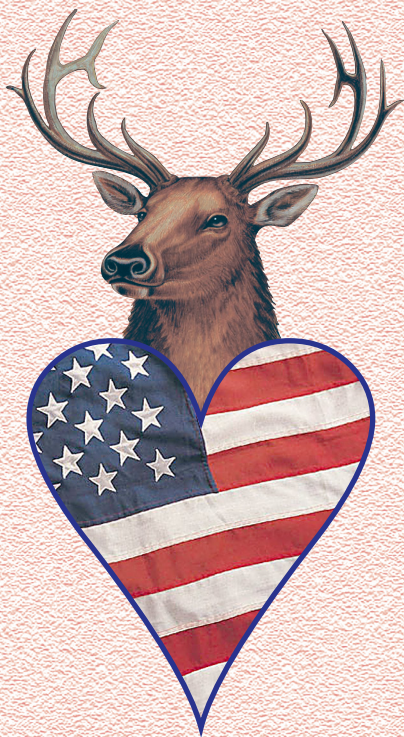


2024 ★ 2025 GRAND LODGE PROGRAM



*“Elkdom’s **Heart** For America”*

— GER Douglas A. Schiefer

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE
ORDER OF ELKS



“Elks Care — Elks Share”



Benevolent and Protective
Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

A Fraternal Organization

Mission Statement

★ *To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that “Elks Care — Elks Share.”*

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INTRODUCTION AND MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

My theme for 2024–2025 is **“ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA.”**

Since February 16, 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America has held true to the ideals of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Through selfless dedication and commitment to our programs and charities, our Order has evolved into our country’s oldest and largest fraternal organization. With nearly 800,000 Members and more than 1,800 Lodges nationwide, Elks continue providing charitable services that build stronger communities, while having a good time doing so. Community engagement is the foundation for all successful Lodges. We need to be more focused on promoting our good works in our communities, and to build those relationships and friendships with prospective Members who will want to join our Local Lodges.

As we move into this new year of Elkdom we must strive to engage in all of our Elks programs. Not only will this make your Lodge stronger, but also promote Elkdom throughout your community and show **“ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA.”**

Membership remains the biggest challenge facing our Lodges today. We need quality Members. Without them, Lodges will still experience the problems that have led to the downfall of many Lodges. The Lodges must continue their efforts to retain and pursue quality Members, upon which the Lodges can draw potential Officers.

Your Lodge must have a strong Orientation program for your new Members. The first impression of all your programs is the best way to interact with

the new Member. I believe your Lodge has at least one activity or program that will excite them. Get them involved early and often and your Lodge will be on the way to greatness. Your Lodge will continue to grow and prosper and keep showing **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

Let's not forget about our delinquent Members. Remember, these Members have already been a part of our Order and should have an understanding of all the great things we do. Sometimes it just takes a little reminder of why they joined our Order in the first place. You might ask them to go through Orientation again. Having them attend may help remind them of everything your Lodge is involved in and why they first joined our great Order.

Our nation is forever changing. We as Elks must make the commitment to keep up with the changes and move our Order forward. The road is not always a smooth one—there will be some obstacles along the way. In all our endeavors we have to promote our charitable works and let our Elks pride show through in everything we do. We need to be a stronghold in our communities. When assistance is needed, we must be the first to jump in and lend a hand to continue showing **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

The cardinal principles of our Order are Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. They are the fundamentals that we desire to achieve, not only in our Lodge, but in life as well. I know that by using these principles in my daily life, I have become a better individual in my Lodge, my community, and most important, my family and faith.

— Douglas A. Schiefer

Grand Exalted Ruler
2024-2025

A MESSAGE TO THE EXALTED RULER

Congratulations on your election! The Members of your Lodge elected you for a reason. You have earned their respect as a leader in your Lodge, as well as in the community that your Lodge serves. It is up to you to strive as their leader in promoting the cardinal principles of our Order.

As Exalted Ruler, you are charged with following the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Lodge, and especially your Lodge's by-laws, which provide the duties for which you and others are responsible. It's important to remember that you preside over your Lodge with impartiality. Get your Officers involved with the direction you feel is best for the Lodge and work together as a team showing **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**



It is your duty to mentor your Officers and committee chairpersons and to keep your Members informed and involved in everything that is going on. You are the head "cheerleader" for your Lodge, and sometimes it is easy to forget the little things that make each event and activity special. If you feel some Members are starting to stray from the path, sit down and chat with them about your goals and what we are trying to achieve. Always try to praise publicly and criticize privately.

Become familiar with the Elks' website. Ensure all your Officers and committee chairpersons know that all Elks' manuals are available online, along with newsletter articles and documents for other programs. This information will provide you with guidelines to make your year a success.

In the coming year, you are also required, by Grand Lodge Statute, to attend two District Deputy Clinics. These clinics provide you with valuable information and tools you will need to help your Lodge succeed.

As Exalted Ruler, you are in charge of overseeing Lodge operations. This does not mean you should act as a committee of one, but rather collaborate with your Officers and Trustees (Board of Directors) to make sure you are there to help remove any obstacles preventing them from moving forward as a group. Do not forget you are responsible for another primary duty: to implement the Grand Lodge, State Association, and Local Lodge programs.

Follow the recommendations of your area member of the Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee and District Deputy. You must work closely with your Local Audit Committee to guarantee that your Lodge operations are sound. You will then be able to focus on all of the activities throughout the year and continue to let those around you experience **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."** Past Exalted Rulers in your Lodge are a resource for information and may be able to provide guidance and assistance. Do not forget about your District Deputy or other individuals in leadership roles in your district. They are all there to help you.

The Grand Lodge monthly newsletter includes articles that will help you stay on track with your Lodge activities and keep you informed of the happenings at Grand Lodge. Should you read something that you feel is important to your Lodge, add the article to your local newsletter for your membership. This newsletter is yet another great way to educate our Members about who we are and show them **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."** Congratulations again and best wishes for a great year!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR LODGE SECRETARIES

Thank you for accepting this important office. You have taken an important role in helping your Lodge succeed. You need to track all the dates when reports are due and assist the Exalted Ruler to stay on point with all the activities schedules. You are also responsible for the CLMS membership program that ensures all your Members are properly informed of their membership status and that their records are in order for Grand Lodge.

