



ENF Gratitude Grants

Gratitude Grants are the ENF's way of saying thank you to every Lodge that meets the National President's per-member goal for giving to the ENF. These \$2,000 grants offer an opportunity for Elks to think about how best to serve their community and make it stronger.

Last year, nearly 85 percent of Lodges met the per-member goal for giving to the ENF, so start planning your grant today. The possibilities are endless!

We encourage your Lodge to use its Gratitude Grant in an active way. Choose a project that gives Lodge members a chance to get involved and see the results of the grant first-hand. Give the community a chance to see Elks in action serving people in need.

Gratitude Grants are available for use between the date your Lodge meets the per-capita goal and July 31, 2015. If the Lodge is unable to plan an active project, it may use a Gratitude Grant to donate funds or supplies to a charitable cause.

Below are ideas on how to turn a simple donation into something that gives Elks a chance to engage with the community and the community a chance to benefit from Elks' passion, dedication and commitment.

***"The Gratitude Grant benefitted our Lodge by giving our members an opportunity to interact with others and it opened some eyes to the needs that are so prevalent in the community."
- Coos Bay, Ore.,
Lodge No. 1160***

Inactive Project – Good for Them	Active Project – Better for the Lodge
Donation to food bank.	Serve a monthly meal to families in need.
Donation to six youth groups.	Hold monthly drug-free concerts for at-risk youth.
Donation to restore a city building.	Partner with elementary school students to hold community clean-up days.
Donation to veterans group.	Participate in a Stand Down, or reach out to veterans in need.
Purchase supplies for fire dept.	Partner with fire dept. to host Community Safety Days.

**ENF Grant guidelines state that Lodges may not use grants to support State Major Projects, national Elks programs, fund scholarships, Hoop Shoot events, youth awards nights, poster and/or essay contests, appreciation dinners or fundraisers.*

Application questions.

- Describe your Lodge's charitable project or projects.
- Describe the project's charitable focus. How did the Lodge identify this as an important community need?
- Is there an opportunity for Elks to get involved in this project? If so, please tell us how Elks will participate. Active involvement with the community can help to raise your Lodge's profile, and help the community identify Elks with charity.
- Who will benefit from this project and how? What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project?
- A budget is also required.

Gratitude Grant applications are online only. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.elks.org/enf/community/GratitudeGrants.cfm>.

Questions? Contact the ENF Programs office at 773-755-4730 or ENFPrograms@elks.org.

In 2013-14, more than 1300 Lodges used Gratitude Grants to build stronger communities. With \$2,000 and dedicated Elks volunteers, the possibilities are endless!

The Garden at Skowhegan

Thanks to Skowhegan-Madison, Maine, Lodge No. 2531, local low-income families, seniors and students in need will have access to fresh produce.

The Lodge used its Gratitude Grant to partner with the local Parks and Recreation Department to construct a large community vegetable garden. From purchasing the materials to planting the first seeds of the season, Elks were involved every step of the way.



“In past years, we’ve made donations to food pantries,” says CIP Project Manager Mike Lange. “This year, we were looking for another way to address hunger issues, but on a long-term basis.”

Smooth Sledding

Using a Gratitude Grant, Telluride, Colo., Lodge No. 692 partnered with the local organization One To One to hold a cardboard sled derby.



One To One helps keep at-risk youth on the right path by pairing them with adult mentors. Each year, they hold the cardboard sled derby to teach kids about creativity, critical thinking and good sportsmanship.

This year, the Elks were there to share their support. After cheering on the contestants, Elks prepared and served a barbeque lunch to the sledders and their families.

“Thanks to the Gratitude Grant, we were able to continue forging a relationship with One To One,” says Community Investments Program Project Manager Cynthia Wyszynski. “We’re also working on cultivating new members because of the event.”

Elks in the Game

Elks at Wadena, Minn., Lodge No. 2386 dared to get involved by using its Gratitude Grant to partner with Wadena Police Department to teach local students about the dangers of drugs. Elks purchased supplies, helped with instruction and ensured the youth had a fun and drug-free DARE graduation party.

“Our Lodge is committed to our local youth,” writes Project Manager Linda Youngbauer. “Thank you for helping us support this project!”



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