name, address, telephone number, or email) to contact you to raise money for HG. You have the right to opt out of receiving such future communications. We may also use Personal Information for other business purposes (e.g., audits, fraud monitoring and prevention, data analysis, recordkeeping, and determining the effectiveness of fundraising campaigns and HG mission activities). With respect to our website, we use IP addresses for administrative purposes (e.g., diagnosing server problems), collecting standard web server traffic, and “cookies” stored in your computer hard drive to enhance your website experience.

Except for the limited purposes outlined in this Privacy Policy and the Donor Bill of Rights below, we will not sell, trade, or share your Personal Information with anyone else, nor send mailings on behalf of other organizations without your specific permission. Higher Ground may share Personal Information with its service providers, program volunteers, family members of memorial or legacy donations, and other third parties that assist HG in furthering its mission. Personal Information is only shared with these third parties pursuant to confidentiality requirements.

Contributing individuals and organizations are traditionally listed by name in publications such as our annual reports, but we honor requests from those who wish to be listed as Anonymous. HG keeps a record of your giving history. This information is kept on file for IRS purposes and is also used by the HG Development staff to analyze overall giving patterns for future budget projections. To review or correct your personal contact information or change your recorded preferences (i.e., receipt of mailings and acknowledgments), please contact HG at (208) 726-9298 or via www.highergroundusa.org.

Donor Bill of Rights:

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. A tradition of giving and sharing is essential to our community's quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the public and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the nonprofit organizations and causes they are asked to support, Higher Ground declares that all donors have these rights (modeled after the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Donor Bill of Rights):

- I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and its capacity to use donations effectively for intended purposes.
- II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's Board of Directors and to expect the Board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- III. To have access to, upon request, the organization's three most recent audited financial statements and IRS Statements 990, the organization's nonprofit IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter, and any other documents as set forth in the IRS's guidelines (IRC 6104) regarding contents of nonprofit organizations' public inspection files.
- IV. To be assured that their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- V. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition. Higher Grounds' policy is that all cash and in-kind gifts valued over \$5 are acknowledged in writing, with a letter usable for tax purposes.
- VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

- VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
- VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization, or hired solicitors.
- IX. To have the opportunity to have their names deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
- X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful, and forthright answers.