You have unselfishly taken on a great responsibility for your Lodge. A Lodge with a great Secretary is one that operates flawlessly behind the scenes. This task cannot be taken lightly. You have been elected to a position that may at first be a little daunting, but you are the face in the office for the membership. As always, Exalted Rulers come and go, but a Lodge Secretary is a position of longevity that adds stability to the Lodge.

You will find that Members may come to you first with questions and complaints. It is your job to make them feel that you are listening to them and that you will make sure that their concerns are taken seriously and forwarded to the appropriate individuals.

You probably don't hear it enough, so please accept this "*Thank You!*" for your dedication and commitment.

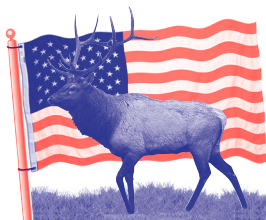
A MESSAGE TO ALL LODGE OFFICERS

Congratulations to the Officers of every Lodge throughout our great Order. The Members of your Lodge placed their confidence and trust in you and your abilities—you should be very proud. You should consider it an honor to be chosen to be a leader within your Lodge.

As an Officer, at your installation you took a solemn oath *"to practice the virtues of Charity, Justice, and Brotherly Love, and with Fidelity, to perform the duties of the office for which you have been chosen to the best of your ability."* If you faithfully honor that commitment, you will ensure success in all your Lodge's endeavors. Throughout your time in office, you should provide positive support to your Exalted Ruler.

You are now part of the team. Strengthen it by building relationships with your fellow Officers. Take this opportunity to make new friends and learn from experience during your service to your Lodge.

Your Exalted Ruler cannot do everything alone; you should be proactive by seeking opportunities to contribute to the advancement of your Lodge. Those opportunities will allow you to develop your



own leadership and management skills. Approach all your activities with a positive frame of mind. Goodwill towards others will become extremely valuable, because soon you may be relying on them to help. The diverse skills demonstrated by you and your fellow Officers will enable your Lodge to succeed and prosper.

As you lead and support Lodge activities, please remember that your actions create a perception of who we are. As Officers, you must be exemplars of Brotherly Love by showing **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

Embrace these concepts when working with other Officers and Members, and you will be successful in your role and a leader in advancing the interests of your Lodge within your community. Use the resources provided by Grand Lodge, your State Association, and your district.

Take advantage of the many educational opportunities presented to you as an Officer when you attend District Deputy Clinics and State Association training sessions. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to learn about Elkdom and its many great programs. Most State Associations provide training for Officers and Members, and the skills you learn will reinforce your leadership and management capabilities. Remember that Grand Lodge manuals can be downloaded at elks.org.

As you participate in your Lodge's community activities, it is important to ensure that your Lodge receives credit and recognition when Members perform benevolent acts. Make some noise: Invite the media, take pictures, and write a press release. Be passionate about the good work your Lodge does and let everyone know who the Elks are. You will project a positive image of your Lodge, its Members, and our great Order while encouraging membership growth and volunteerism. Always be appreciative that *Elks Care—Elks Share!*

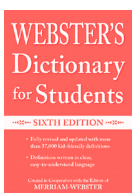
Again, thank you very much for your commitment and service to your Lodge, your community, and to Elkdom. Enjoy your year and show **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee is tasked with overseeing our Community Projects and Youth Activities Programs, including the Elks Hoop Shoot, the Dictionary Project, Elks Soccer Shoot, our Drug Awareness Program, and scholarship programs, among others.

This is where **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA"** reinforces our commitment to these programs. It's our opportunity to show our communities why it is important to be engaged as Members of this great organization.

Some of the many ways Lodges are helping their communities through the Activities Committee are as outlined:



DICTIONARY PROJECT ● This project, which provides dictionaries to third-grade students, establishes a very strong connection with our young people. Many who have received these dictionaries have never heard of the Elks. This may be the only opportunity to reach out to them. The gift of a dictionary is a gift of language and literacy.

JUNIOR GOLF ● Consider starting a Junior Golf Program in your community. It will provide a way for our youth to interact with one another. The Junior Golf Program introduces our youth and families to the Elks and its programs.

SOCCER SHOOT ● This program gives an opportunity for our youth to demonstrate their soccer skills in a friendly, yet competitive, manner. I encourage all Lodges to participate in the Elks Soccer Shoot Program. For more information about starting a Soccer Shoot Program, refer to the most recent version of the Elks Soccer Shoot Manual. Remember, "*Soccer—It's a Kick!*"



ANTLERS ● This program can be started and managed by following the guidelines and by-laws supplied by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee. Every Lodge can form its own Antlers Program for boys and girls ages 12-19 and guide them toward responsible citizenship through joint participation in our community service programs. Log on to elks.org for more information.



Teach young people what being an Elk is really like. The values instilled

in our youngsters through a Local Lodge Antlers Program reward them with the power of giving and provide examples of what the Order is all about.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY ● Your Lodge can adopt a designated area to maintain and care for, providing your Members an opportunity to donate time to a worthwhile community endeavor. As a bonus, the Local Lodge will get credit with a highway sign acknowledging the service of its Members.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS/FOOD PANTRY ● What a tremendous way to show to our communities **“ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA”** by donating our time to assist with a Meals-on-Wheels or a food pantry program. This program provides services to help Member programs keep pace with this growing community need.

A food pantry program can be easily started at your Lodge by providing a box for items to be collected for delivery to a local pantry. This can be a year-long program where every Member may participate. Remember, *Elks Care—Elks Share!*

ELKS YOUTH PROGRAMS

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our young people are often subjected to many negative influences. An important and positive contribution to our communities is to offer productive experiences to our youth. The Grand Lodge Activities Committee promotes numerous youth programs, including:

- ✓ Scholarships for graduating high school seniors and others
- ✓ Legacy Award scholarships for children and grandchildren of Elks Members
- ✓ The Dictionary Project, where Elks give the “gift of words” to elementary school students



- ✓ Student/Teacher of the Month/Year recognition programs
- ✓ Formation and support of Antlers (Junior Elks) Lodges
- ✓ Boys and Girls Scouting programs recognition awards
- ✓ Hoop Shoot free throw competition
- ✓ Sponsorship of youth sports teams
- ✓ Support of junior golf, bowling, and tennis programs
- ✓ National Youth Week
- ✓ Youth citizenship programs
- ✓ Community Projects
- ✓ Sponsorship of youth camps
- ✓ Sponsorship of programs for special needs and developmentally challenged youth.

