Q: Will my donation ever be loaned to someone else?
A: It is the policy of the Museum to loan our collections to qualified institutions for specific periods of time for temporary exhibits or for research purposes. The Tread of Pioneers Museum Curator handles loan requests from institutions on a case-by-case basis to ensure that these institutions can adequately care for the objects. The Museum does not loan Museum collections to individuals.

Q: How will the Museum acknowledge my donation?
A: If your donation is accepted, you will receive a letter of thanks from the Curator. You will also receive a form to transfer ownership called a Deed of Gift. The form is signed by you and the Museum Curator for your records.

Q: Is my donation tax deductible?
A: Yes, however it is the Museum’s policy not to appraise artifacts. We recommend that you obtain an independent appraisal and work with your tax consultant.

The Tread of Pioneers Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits the artifacts, documents, photographs, films and oral histories that reflect our community’s history.

Through our annual Brown Bag lectures, historical walking tours, and other educational programs, the Museum brings the unique history of Steamboat Springs to life. Along with our enhanced educational programs, we are actively collecting oral histories and preserving many parts of our collection through digitization efforts.

The Museum is a non-profit, historical organization that relies on our members and donors to support our education and preservation efforts. Please join our efforts to preserve the unique heritage of this valley by becoming a member of the Museum today!

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THE STAFF AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TREAD OF PIONEERS MUSEUM WISH TO THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING AN ARTIFACT DONATION TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION.

The Museum collects items related to the history of Steamboat Springs and Routt County. If you have artifacts, video footage, photographs, or archival material that you believe would complement the Museum’s collection, please review the following commonly asked questions and answers.

Q: How do I donate an object to the Museum?

A: First, talk to the Museum’s Curator. The Curator can tell you whether the object is appropriate for our collection. If so, the Curator will accept your donation with a temporary receipt form signed by the Curator and yourself. The Museum’s Collections Committee meets periodically to review all of the donations that come to the Museum. If the Committee declines your object, you will be notified by the Museum and will have 30 days to retrieve your item. After this time, the Museum reserves the right to dispose of the items in whatever manner deemed suitable. If the Committee decides to accept your donation formally, a Deed of Gift will be issued. The Deed is a legal document transferring all rights of ownership of the object to the Museum.

Q: How will the Museum care for my donation?

A: The Tread of Pioneers Museum follows best practices and standards set by the American Association of Museums. The Museum also has set policies and procedures to best protect our collection.

Q: Will the Museum keep my donation forever?

A: As the legal owner of its collection, the Museum has the unrestricted right to use, store, display, or remove objects (called deaccession) in any manner that the Museum deems appropriate in keeping with professional museum practices. Objects will be kept by the Museum as long as they meet the Museum mission, and as long as the objects can be properly stored, preserved, and interpreted by the Museum.

If the Museum decides to deaccession the object, every reasonable attempt will be made to locate the original donor and inform them of the disposal of the object.

Q: Does the Museum take permanent or long-term loans?

A: The Museum does not accept long-term or "permanent" loans. We have a responsibility to care for our collections and not to act as caretakers for an individual's property.

Q: Will my donation be on exhibit?

A: This depends on the object’s appropriateness to the Museum’s exhibit program and schedule. Space limitations and conservation concerns dictate that we cannot exhibit all of our collection all of the time. However, your donation will receive the best care possible by the Museum, ensuring that it will be available for future generations.

Exhibits are not the only way we use our collection. The Museum is also devoted to the preservation of our collection and its use for research purposes.

Q: If my donation is exhibited, will I be credited?

A: Although the Museum keeps permanent documentation of all donors and the objects that have been donated, we do not necessarily include this information in all exhibit labels at all times.

Q: Does the Museum accept everything that it is offered?

A: No. According to our mission statement, the Museum collects items related to the history of Routt County. If you would like to know if your donation is appropriate for the Museum, please speak to our Curator.

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