Whole Body Donation Information

The mission of FACTS is to advance forensic anthropology through world-class education, research, and outreach.

What Do We Do?
• Conduct scientific research in human decomposition and skeletal biology
• Train law enforcement and future forensic scientists
• Provide expertise in human decomposition and human skeletal analyses

Whole Body Donation Facts
The gift of one’s body is a generous gift and an invaluable resource for education and scientific research.

Who is eligible to donate?
• FACTS accepts body donations under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. We accept pre-registered donors and body donations made by the legal next-of-kin
• FACTS will accept bodies that have been autopsied
• FACTS will accept individuals that have donated organs
• FACTS will not accept donors that have been embalmed, weigh over 500 pounds, or have an active communicable disease.
• Donations not meeting these requirements can be donated as cremations

Are donor records confidential?
• Yes, FACTS protects the confidentiality of its donors

What is the donor body used for?
• FACTS uses gifted bodies for scientific research related human decomposition and skeletal biology
• The gifted body is usually either placed on the surface or buried to decompose and the process of decomposition is documented
• After decomposition, the body is processed and the skeleton is accessioned into the Texas State University Donated Skeletal Collection

Are my remains returned to my family?
• No, the skeleton is kept in perpetuity and used for further research and education purposes

What is the cost to the family?
• There is no cost unless the donor must be temporarily stored, transported more than a 100 miles, or cremated
• Donors outside the 100 mile radius of San Marcos, Texas are responsible for arranging transportation to the Austin Airport or to FACTS

Donation Process
• Visit www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/donations for donation forms and answers to FAQ
• Inform your family of your wishes to donate
• Complete the appropriate “living” or “next-of-kin” donor packet and return to FACTS
• Complete your donor card and carry it with you.
• Upon death, FACTS will pick up your body from a funeral home, hospital, medical examiner’s office, or hospice center within 100 miles of San Marcos or from the Austin Airport. We cannot pick up bodies from private residence