Many informative pamphlets are produced by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee and are available to the Lodges. These are valuable to the Lodge Youth Activities Committee for continuing existing programs and implementing new ones.

For years, our Order has run the following programs for our youth: ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship, Emergency Grants for children of deceased Elks, and the Hoop Shoot. We have always given to our youth while never expecting anything in return. Now is the time to involve our youth and ask them to give back to the community.

The success of your Lodge's Youth Activities Program will depend on finding Elks who are dedicated to organizing the different youth activities. An adequate budget of Lodge funds is also needed. Most youth programs require funding as well as hard work to operate effectively. The Lodge should consider being a part of the award contests sponsored by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee, which recognizes Lodges and State Associations that excel in youth programs.

We should make our communities aware that the Elks are one of the largest suppliers of scholarships to our nation's youth. Make sure information on all the scholarship applications are given to the high schools in your Lodges' jurisdiction. The information is posted at elks.org. Publicize the Most Valuable Student scholarship programs by submitting news releases and photographs of recipients to local media.

Implementing an effective and well-rounded Youth Activities Program will show **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA"** and demonstrate to our communities that we are dedicated to the youth of today. It's time for each Lodge to step up and develop a stellar Youth Activities Program.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT FREE THROW CONTEST

The Elks Hoop Shoot program continues to provide a competitive basketball free throw contest for more than a half million boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 13 every year. This program, adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1972, has developed into one of the nation's largest and most-recognized youth basketball activities.

Through the Hoop Shoot, the Elks National Foundation teaches young people the values of hard work and good sportsmanship. Each Lodge must continue to provide this opportunity for the



young people in its community. The Elks' involvement with the youth demonstrates to our nation the positive image of our Order. This image can be projected through strong public relations.

In addition, this program passed the 100 million participant milestone and was recognized at center court of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. The ENF allocated about \$1 million to fund this program, made possible with the support of you, the Members. It is imperative to enlighten the public to the good works for our youth, and our presence at the Hall of Fame gives the Elks that opportunity.

We continue to show people **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA"** by reaching out in every community to assure that all boys and girls have the opportunity to participate in this amazing program. Each Lodge committee must send announcements to the schools, recreation departments, and local media stating the time and place of its contest. Also, be sure to follow up with a press release announcing the winners. These good works will expose you to many new potential Members. For more information on the Hoop Shoot, visit elks.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Local community service programs build stronger communities and motivate worthy members of the public to seek membership in the Elks. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future.

The Activities Committee in each Lodge leads the way. We sometimes get sidetracked by forces beyond our control that have influenced declines in all fraternal organizations. Technology has made it easier to reach out to new Members—we need to embrace it if we are to be successful.

We must also remain steadfast to our proven principles because they have withstood the test of time. If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I'm confident that we will see an increase in membership—not mere temporary gains, but a new era of growth where participation becomes commonplace.

Successful Lodges of the future will create and develop local projects that will become signature accomplishments in the eyes of the community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved. Every Member of our Order has the power to become a facilitator of change in their community. By joining a committee, you will have the support of Elkdom to bring your charitable ideas to life. I challenge you to help usher in this new era by becoming a pillar within your own community.

Remember that no committee can be successful on its own. To achieve both short- and long-term goals, Lodge committees must work together in keeping with the theme **“ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA.”**

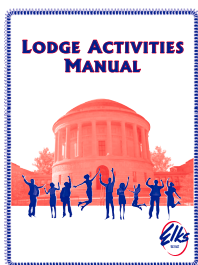
Our great charity, the Elks National Foundation (ENF), makes numerous grants available that facilitate these efforts. What better way to enhance the image of your Lodge in the community than to conduct a worthy community project with financial support from *“The Great Heart of Elkdom.”* Your community will thank you, your Members will thank you, and your Lodge will be rewarded.

In turn, we offer our support to the ENF, which is an excellent way to help our brother and sister Elks all over the country as they reach out to their communities. Indeed, our unity makes us strong. Let us endeavor to work together as Local Lodges, within our home states, and throughout the nation as proud Elks and let everyone know **“ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA”** within our communities.

LODGE ACTIVITIES

Lodge Activities are vital to a successful Lodge. The Exalted Ruler and Officers have the responsibility to ensure that social activities, club functions, and projects can involve all Members. A successful Lodge activity will promote unity and will incentivize planning and implementing future activities.

The Lodge Activities Manual, available for download at elks.org, provides many programs for a Lodge to promote. This manual should be the first reference for the Lodge Activities Committee.



Lodges should strive to involve new Members and encourage them to become active in Lodge activities and social functions. Fresh ideas from new Members will have a positive influence on the direction of the Lodge and bring new life to a Lodge. Involving new and old

Members will help ensure their long retention as active dues paying Members.

The Grand Lodge annually presents awards for excellent participation in programs, including Elks National Foundation contributions.

The most prestigious Grand Lodge award is the “**All-American Lodge**” designation. Lodges that participate in these activities thrive in their communities. The All-American Lodge designation is a tremendous way to show “**ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA**” within your community.



FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

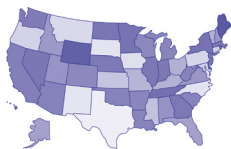
The Fraternal Committee promotes, supports, and oversees essential Grand Lodge programs that include the Americanism Essay Contest, Flag Day, Elks Memorial Day, the All American Lodge Contest, and Lodge Activities and State Associations contests. These programs grow our Lodges, instill pride in membership, and carry on long-held traditions unique to our organization.

Some of the programs the Fraternal Committee works so hard on throughout the year are detailed below.

AMERICANISM—Patriotism is a cornerstone of Elkdom, so it's important to show your community that the Elks promote national pride.

FLAG DAY—This event was created by the Elks. It's an opportunity to teach people in your community about our ritual while promoting respect for the flag of our country.

LODGE ACTIVITIES/STATE ASSOCIATIONS—Many activities sponsored or recommended by Grand Lodge and the Grand Exalted Ruler are advanced via State Associations across the country. Every Lodge has a responsibility to develop their own Lodge activities while supporting State Association programs.



ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM—The Elks continue its association with Donate Life America to increase donations of organs, eyes, and tissue. The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is asking Lodges nationwide to promote the Organ Donor Program in their bulletins and Lodge websites to inspire Members and citizens in the communities to make these life-saving donations.

