

BRYAN R. KLATT  
Grand Exalted Ruler  
1017 N. First Street  
DEKALB, IL 60115-2320



*A Fraternal Organization*

CARL T. SEIBERT  
Grand Secretary  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
CHICAGO, IL 60614-1889

GRAND LODGE  
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

MICHAEL L. KENNEDY  
*Contest A—All American Lodge Administrator*

2440 S. Steele Street, #207  
TACOMA, WA 98405-2809  
C (253) 255-8090  
mkennedy@net-venture.com

**July 2025**

**To: District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers**

The GL Fraternal Committee continues to rely mostly on the [elks.org](https://www.elks.org) website as the source for the **All-American Lodge — Contest “A”** material. The Lodge Certification form and instructional letters can now be accessed by you in the newly developed “DD Quick Links” section at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org), which has replaced the thumb drives. Or, downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf>. The Exalted Rulers of the Lodges in your district receive this material in *their* newly developed “ER Quick Links” section at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org). Please promote this contest and recognize participating Lodges by presenting to them a completed copy of the enclosed fillable *Certificate of Participation*.

Entries must be sent to you, postmarked no later than April 1, 2026, for your review. Be sure to give the earned points for each separate activity as indicated on the form and verify those requiring lists on the form’s reverse side and/or separate sheets supplied by the Lodge. Leave any backup material attached when you forward the winners from your District to your State Lodge Activities Chairperson. Please take special care that the point values assigned on the form are properly calculated and entered in the POINTS column as Lodges sometimes instead mistakenly enter the number of participants, times and event occurred or dollar amounts.

We also ask you to check the Lodge membership as of March 31, 2025, and the totals, and choose the highest-scoring Lodge in each of the six membership divisions:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| I = 1-150 Members (345 Lodges or 18%)     | IV = 301-450 Members (318 Lodges or 17%)    |
| II = 151-225 Members (302 Lodges or 16%)  | V = 451-700 Members (316 Lodges or 17%)     |
| III = 226-300 Members (345 Lodges or 18%) | VI = 701 Members & over (258 Lodges or 14%) |

Forward these six District winners with all the documentation attached to your State Lodge Activities Chairperson no later than April 15, 2026. If you don’t have a Lodge in every division, select and forward fewer than six winners to your State Chairperson with an explanatory note.

Your confirmation of the information on these forms is the only verification of the activities conducted by these Lodges. That confirmation plays a key role in accurately selecting only the hardest-working Lodges of the Order as your State’s and Elksdom’s All-American Lodges.

On behalf of our Grand Exalted Ruler, the Fraternal Committee of Grand Lodge and the dedicated Lodges of your District, thank you for your cooperation in recognizing these hardworking American citizens and neighbors who make the proud name of Elksdom stand out across our nation. They put into practice daily their belief that **“Elks Care — Elks Share.”**

*Sincerely and fraternally,*

Michael L. Kennedy  
*Contest A Administrator  
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee*

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**July 2025**

**To: State Association Lodge Activities Chairpersons**

The GL Fraternal Committee continues to rely mostly on the [elks.org](https://www.elks.org) website as the source for the **All-American Lodge — Contest “A”** material. The Lodges and District Deputies in your State Association now receive this material in their respective “Quick Links” sections at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org). This newly developed method replaced the thumb drives. The Lodge Certification form and instructional letters can still be downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf>. A fillable **Certificate of Participation** is available to be presented to the deserving Lodge participants from the District Deputies.

Lodge Officials complete the form and submit it to their District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler by April 1, 2026. Each DDGER will then determine which Lodge is the District winner in each of six membership divisions. He or she forwards the winning entry forms to you by April 15, 2026, complete with any listings that a Lodge supplied for the contest’s extra-points categories, as well as other attached backup documentation.


As of this April 15, 2026 date, when you have received all entries, you will then determine the **top three finalists** in your State Association’s All-State Lodges in the six membership divisions as follows:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>I</b> = 1-150 Members (345 Lodges or 18%)     | <b>IV</b> = 301-450 Members (318 Lodges or 17%)    |
| <b>II</b> = 151-225 Members (302 Lodges or 16%)  | <b>V</b> = 451-700 Members (316 Lodges or 17%)     |
| <b>III</b> = 226-300 Members (345 Lodges or 18%) | <b>VI</b> = 701 Members & over (258 Lodges or 14%) |

Send these **maximum of 18 entries**, along with all backup lists and documentation, to me for the ultimate National determination, postmarked no later than April 30, 2026. The six 2025-2026 All-American Elks Lodges will be announced in Chicago, Illinois.

