



# Elks and Convention Overview

## 1. Who are the Elks?

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (B.P.O.E) is a fraternal service organization with nearly 1900 Lodges and nearly 800,000 members across the country.

The B.P.O.E was founded in 1868, so 2018 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elks. To honor this momentous occasion, we are bringing together 150 Elks scholars to celebrate through service.

In order to join the Elks you must be 21 years old, be an American citizen and profess a belief in God.

## 2. What is the Elks National Foundation?

The Elks National Foundation (ENF) is the charitable arm of the Elks organization. The ENF's mission is to build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We provide tomorrow's leaders, our youth, with lifelong skills; meet the needs of today's veterans; help the state Elks associations accomplish their charitable objectives; and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.

## 3. What's the Elks National Convention?

The Elks National Convention is a time when Elks members from across the country come together.

Each Lodge sends their president (known as Exalted Ruler within the Elks) to the Convention.

The Convention officially starts on Sunday, July 1 and runs through Wednesday, July 4.

## 4. What's your role in the Convention?

On Sunday, July 2 you'll get to serve alongside Elks members when we pack 5,000 hygiene kits for local veterans experiencing homelessness.

Sunday evening we'll be a part of the official Opening Ceremonies for the Convention.

Opening Ceremonies is a time for Elks members to hear reports about major program updates from the past year.

## 5. Are you an Elks member because you have an Elks scholarship?

The short answer is no, not yet! You are a part of the Elks family, but until you officially fill out an application to become an Elks member, have someone sponsor your membership at a Lodge and are initiated, you're not an Elks member. If you're 21 and interested in joining, please email [scholarship@elks.org](mailto:scholarship@elks.org) and we can help you get connected to a local Lodge!