For more information on donations and how to become a registered donor in your state, click on Donate Life icon at elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/donatelife.cfm to go to the Donate Life website, or by logging directly onto donatelife.net. You never know whose life you may be saving by participating in the Donate Life program.

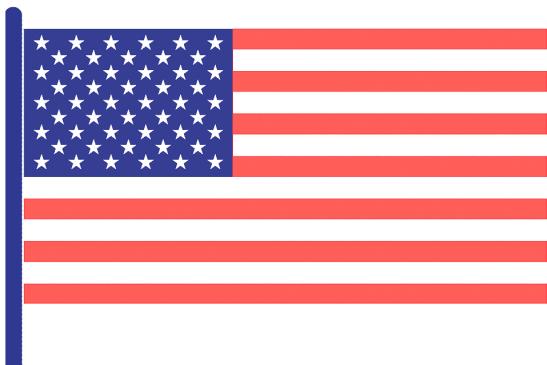
AMERICANISM AND OUR FLAG

Elks are, first and foremost, Americans who have always been proud to display and honor the flag of our country. This is especially important as some of our citizens seek to have the words “under God” stricken from our Pledge of Allegiance to that emblem of freedom and symbol of unity.

Showing our patriotism as Elks is easy. Wear a pin of our country’s flag on your lapel. Salute our flag as it passes in parades or when the Star-Spangled Banner is played. By taking part in these simple actions, you are exhibiting your love of country and sharing our understanding of the great sacrifices that have been made by the men and women of our armed forces.



The Elks have always been there to support our flag and those who defend it. We must continue to take every opportunity to inform the public about our Americanism Program. When we honor the flag of our country, we not only honor the principles for which it stands, but also those who sacrifice so much in its defense. We honor past generations who ensured our liberty with the Declaration of Independence and those who forged the Constitution. We pay tribute to those who fought tyranny at home and on foreign soil, and those who presently serve to protect our freedom from those who try to undermine it.



We honor the memory of heroes — of common men and women, patriots one and all. Lodge Members should be encouraged to fly the flag at home with the same pride and patriotism.

Make Flag Day special in your community by sponsoring a flag service for all organizations to attend. Present awards to local businesses that fly the flag every day.

The Grand Lodge Americanism Program is outlined in the Americanism Manual. It explains many programs for our Lodges, schools, and communities. These include presenting a classroom flag to our schools, the Elks Americanism Essay Contest, Law and Order Night, Media Night, and Citizen- and Volunteer-of-the-Year Awards.

Exalted Rulers can guarantee a successful Americanism Program by appointing a dedicated chairperson and seeking out enthusiastic committee members. The flag that flies over your Lodge should be displayed day and night in a well-lit, properly maintained fashion. Most importantly, record your efforts and publicize them. Be loud and proud Americans!

For more information, contact your State Association or your Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, posted at elks.org.

The Fraternal Committee implemented the Fly the Flag Program that presents a recognition certificate for properly flying the United States flag 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Local Lodges are encouraged to present a Grand Lodge Recognition Certificate of Honor to local businesses and merchants for proper display of flying our U.S. Flag during the day and at night with proper illumination. The Recognition Certificate of Honor is available to Local Lodges as a fillable PDF to download at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org) under the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee section.

The Fraternal Committee believes that this Americanism Program activity will provide Local Lodges another tool to increase effective public relations and patriotism in the community by promoting outside-the-Lodge relationships. I believe our Lodges that implement this program will show their community **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**



***Representation of certificate. Actual certificate can be found, filled in and printed out at: <https://www.elks.org/GrandLodge/fraternal/files/FlyTheFlagCertificate.pdf>**

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

State Associations act as valuable liaisons between Grand Lodge and Local Lodges. State Associations guide Lodges in promoting Grand Lodge Programs and sponsor unique Major Projects within each state. Without State Associations, programs of the Order would not be as successful on a state level. State Associations also provide support and operational expertise that benefit individual Elks, Lodges, and our entire Order.

Each Lodge is encouraged to participate in its State Association Programs, most of which are also Grand Lodge Programs. These programs provide opportunities to work with other Lodges in the state, thus offering opportunities to learn and gain experience from one another.

Every State Association has a Major Project that is supported by a suggested per Member contribution, fundraising, or donations by all Elks Members in that state. Some examples include burn clinics and hospitals, eye clinics, mobile dental clinics, cancer centers, specialty homes, and summer camps for kids with and without special needs. Whatever the project, they are near and dear to the Members. Many times, projects are staffed by Elks volunteers.

State Associations also implement many Grand Lodge Programs such as the Hoop Shoot, drug awareness, accident prevention, veterans services, and ritual competition, to name a few. Most State Associations also have their own scholarship programs, whether it be for graduating seniors, continuing education for those already in the workforce, or those wanting to attend vocational schools. Most also have a program that recognizes those individuals or Lodges for their participation and excellence each year, and they take the opportunity to award them in front of their brother and sister Members during its annual meetings



DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

In 1983, the Elks made drug awareness education for our youth a national priority. Since its inception, the Drug Awareness Program (DAP) has grown in size and scope and has been recognized as the largest all-volunteer drug awareness program in the United States. The Elks DAP strives to teach children and their families about the dangers of illicit drug use, and it is dedicated to preventing the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs.

The Elks DAP relies on state, district, and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America's communities and youth, the DAP takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration. The Program constantly works to improve its message and is a leader among Elksdom in its innovative and technologically advanced delivery methods.

This struggle to educate our youth about drugs and assist them in making informed decisions must be advanced at the community level. Our national, state, and Local Lodge Drug Awareness Programs encourage volunteers to **LISTEN**, **EDUCATE**, and **MENTOR**, thereby showing "**ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA.**"

►**LISTEN**► It is virtually impossible to answer anything before understanding the question. Young people today are faced with a myriad of challenges and problems. While broad brush solutions help many, in the life-saving work of the DAP, it is imperative that action plans are developed to solve problems one life at a time. That is why the Elks DAP offers a wide range of programs and activities.

The DAP asks states to do what works for them, but in all instances, it asks them to listen. Youth want to be heard, and to do that we must listen to what they are telling us. The mission of the DAP is to influence how youth solve these dilemmas without resorting to the false promises of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. By providing resource-backed information, tools, and educational programs, we can merge both ends of the spectrum to forge a healthy and productive lifestyle based on wellness.

