



2017 Fundraising Toolkit

Mountain Gorilla



Conservation Fund
SaveAGorilla.org
"Keeping Dian Fossey's
Dream Alive"



"When you realize the value of all life, you dwell less on what is past and concentrate more on the preservation of the future"

-Dian Fossey's final journal entry

THANK YOU!!

Dear Gorilla Runner,

Thank you so much for participating in the 14th Annual Denver Gorilla Run! This fundraising event benefits the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund (MGCF), dedicated to the conservation and protection of the critically endangered Mountain Gorillas in Africa, their habitat, and working with the people around the National Parks. We have been doing this ever since Dian Fossey asked for help back in 1983.

It's Working

When Ruth Keesling took over the work after Dr. Dian Fossey's murder, there were only 248 known mountain gorillas in the world. None of these animals are in captivity. Today, there are an estimated 880 alive. They are the only Great Ape primate that is posting a positive increase in their population numbers!

We appreciate your help in raising the much needed funds to keep our project going and protect the gentle giants of the forest.

Thank you for your support,
Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund

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Fundraising Instructions

Online donations:

1. Visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/GorillaRunDenver> to set up your online fundraising page.
2. Click the “Set up your fundraiser” button.
3. Enter your fundraiser name (your name as an individual fundraiser or the team’s name for a group fundraising page) and contact information.
4. Personalize your fundraising page to include:
 - Your fundraising goal
 - Why you are participating in the Denver Gorilla Run
 - Include any personal connection to the mountain gorillas
 - Upload an image (gorilla picture, training in your gorilla suit, previous year pictures)
5. Send your fundraising page link to all your friends and family! For your convenience, we’ve provided a [pledge letter](#) template.
6. On your fundraising page, use the social media icons to share with your networks and let them know about your fundraising efforts!
7. For additional help and support, email saveagorilla@yahoo.com.

Offline donations:

You can also collect cash donations or checks made payable to MGCF. Record fundraising dollars on the [pledge form](#) and drop off at the donations table on event day.

Have questions? We’re happy to help!

Email: saveagorilla@yahoo.com Phone: 720-524-0272

Pledge Letter to Send to Supporters

Hi There!

Remember the movie, "Gorillas In The Mist"? Well, I will be a gorilla for a day participating in the 14th Annual Denver Gorilla Run on October 21st.

I am raising funds for the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund and am asking you to help by making a contribution. I've set a personal fundraising goal of \$*[INSERT GOAL]*. Please visit *[ADD PERSONAL FUNDRAISING PAGE WEBLINK HERE]* to make your tax-deductible donation. Or, why not join me on the day of the event? Visit www.denvergorillarun.com to register today!

Why are we doing this?

The annual Denver Gorilla Run fundraiser has truly shown success stories. MGCF has been able to open the Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health and Research Center, which is the largest wildlife veterinary education facility in Africa. It includes a Bio Hazard Lab, which houses wildlife infectious diseases for research. Today, we have graduated 36 wildlife veterinarians through our programs and this has proven successful as the Mountain Gorilla is the only great ape primate in the world posting positive numbers in its population. When Ruth met the late Dr. Dian Fossey there were 248 Mountain Gorillas left in the world; today an estimated 880 are with us. Let's keep doing good things together!

I thank you in advance for your support and really appreciate your generosity!!

Denver Gorilla Run main web site: <http://www.denvergorillarun.com>

If you would like more information about the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund and how funds raised through the Denver Gorilla Run are used, please visit www.saveagorilla.org.

Please forward this email to as many people as you can and encourage them to donate!



Follow Up Letter

Hi [NAME],

I hope you're doing well. I'm emailing to follow up with you on the donation request I made for the Denver Gorilla Run coming up on October 21st. The event benefits Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund, dedicated to the conservation and protection of the critically endangered Mountain Gorillas in Africa, their habitat, and working with the people around the National Parks.

My fundraising goal is \$[*INSERT GOAL*]. If you'd like to contribute, please visit [*ADD PERSONAL FUNDRAISING PAGE WEBLINK HERE*] to donate online quickly & securely.

For more information about the 5K fun run in a full gorilla suit, go to www.denvergorillarun.com.

Thank you in advance. Your support is greatly appreciated!
[Your Name]

Fundraiser Checklist

✓ HAVE A PLAN AND STICK TO IT

The most effective way to achieve your fundraising goal is to create a detailed plan outlining the steps you'll need to complete in order to meet your objectives. Remember, sticking to your plan will ensure success!

- ☐ Set a goal of at least \$250.
- ☐ Start early so you can give people ample time to donate.
- ☐ Make it personal. Educate your donors on why this cause is so important to you.
- ☐ Stress the benefits of contributing.
- ☐ Ask BIG before going small.
- ☐ Never feel guilty about asking for donations.
- ☐ Keep track of who you've asked and follow-up.
- ☐ Always ask contacts to forward your email to others.
- ☐ Keep donors updated on your progress.
- ☐ Send thank you notes!

✓ DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK EVERYONE YOU KNOW

- ☐ Start by making your own contribution to show other donors that you are right there with them!
- ☐ Friends, family members, and co-workers. You never know who is willing to contribute!
- ☐ Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program or would be willing to make a corporate donation...have your donors ask their employers too!
- ☐ Email local businesses that might be interested in your cause. Ask them to sponsor you.

