PROMISE GRANTS

Activities for Youth

Promise Grants are $2,500 grants available to the first 300 Lodges that apply to hold an eligible charitable youth event. Promise Grant applications are available online starting April 1, 2019. 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.

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. Why is this project a need in your community?
- Involvement of youth in need is required. How will the Lodge identify youth in need to participate? For example, will the Lodge contact local school counselors and/or nonprofits to identify children in need? Please be specific in detailing who the Lodge intends to invite and the names of the schools/nonprofits/organizations the Lodge will work with.
- Elks participation is required. Please describe how Elks will ensure meaningful interaction with youth during this project.
- What is the goal of this project? How will the Lodge know it was successful?
- Itemized budget. Please note: No more than 10% of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts.

Visit our webpage at enf.elks.org/PromiseGrant
Questions? Contact the Grants Office at 773/755-4730 or LodgeGrants@elks.org.
**Application Dates:** Promise Grants are available to the first 300 Lodges to submit eligible applications. Applications are available online only, starting April 1, 2019. Promise Grants may be used between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

**Promise Grant Examples**

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.** Partners with the Iosco County Family Court, to sponsor a community service activity for youth required to complete court-mandated community service. The Lodge 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.

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

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