► **EDUCATE** ► The Elks DAP has partnered with federal agencies to provide the most up-to-date information available on drugs and their effects on youth and communities. The relationship this program has with the DEA is exceptional. Their core values are: Rule of Law; Respect and Compassion; Service; Devotion; Integrity; Accountability; Leadership and Courage; and Diversity. These go hand-in-hand with the mission statement and the values of DAP.

All the information that Elks provide to our communities through our Local Lodges is fact-checked by our experts to ensure it's accurate. Equipped with this information, Lodges are able to develop successful and meaningful programs to meet local needs. By utilizing information made available through the Grand Lodge, via your State Association and your State DAP Chairperson, awareness must be at the forefront of our effort.

A prime example would be our many websites, especially elksteenzone.org, which has been redesigned to reach middle school students. Students can access videos, games, and educational materials, and they can earn certificates from the Elks upon completing these lessons.



Another example of this is our Drug Quiz Show program. **The Elks Drug Quiz Show** has received numerous awards and honors through the years. These include the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Award for Excellence in Community Health Promotions.

Millions of pieces of awareness educational materials are distributed by Local Lodges each year. Elroy the Elk, the official mascot of the DAP, and DAP trailers and pop-up tents routinely appear at state and local events. There is a wealth of information at your disposal, including parenting tips and a variety of videos, posters, coloring books, comic books, bookmarks, and public service announcements—all at no cost to Lodges. Poster, essay, and video contests are offered, as well as the prestigious **Enrique S. Camarena Award**, annually given to a member of law enforcement who has made significant contributions in the field of drug prevention. Expert speakers, such as Ray Lozano and Heather DiBlasi, are available in-person and via video webinar during Red Ribbon Week in October.

There is strength in knowledge, and it starts through education. The Elks are recognized as leaders in drug education.

► **MENTOR** ► Listening to and educating our youth are important steps. Empowerment takes this knowledge to the next level. Peer leaders mentoring younger students, keeping eyes open for students crying out for help, and offering suggestions learned from our educational materials and programs are the keys to success. Those students who we directly influence will have the ability to reach thousands more. We know that leadership improves through mentoring, and the DAP established a mentoring program more than 10 years ago.

Our Elks' image is extremely important. By setting an example we strengthen our communities. If not through the DAP, Lodges should consider the Antlers Program. Not only are these youth a part of America's future, but they are also an important part of Elkdom's future.

► **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** ► The Elks Drug Awareness Program is funded through the Elks National Foundation. Individual State Associations and Lodges should develop budgets to advance their participation.

All Lodges are encouraged to develop Community Investment Projects, enabling them to help schools and communities to become diverse places in which to live and grow, and thus continue to let people experience **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

Grants are available to help fund these programs and projects. Hosting a community event and partnering with other Elks youth programs are prevention programs.



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

Public Relations and Membership Marketing is essential to promote a positive image, foster goodwill, and increase membership. Help share the pride of Elkdom. A prime objective of every Local Lodge is to enhance both Member and community confidence in our purposes and programs.

By enhancing our Lodge image, we are investing in our future. This not only helps recruit new Members, but also helps retain the support of our current Members. Regardless of whether people

support the Lodge with a donation of time or money, they'll likely want to know that they're making their community a much better place.

Adding worthy Members to our Order has become a priority in recent years. It's important to remember that membership is more than filling out an application and initiating a new Member. For our Local Lodges to be successful, **new Members must become active and involved**. This is only possible when we focus on investigation and orientation. We must also be diligent to retain Members, or seek reinstatement for those who have allowed their membership to lapse.

It's the mission of the Grand Lodge Public Relations & Membership Marketing Committee to make sure the public is able to see the impact that **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA"** is having in the communities we serve.

Procurement, Retention & Orientation Program

Invest in your Lodge by helping to grow your membership. We all need to remain focused on membership in the form of recruitment, reinstatements, and frequent initiations. Invite friends and family to join our ranks. By being focused on membership growth in your Lodge, you are focused on the future of your Lodge and our Order.

All delinquent Members should be called and/or personally visited in September. Please review all delinquent Members who may be worthy of Lodge assistance and keep them on the rolls. We have many deserving Members who are suffering from health setbacks, advanced age challenges, and severe financial hardships. **Charity is the greatest of all of the virtues**, and Elks charity begins at home.

Orientation is the heart of membership, and it is the key to retaining new Members and getting them involved. Grand Lodge supplies an Orientation video and many other materials that will familiarize

the new Member with many of our programs. These tools are wonderful, but your interaction with the new Member is also of great importance.

After showing the Orientation video, take some time to explain everything the Elks do on a local, state, and national level. Show them how much money is contributed to worthy causes and those in need. Empower them to take advantage of the many resources afforded them as a Member and encourage them to bring their ideas to a meeting or express an idea for an ENF grant. Orientation is also the time to show them around your Lodge and invite them to use it. Be sure to show them your house rules and hours of operation. Explain the way a meeting is run, the protocols, and how the Order is structured on every level.

Orientation is your best chance at making a first impression, so make it count. This is also a great opportunity to explain what your state project is and introduce the benefits of it.

It is important to be mindful of membership and be alert for individuals who might become valuable Members of your Lodge. At your Lodge events you will meet people who appreciate your efforts and would be receptive to an invitation to join.

Also, consider holding an open house after a public charitable event. Invite prospective Members to your Lodge and show them what you're all about. As Elks, we do great work, and we have fun doing it. If you approach membership with the same enthusiasm, retention and participation will become worries of the past.

Change Your Sign—Change Your Image

With millions of people driving by our Lodges each day, our roadside signs are a vital part of our Public Relations & Marketing strategy. We encourage you to make better use of your Lodge sign to enhance your image within the community.



What a great way to support my theme **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

Each month, take time to educate and remind your community and membership about the Elks' significant charitable impact. Ask your Lodge Secretary for the last five-year average of your Government Relations Charitable Reports and proudly display this information for everyone to see.

Take the number of years your Lodge has been established and multiply that number by the five-year charitable report average. Your community and your membership will be impressed and proud of the great work being done by your Lodge.

Use Our New Recruitment & Marketing Video

We have made available a video called *"Why We Join."* This video was created to be shared with your friends and family and with our communities at public events. It educates and inspires the public on what we as Elks do and why we joined our Lodge.

This video was sent to your Lodge Secretary as a companion piece to the new Member Orientation video. It is free of charge. Our "Why We Join" video can also be found on elks.org in the Membership Toolkit, and on YouTube.