✓ USE SOCIAL MEDIA

- ☐ Update your Facebook status to let your friends know you are raising money for the mountain gorillas.
- ☐ Tell your Twitter followers about your fundraising efforts.
- ☐ Keep everyone up to date on progress towards your goal.

Set a Fundraising Goal

I will raise \$ _____ (we recommend \$250.00) by 10/21/17

I will contact _____ people in order to reach my goal.

Estimate the average contribution will be \$50 and that 50% of the people you contact will contribute. If you plan to raise \$250, you only need to contact 10 people. Simple!

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?



Mountain Gorillas are one of our closest relatives, sharing 98.6% of our DNA. This makes them the closest link to mankind. The MGCF is working to help save these animals from extinction.



Dr. Dian Fossey asked Ruth Keesling for help in 1983. Since Dian's murder in 1985, Ruth and the MGCF have kept that promise. She started with 248 known mountain gorillas to be alive and today there are estimated to be 880 in the wild. These animals are not seen in any zoos, but only in the wild. Since we are their closest relatives, we need to help them.



Ruth Keesling started the Wildlife Animal Resource Management (WARM) at the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda in 1996. This department teaches local Ugandan, Rwandan, Tanzanian, Kenyan and Congolese to become qualified as park rangers or they can continue on to become Wildlife Veterinarians.



The locals set snares in the National Parks to capture deer or duiker (their food source), but the gorillas also get caught in them. If discovered in time a team of veterinarians will go in and assist the animal and release it from the snare. Ruth sent the first veterinarian into the jungle back in 1986 and this has proven to be the leading cause to saving this animal. The mountain gorilla is the only Great Ape primate posting positive numbers within its population in the world.

This is the first of its kind for Africa and over the years, the department has become the fastest growing in the University.

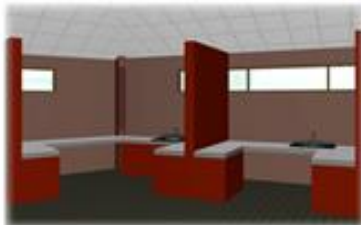
RUTH KEESLING WILDLIFE HEALTH AND RESEARCH CENTER



The current building is no longer large enough to house the number of veterinary students who want to be educated in this field. Today, we are answering the call for action and now expanding the facility to become the Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health and Research Center.



The brand new facility will include: two main lecture halls with seating for 100 students, two large scale research laboratories, postgraduate and grant research offices. The lower section will contain a Wildlife Disease Surveillance Biohazard Level 1 Bio Bank.



Each building will house nine labs, eighteen total. The uniqueness of this facility is the samples are studied in the research laboratories right up stairs. Again, first of its kind for Africa.



When this building is complete, we have kept our promise to Dr. Dian Fossey!



Dian Fossey's final journal entry:

"When you realize the value of all life, you dwell less on what is past and concentrate more on the preservation of the future."



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Conservation Fund
SaveAGorilla.org





Participant Name: _____ Team Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Please select the project you would like your fundraising dollars to support:

- ☐ Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health and Research Center
- ☐ Veterinary Education
- ☐ Unrestricted – MGCF can direct where most needed

- Please make checks payable to: MGCF
- Bring this form to the Denver Gorilla Run on October 21, 2017.
- The donor's name and address or email must be clearly printed and complete on the form above to receive a tax receipt from Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund.

Social Media

- Like Denver Gorilla Run on Facebook so you can share our posts with your family and friends: facebook.com/DenverGorillaRun.
- Follow Denver Gorilla Run on Twitter: twitter.com/dengorillarun
- Follow Denver Gorilla Run on Instagram: instagram.com/denvergorillarun
- Follow Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund on Pinterest: pinterest.com/saveagorilla/
- Keep a regular presence on social media. Post often about the Gorilla Run, mentioning why you are doing the event, sharing photos & updates, gorilla facts, etc. No need to ask for donations each post, but keep the Gorilla Run fresh in people's minds so that followers remember to contribute or participate with you.
- Pictures are a great way to capture attention on social media! Post pics in your gorilla costume for a great response!
- An effective ways to get others to support you is to make the first contribution yourself! People are more likely to give if there's already some money donated to your fundraising campaign.
- Make sure to always include @DenverGorillaRun in posts about the event.
- Share your personal fundraising page.
- On Twitter & Facebook, use the hashtags #DenverGorillaRun & #RunLikeAGorilla
- Share a video of yourself in your gorilla suit!



Social Media Cont.

Suggested Facebook posts:

- Learn more about why I'm running in a gorilla suit for @Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund www.facebook.com/MountainGorillaConservationFund
- Why @DenverGorillaRun? To save the remaining 880 mountain gorillas left in the world! #RunLikeAGorilla <http://www.denvergorillarun.com/>
- I'm dressing like a gorilla to save a gorilla! @DenverGorillaRun October 22nd. #RunLikeAGorilla #SaveAGorilla <http://www.denvergorillarun.com/>
- Join me for fun at the @DenverGorillaRun!
- I'm doing the 2017 @DenverGorillaRun because...
- Can't join me at the @DenverGorillaRun on October 21st but still want to be involved? Contribute to my fundraiser to help save a gorilla! [Insert personal fundraising page link]

#DenverGorillaRun
#RunLikeAGorilla
#SaveAGorilla