Being the best Lodge statewide from all contenders in a given membership division is no small accomplishment. We certainly hope that your Association will budget for and provide the top Lodges within your state with suitable awards and recognition.

On behalf of our Grand Exalted Ruler, the Fraternal Committee of Grand Lodge and the dedicated Lodges of your State, thank you for your cooperation in recognizing these hardworking American citizens and neighbors. They make the proud name of Elkdom stand out across our nation and put into practice daily their belief that **“Elks Care — Elks Share.”**

*Sincerely and fraternally,*  
  
Michael L. Kennedy  
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**July 2025**

**To: All Exalted Rulers:**

The GL Fraternal Committee continues to rely mostly on the [elks.org](https://www.elks.org) website as the source for the **All-American Lodge — Contest “A”** material. The Lodge Certification form and instructional letters are now available to you through the newly developed “ER Quick Links” section at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org). This method has replaced the thumb drives. Or, downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf>. Please print out the form and complete it with the help of your 2025-2026 Officers and Committee Chairpersons. **It must be mailed to your District Deputy, postmarked no later than April 1, 2026.**

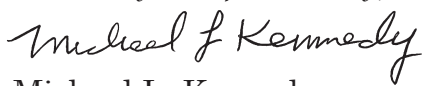
Circle the points earned as listed in the point value column. Where no points are shown in the point value column on the form, please list the points that the Lodge earned in that area as indicated for the item in the “Activity” block. ***Be sure to list all the different activities for which points are being requested on the back of the form or on separate pieces of paper.*** This is considered backup material.

If not properly documented, points will not be allowed. Please be careful that activities having a point value stated on the form are not included again for additional points on the backup material.

Please note that points are only awarded for participation in a program and not based on the number of participants or the number of times it is done. Donations of money are reported separately.

The form must be signed by you, the Exalted Ruler, and by the Lodge Secretary. ***Important:*** the Secretary must certify the membership of the Lodge as of March 31, 2025. The number you submit will determine the division in which you compete.

This is the most prestigious of the Grand Lodge Awards, for it recognizes those Lodges best exemplifying that ***“Elks Care — Elks Share.”*** You must, however, enter in order to have a chance to win.

*Sincerely and fraternally,*  
  
Michael L. Kennedy  
*Contest A Administrator*  
*Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee*

# 2025-2026 All-American Lodge – Contest “A” — LODGE CERTIFICATION

**NOTE: Contest Form will not be considered unless signed by Exalted Ruler, Secretary, District Deputy and State Chairman.**