Educate your membership by showing "Why We Join" at a Lodge meeting and in social quarters. Encourage your Members to send "Why We Join" to friends and family. Show it at all public events like your Lodge Hoop Shoot and when you invite the public to your Lodge. Consider placing the link to "Why We Join" on your Lodge website and social media page.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Elks National Foundation, known as the “*Great Heart of Elkdom*,” helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work.

The best source for the most current information about the ENF is the Foundation’s website at elks.org/enf. Spend some time there. You’ll be amazed by what the Foundation is doing.

By supporting “**ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA**” and promoting and participating in the work of the ENF, you can contribute to the success of this great program.

I especially want to call your attention to the Foundation’s **Community Investments Program**. The Foundation has allocated more than \$13.5 million for Lodge community service grants. This grant program allows your Lodge to do more for your community.



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**
Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

Make Elks’ presence felt by using these grants. What is your Lodge known for in your community? What reputation would you like to have? See a need, fill a need. That’s “**ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA.**” Our support makes the Foundation’s work possible. The goal we have established for the 2024-2025 fraternal year is \$5.00 per Member. That is only a little more than 1¢ per day and is not much when you consider the outstanding achievements of this program.

I challenge every Member of Elkdom to support the ENF. Be sure to tell new Members about all of the incredible things that the ENF makes possible on a local, state, and national level. The charitable, educational, and benevolent causes supported by the Elks National Foundation are the most important

financial contributions made by our Order and deserve the continued support of every Member.

I challenge you also with becoming a member of the Fidelity Club. This is an easy integrated system for you to give monthly to ENF with ease.

Please visit elks.org/enf for more information about the Elks National Foundation, or to make a donation.

The Elks National Foundation is a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation under 501(c)(3) of the Tax Reform Act of 1959 and, as such, all contributions to the ENF are deductible for federal income and gift tax purposes.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The Elks are committed to their mission, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

I always like to add, "*we never have and never will.*" The Elks Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further and promises to aid our nation's veterans and military members, with a special focus on those in need. Our programs educate and empower local communities by giving them the resources to directly serve veterans, military members, and their families.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission supports a vast network of Voluntary Service Representatives, providing local outreach support to our veterans in need all over the country. This network is only successful because of the hard work performed by individual Members.

In 1946, the Commission formalized a commitment to serving veterans that was evident since the earliest days of Elkdom. Though much has changed since then, the Elks' dedication to serve veterans and military members in need has never wavered. In VA clinics, veterans' homes, USOs,

homeless shelters, and more, thousands of Elks volunteers generously give their time, energy, and resources to serve veterans and military members.

Through VA partnerships, independent sponsorships, funds available to State Associations, and Elks National Foundation grants, Lodges have access to many resources to serve veterans and military members in their community.

ELKS VETERANS PROGRAMS

Though our volunteers serve the many needs of veterans, these four programs comprise nearly 95% of what the Elks National Veterans Service Commission does.

ELKS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM. The Elks are a committed partner with VA Hospitals, veterans facilities, and veterans homes. Throughout our great country, the Elks have hundreds of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representatives and VAVS Deputy Representatives working to assist our veterans by serving treats, playing bingo, hosting breakfasts, delivering Christmas gifts, organizing fishing outings, transporting them to organized handicapped games, bringing them to see shows and ballgames, and much more.



What a great way to let people know **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA"** by providing the much-needed comfort, support, and friendship to our veterans. The Veterans Administration Hospitals are extremely grateful for what the Elks do and they know that they can count on our assistance whenever called upon. Since the Elks' commitment to the Voluntary Service Program, we have served hundreds of thousands of veterans, and have done so with pride.

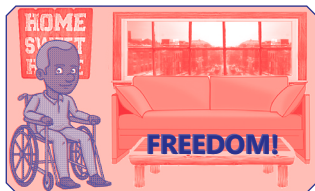
FREEDOM GRANTS. These grants offer a unique opportunity to harness the Elks' passion for serving veterans and military members. Freedom Grants give Lodges the tools and funding needed to turn that passion into projects with tangible impact. These competitive grants are awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. Freedom Grants must focus on one of these five areas of increased need: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health, or educational support.

VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM. This program relies on the charity of hunters (Elks or non-Elks) across the nation to donate hides. These hides are turned into professionally crafted gloves for veterans in wheelchairs, which are distributed at veterans adaptive sports clinics and gatherings throughout the country. Leather is also used to create therapy kits to help veterans rehabilitate and recover.

WELCOME HOME. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks have pledged to end veteran homelessness. The Welcome Home Program helps Elks serve veterans exiting or at risk of homelessness by gathering home supplies for newly housed veterans, offering emergency assistance to help veterans prevent or exit homelessness, and providing grants to Lodges in areas of highest need specifically to help veterans experiencing homelessness.

These national programs are only a glimpse of the ways your Lodge can reach out to veterans. Through many local and state programs, Elks find many ways to directly support veterans and military families in their community.

To stay at the forefront of veterans service, we must continuously listen and adapt to the needs of



all veterans, including those of younger generations. As we learn more about their need for mental health treatment, adaptive recreation, and accessible housing for veterans with disabilities, among others, we will continue to update our programs to offer the best support possible to those who have served.

OUR PROMISE TO VETERANS IS NOT AN IDLE PLEDGE!

Every Lodge should have an active Veterans Committee, dedicated to meeting the needs of veterans and military members in their community.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation. When you donate to the ENF, you help the Elks continue **“ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA”** and our tradition of serving our nation’s veterans.

For more information about all our Veterans Programs, please visit elks.org.



Virtual Tour at: elks.org/memorial

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

If you have the opportunity to visit Chicago, you should consider taking a tour of our Elks Veterans Memorial Building. As you explore this awe-inspiring structure, which was completed in 1926, you will be reminded of all the veterans who gave so much of themselves so we could enjoy our freedom and peace.

You will be amazed at its elegance and beauty, and the incredible craftsmanship and artwork. It would be inspiring if every Member could visit the Memorial with their family. If you do, you will have wonderful memories and pictures of your visit. You will find yet another reason to be proud you are an Elk. I have visited the Memorial Building several times with family and friends while in Chicago. I've visited during restoration of the Memorial Building and again after the restoration had been completed.

The Memorial Building has been restored to its original splendor, but there are financial needs for general upkeep and prevention from deterioration. A Memorial Building Trust was established to take care of major repairs and keep the building in its restored brilliance, but the Trust needs our donations.

