



PROMISE GRANTS

Activities for Youth

Promise Grants are \$2,500 grants available to the first 500 Lodges that apply to hold an eligible charitable youth event. Promise Grant applications are available online starting July 1, 2017. All Lodges are eligible to apply. Promise Grants offer Lodges a chance to host an event that builds the character and competence of local youth.

Five Promises to Youth

- Providing youth with safe places
- Promoting healthy living
- Offering support from caring adults
- Emphasizing the importance of education
- Encouraging community service

Promise Grants must be activities in which Elks and youth have direct interaction.

They cannot be donations of funds or supplies. We encourage Lodges to hold events that give youth and Elks a chance to come together, and that focus on serving youth who are at-risk or underserved.

Charitable Focus: ENF Grants should always be used for charitable purposes, and fit in one of the following IRS defined categories; relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged; advance education; lessen the burdens of government; lessen neighborhood tensions; eliminate prejudice and discrimination; combat juvenile delinquency.

Restrictions: ENF Grant guidelines state that Lodges may not use grants to support State Major Projects, national Elks programs, fund scholarships, Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shoot events, youth awards nights, poster and/or essay contests, appreciations dinners, fundraisers or general community events. Grants may not be used for Lodge maintenance and/or repairs, or to only benefit Lodge members and their families. Grant funds must serve a population in need, and cannot be donations of funds or supplies to individuals.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's charitable activity and how it will serve local youth.
- Why is this project needed in your community? How will the Lodge identify youth in need to participate?
- Elks participation is required. Tell us how Lodge members are actively involved in this activity and how many will volunteer.
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this activity? How will the Lodge measure its success?
- Itemized budget. *Please note: No more than 10% of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts.*

Application Dates: Promise Grants are available to the first 500 Lodges to submit eligible applications. Applications are online only, starting July 1, 2017. Promise Grants may be used between July 1, 2017, and July 31, 2018.

Visit our webpage at enf.elks.org/PromiseGrant
Questions? Contact the Grants Office at 773/755-4730 or LodgeGrants@elks.org.

Promise Grant Examples

Last year, all 500 Promise Grants were awarded earlier than ever before! We know Lodges are eager to get their hands on one in an effort to improve the lives of local youth. Check out some examples of great Promise Grant projects.

Breckenridge, Texas Elks Lodge No. 1480 established an after school reading club for middle school students in order to increase reading comprehension. Elks run the program at the library as well as reach out to students and teachers to participate.

McAllen, Texas, Lodge No. 1402 partners with engineering students from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to provide fun and engaging engineering camps that introduce local youth to different careers and educational pathways. The camps are held at the Lodge and target elementary and middle school students. Elks mentor, share personal career experiences and assist during each camp.

Grass Valley, Calif., Elks Lodge No. 538 coordinates a mentorship event for local teenagers who are aging out of the foster care system. Lodge members provide information regarding resources, teach resume writing and interview skills, and provide them with backpacks full of needed supplies.

Flat Rock, Mich., Lodge No. 1731 uses its Promise Grant to host an Elks-ARC basketball and softball league for individuals with developmental disabilities and cognitive impairments. Lodge members plan all event logistics including recruiting local high school volunteers. During the season, Elks assist athletes, coach and provide meals.

West Palm Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1352 partners with Wynnebrook Elementary School to teach more than 50 students how to garden. Children learn how to build a garden bed, plant seeds, and care for plants. A portion of the food is donated to St. Georges Center Soup Kitchen to feed individuals experiencing homelessness.

Tawas Area, Mich., Lodge No. 2525. Partnering with the Iosco County Family Court, the Tawas Area Lodge will sponsor a community service activity for youth required to complete court-mandated community service. The Lodge has works side-by-side with youth to create a new landscaping bed at a Tawas City park in addition to improving the Tawas Bay Pedestrian and Bike Path.

Not a Promise Grant project	Great Promise Grant project
Distribute drug awareness supplies	Hold an after-prom party at the Lodge
Sports team sponsorship	Start an intramural sports league for at-risk teens
Holiday party for Elks and their families	Back-to-school party for foster children
Dictionary Project	A reading fair or book club for youth in need
Donation to Boys & Girls Club	Organize a field trip for Boys & Girls Club youth

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