<b>1 SECRETARY:</b> Complete this section, sign and give <u>to EXALTED RULER.</u>  Membership as of 3/31/2025 was: _____  LODGE NAME, No.: _____  ADDRESS: _____  Signed, _____  <b>2 EXALTED RULER:</b> Complete “Point Value” column by circling points, sign and mail <u>to DISTRICT DEPUTY,</u> postmarked no later than <b>April 1, 2026.</b>  DATE: _____  Signed, _____	<b>3 DISTRICT DEPUTY:</b> Complete and Verify “Points Earned” column and mail District Winning Entries <u>to your STATE LODGE ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN</u> postmarked no later than <b>April 15, 2026.</b>  Signed, _____  <b>4 STATE CHAIRMAN:</b> Please select the top three finalists in each Membership Division and mail their applications <u>to GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE-MAN below,</u> postmarked no later than <b>April 30, 2026.</b>  Signed, _____  <b>5 GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER:</b>  <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>MICHAEL L. KENNEDY</b>          2440 S. Steele Street, Unit 207, Tacoma, WA 98405-2809          C (253) 255-8090 • mkennedy@net-venture.com       </div>
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ACTIVITY	(LODGE CIRCLE)	(D.D. ENTER)	ACTIVITY	(LODGE CIRCLE)	(D.D. ENTER)	
	POINT VALUE	POINTS EARNED		POINT VALUE	POINTS EARNED	
Achieve Elks National Foundation Goal of \$5.00 per Member.	25		Participation in <b>Veteran Programs</b> — 2 points for each program — <b>MAX 40</b>			*
5 additional points for each full <b>\$1.00 over the Goal</b> (\$7.00 = 10 additional points) — <b>MAX 25</b>			Participated in <b>GL Americanism Essay Contest</b>	40		*
Lodge’s <b>ENF Chairman Challenge Score</b> – enter one-tenth of the Lodge challenge score (score of 560 = 56 points)— <b>MAX 100</b>			Participated in <b>Other Americanism Activities</b> — 2 points each — <b>MAX 40</b>			
<b>Membership</b> — Lodge achieves <b>PLUS 1</b>	25		Conducted a <b>Flag Day Service</b>	10		
<b>New Members</b> (Added/Reinstated) — achieve a 5% annual increase over the starting base number	25		<b>Flag Disposal Ceremony &amp; Fly the Flag Certificate</b> — 10 points each — <b>MAX 20</b>			
<b>New Members</b> — 5 extra points for each full percentage over 5%, i.e., 6% = 5 additional pts; 10% = 25 additional points. — <b>MAX 25</b>			<b>Citizen, Elk &amp; Officer “Of The Year”</b> — 5 each — <b>MAX 15</b>			*
<b>Member Non-Payment</b> — Lodge did not exceed 5% of the base number	25		<b>Outstanding Member</b> — 5 each — <b>10 MAX</b>			*
<b>Member Non-Payment</b> — 5 extra points for each percentage lower than 5%, i.e. 4%-4.99% = 5 additional pts; 2%-2.99% = 15 pts — <b>MAX 25</b>			<b>GER Special Citation ER &amp; Lodge</b> — 5 each — <b>MAX 10</b>			*
* Circle grant(s) applied for — <b>Impact + Beacon + Gratitude + Spotlight + Freedom</b> — 25 points each — <b>MAX 125</b>			<b>GER Citation</b> — Lodge received Award of Excellence for full complement of officers with a minimum of PERs	10		*
* Circle grant(s) received — <b>Beacon + Gratitude + Spotlight + Freedom</b> — 25 points each — <b>MAX 100</b>			Conducted <b>Teenager of the Year Program</b>	5		*
* Lodge received <b>Impact Grant</b>	50		Conducted <b>Youth Week Program</b>	5		*
<b>Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest (MVS)</b> — Lodge participated in judging local applications	25		<b>Annual Report</b> with Charity data submitted by April 30th	30		
* <b>Lodge Funded Scholarship Programs</b> — 1 point for each \$200 — <b>MAX \$5,000</b> (monies from Lodge resources, not GL) — <b>MAX 25</b>			Financial Reporting System (FRS) <b>Monthly Reports</b> filed by 3rd Friday of each month — 5 points each — <b>60 MAX</b>			
<b>Dictionary Project</b> — 1 point for each \$200 — <b>MAX \$5,000</b> — <b>MAX 25</b>			Lodges <b>By-Laws</b> current	5		
* <b>Eagle Scout Recognition Program</b>	10		Publishes <b>Monthly Lodge Bulletin</b> — 1 point each — <b>MAX 12</b>			
* <b>Girl Scouts Gold Award Recognition Program</b>	10		The Lodge has a “ <b>Virtual Home Page</b> ” at elks.org	5		
Conducted a <b>Drug Awareness Education Program</b>	40		Lodge uses a formal and structured <b>Orientation Program</b> for new Candidates	10		
Conducted a <b>Hoop Shoot Contest</b>	40		<b>Lodge offices</b> filled	10		
Conducted a <b>Soccer Shoot Contest</b>	20		<b>Local media</b> — 2 points for each article, etc. — <b>Max 30</b>			*
Participated in the <b>Antlers</b> program	10		Publication of Lodge articles & photos in the <b>Elks Magazine</b> — 2 points for each article or photo article — <b>Max 30</b>			*
* Conducted <b>Youth Activities</b> — 1 point each separate activity — <b>MAX 30</b>			Use of various <b>Social Media Venues</b> — 5 points each venue, i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Online Bulletin, others — <b>MAX 20</b>			
The Lodge has an <b>Organ or Blood Donor</b> program	5		<b>Ritual Team</b> — Lodge Team participated in a Certified Competition	50		
* <b>Veteran Donations</b> — 2 points for each \$100 — <b>MAX 40</b>			<b>11 O’Clock Toast Contest</b> — Lodge Member participated in a certified competition	20		
			<b>Grand Lodge Flag Charge Contest</b> — Lodge Member participated in a certified competition	20		
			Conduct an <b>Elks Memorial Day Service</b> — 10 points	10		
			Conduct an <b>Elks Mother’s Day Service</b> — 10 points	10		
			<b>TOTALS</b>			