We ask that each Lodge hold one fundraiser this year for the Memorial Building Trust, and for individual Elks Members to donate. These efforts will keep the monument to our veterans in excellent condition.

The Memorial Building is open to the public from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday from the week of April 15 to the week of November 15. It is closed on Sundays. For out-of-season tours call the Elks National Headquarters at (773) 755-4708 to make an appointment.

Donations to the Elks Veterans Memorial Building Trust are tax deductible. Voluntary tax deductible contributions can be sent to “The Elks National Memorial Restoration Trust” at 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889.

RITUAL

From our earliest days, Ritual in all its forms has been an integral part of our Order. It has been a key to keeping tradition with times gone by, as well as offering opportunities for the Officers and Members of our Lodges to distinguish themselves in the eyes of other Members and candidates for membership. From services like Mother’s Day and our Elks Memorial Service, there should be passion and meaning conveyed to instill a deeper sense of the meaning of Elkdom in the hearts of those who witness it. Please take the time to become familiar with the rituals of our Order so that the best possible exemplification can be rendered. It will be impressive and appreciated.

Of particular importance is the Initiatory Ritual. New candidates considering whether their Lodge is a place they want to commit time and effort may be influenced by our ritual and its performance. Their Initiation is a vital step in helping them form a favorable impression. Please make every effort to present the best possible initiations in order to build lasting relationships with new Members.

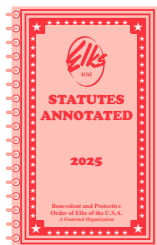
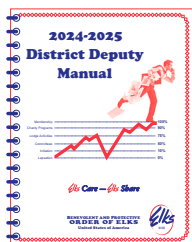
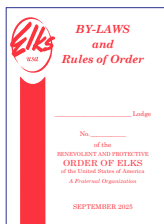
One of the most impressive parts of the Ritual is the 11 O'Clock Toast, a remembrance of those who have gone before us. It is also a focus of one of our new contests in Ritual. At least one person in each Lodge should compete in the Ric Mulholland 11 O'Clock Toast Contest, as well as the Ted Callicott Flag Presentation Contest in your State Association contests so that every state is represented in the national competition.

Take pride in these new ritual contests. Your participation further demonstrates **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA."**

LODGE OPERATIONS

The most successful Lodges comply with the requirements spelled out in the Statutes and manuals of our Order. Those that are not as successful usually do things their own way and not necessarily by the rules. This may be because certain individuals are inexperienced and unaware of the requirements, or are purposely disregarding those rules.

Through the District Deputies, State Associations, and State Sponsors, Lodges are encouraged to adhere to sound business practices, comply with the manuals and Statutes of our Order, and follow the requirements of state and local governments where the Lodges reside. State Associations are encouraged to appoint capable Elks to their State Business Practices Committee to help and assist the Local Lodges, when requested, to guide them



through sound business practices, as well as continuing to comply with our Statutes, rules, and regulations.

Assistance to Lodges is provided by request of the Lodge, or as determined through District Deputy evaluations and/or directions of the State Sponsor. Lodges are encouraged to operate properly, making them stronger and ensuring the long-term viability of both Local Lodges and of our great Order.



GL AUDITING & ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE [FRS]

Grand Lodge Statute, Section 13.040, mandates the use of the Financial Reporting System [FRS], a cloud-based storage and financial reporting program. The FRS will enable Grand Lodge Area Auditing and Accounting Committee Members to review the financial status of individual Lodges throughout the year. Reports built into the system will provide timely alerts of possible financial problems occurring within the Lodges. By using these reports and reacting to the alerts, financial concerns can be addressed as they arise.

The FRS manual provides information on FRS training and the responsibilities of the Lodge FRS Coordinator, the Lodge Secretary and/or Treasurer, the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler (DDGER), and the State FRS Coordinator. Lodges will continue to use their same bookkeeper/accountant and their same financial software (QuickBooks Desktop recommended).

FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN ELKDOM

The family has long been the cornerstone of American society, as evidenced by our nation's two most popular holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These holidays are observed throughout the country when families gather together and celebrate.

Family is also the cornerstone of Elkdom. Our Lodges provide an environment where parents can spend time with good friends without having to worry about the safety of their children. Many of our Lodge activities revolve around families, and many of our programs seek to help parents with the challenges of raising children.

We also reach out to families in need. Aid from relief committees, programs made possible through ENF Grants, and our many State Projects put families and their needs at the forefront of our charitable efforts.



GRAND EXALTED RULER AWARDS

The Grand Exalted Ruler Awards are presented to individuals and Lodges who truly exemplify the theme **“ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA.”**

FOR OUTSTANDING MEMBERS:

A. Elks who recruit three (3) or more new or reinstated Members will receive a personal message of thanks and a GER Award Pin. For bringing in eleven (11) new or reinstated Members, a beautiful Elks watch will be awarded. For thirty-three (33) new or reinstated Members, an Elks desk clock will be awarded.

NOTE: Lodge Secretaries should forward the completed request form to the Office of Grand Secretary, ATTN: Membership Award. *(The postmark deadline for these awards is June 15, 2025.)*



B. Each Exalted Ruler may issue two (2) Grand Exalted Ruler *“Outstanding Service Commendation”* certificates to Members performing outstanding service to their Lodge.

NOTE: An order form and instructions may be downloaded at elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/GERAwardCertificationForms.pdf, or from the thumb drive distributed to Exalted Rulers at the annual Grand Lodge Session. Click on “GER Special Citation Awards” in the “Keys to the 2024-2025 Program Year” listed in the Table of Contents. *(Requests should be postmarked no later than March 31, 2025.)*

FOR EXALTED RULERS:

A special "Making A Difference" Citation will be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in six (6) or more of the following Programs during the year:

1. Elks Hoop Shoot free throw program
2. Youth Scholarship Program
3. Achieve \$5.00 Elks National Foundation per Member giving pool plus participating membership by all Lodge Officers
4. All-American Lodge Contest
5. Drug Awareness Program
6. Elks National Youth Week; upon receipt of a formal request
7. Ritualistic Contest
8. Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Program
9. Veterans Service and/or Adopt-A-Veteran Program

Special Citations are available from your Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee upon receipt of a formal written request from the Exalted Ruler, supported with dated copies of cover letters, programs, and news releases attesting to the participation by the Lodge and the Lodge family in the appropriate activities. (*Requests should be post-marked no later than March 31, 2025.*)

FOR LOCAL LODGES:

A. "Making A Difference" Special Citation will be awarded to each Lodge that participated in at least six (6) of the following programs. These certificates should be ordered in writing from the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee. (*This request should be postmarked no later than March 31, 2025.*)

1. Elks Hoop Shoot free throw program
2. Ritualistic Contest
3. Youth Scholarship Program
4. Veterans Service and/or Adopt-A-Veteran Program
5. Drug Awareness Program
6. Every Officer a current donor to the Elks National Foundation
7. Mother's Day program
8. Raises \$5.00 per Member in donations to the Elks National Foundation
9. Achieve a net membership gain of at least one
10. Achieves a level at or below 2 percent lapsation;
11. Every Officer, elected and appointed (15), sponsors a new/reinstated Member.

B. Grand Exalted Rulers Citation will be awarded to each Lodge with a lapsation rate of 2% or less as of March 31, 2025. Entitlement to this award shall be determined by the Grand Secretary based on the Lodge's final membership report for *the period ending March 31, 2025.*

C. A Grand Exalted Ruler's Citation will be awarded to each Lodge which has, as of September 1, 2024, a full team of elected and appointed Officers who are not Past Exalted Rulers (*excluding Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Organist, Presiding Justice, and Alternate Delegate positions*).

This award encourages recruitment of new Officer talent and builds continuity by progression through the Chairs. The request should include the list of current Lodge Officers, noted as verified and approved by the District Deputy. Send the entry to the Grand Secretary *postmarked no later than October 31, 2024.*

FOR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULERS:

At the end of the District Deputy's term in office, a special Grand Exalted Ruler's Certificate of Appreciation may be awarded to any District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler who complies with the Grand Lodge Program and qualifies based upon completion and submission of a copy of the District Deputy Duties. The entry of the checklist pages 1 to 5 (of the District Deputy Manual) should be forwarded to your State Sponsor and the Grand Secretary *no later than May 15, 2025*.

Thank You for taking the time to read this booklet and to learn more about our great Order and its many programs. I would ask that you take a closer look at your own Lodge, its facilities, its programs, and the support it provides to your community. Pay special attention to the welcoming atmosphere in your Lodge and how to engage your Members in helping with programs.

We invited our friends, neighbors and those desiring to join us into this organization, and we want them to have long and satisfying relationships as Members. Thus, we should treat them cordially and with due respect. We owe it to them to make sure our facilities are well maintained and are places where they are proud to bring family and friends.

Lead and serve as you promote and demonstrate **"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA!"**

Once again, thank you, God bless you, and have a great year!

— Douglas A. Schiefer

*Grand Exalted Ruler
2024-2025*



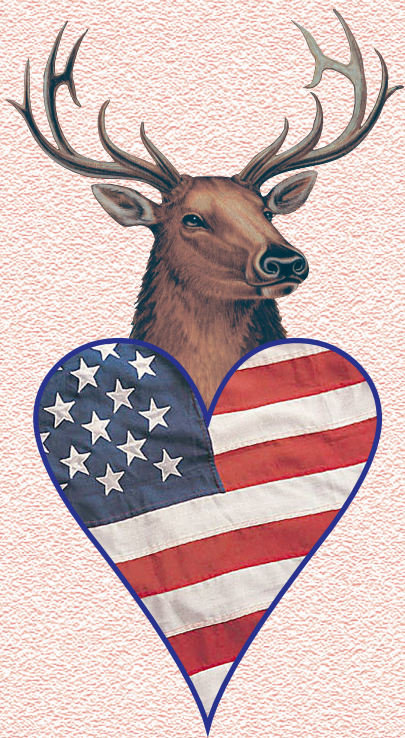
GER Award Pin
for Outstanding
Recruitment
Members

FAST FACTS OF ELKDOM

- * Our benevolent organization was founded on the principles of Charity, Fidelity, Justice, and Brotherly Love, on February 16, 1868.
- * In October 1918, after World War I, the Elks built a 700-bed Reconstruction Hospital on Parker Hill in Boston and gave it to the Federal Government. This hospital was the forerunner of the VA Medical Centers that exist today.
- * Today, the Elks have 607 Elks stationed in more than 360 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and other veteran facilities across the country, providing ongoing support to thousands of veterans in need each month. Last year, Elks served more than 42,000 hours in direct service through this program alone.
- * The Elks are committed to ending veteran homelessness. Since 2015, Elks have provided beds and home supplies to more than 11,400 veterans who were exiting homelessness and moving into new homes, and have helped more than 3,800 veterans exit or prevent homelessness by providing emergency assistance.
- * The Elks Veterans Memorial Building is both a revered monument and an architectural landmark in Chicago. It was dedicated on July 14, 1926, to the memory of Elks and all the men and women who sacrificed their lives in World War I. It was rededicated on September 8, 1946, to the members of our armed forces who perished in World War II. It was again rededicated on July 4, 1976, during America's bicentennial celebration, to honor those who died for our freedom in Korea and Vietnam. Within the hallowed walls of this majestic edifice, the Elks will continue to honor America's heroes who have given their lives in its defense.

- * There are more than 1,800 Elks Lodges in the United States today.
- * Tens of millions of America's finest citizens and leaders have been proud Members of the Benevolent Order of Elks, and more continue to join our ranks every day.
- * Since 1928, the ENF has spent over \$500 million on Elks charitable programs, supporting youth, serving veterans, and meeting local needs across the Country.
- * The ENF's three scholarships – Most Valuable Student, Legacy Awards, and Emergency Educational Grants — help more than 3,000 scholars attend college annually.
- * Through the Community Investments Program, the Elks National Foundation's largest program, every Lodge has an opportunity to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former Members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things.
- * In 2022-23 the ENF approved more than 4,000 grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. All your Lodge needs is at least one motivated, enthusiastic volunteer, an idea for a charitable project, Lodge consensus, and an action plan. Don't leave money on the table! To learn more about the Community Investments program, please visit elks.org/CIP.
- * Elks youth programs like the Hoop Shoot and the Drug Awareness Program encourage kids to lead healthy lifestyles.
- * At less than 8 percent, the ENF's budget for fundamental expenses is far below the Better Business Bureau's standard for charities of no more than 35 percent of total spending.

“Elks Care — Elks Share”



2024 Grand Lodge Program • Code 514000