

**ANTLERS' RITUAL
INITIATION OF CHARTER MEMBERS**

Grand Exalted Ruler

We are gathered here to forge another link in the great chain of fraternity that constitutes the "ANTLERS" of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. An organization that promotes Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity, as well as love and respect for others, our families, and for our great nation, the same principles for which Elks stand for.

This group shall become known as _____, Antler Lodge # _____.

Please stand as the Chaplain leads us in prayer.

Grand Chaplain *(from his/her station, without advancing to the Altar)*

Heavenly father, we come before thee as thy most humble children and ask your gracious blessings on this gathering. We pray that you will guide these fine young adults, so that they may bring honor and good name to themselves, their families, and our nation. Guide them to become our upstanding citizens and future leaders. Grant that this group will prosper and grow and that its members will ever be inspired to make a difference in the lives of others. Amen.

All in attendance

Amen

Grand Exalted Ruler

Please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please be seated.

ANTLERS' INITIATION RITUAL
(Initiation of the new members)

Grand Exalted Ruler

Grand Secretary *(pause while Secretary rises, then continue)*

Are there any candidates awaiting initiation?

Grand Secretary

Yes, Grand Exalted Ruler

Grand Exalted Ruler

Have they been duly elected to membership?

Grand Secretary

They have.

Grand Exalted Ruler

Are you satisfied that these candidates are worthy of Initiation into our Order?

Grand Secretary

Yes, a finer group I have never seen.

Grand Exalted Ruler

Grand Esquire, please take a position to the right of the altar to await and assist the candidates with their obligation and initiation.

(Wait for Esquire to assume position)

Grand Secretary you will call the names of each of the Candidates. Candidates, as your name is called please line up in a semi-circle before the altar in line with the Grand Esquire.

Grand Secretary reads names, pausing briefly after each name.

Grand Exalted Ruler

Do you believe in God?

(Pausing for candidates to answer in the affirmative)

Are you a citizen of the United States?

(Pausing for candidates to answer in the affirmative)

Grand Exalted Ruler and Chaplain proceed to the altar to administer the obligation.

Please place your left hand over your hearts and raise your right hand.

You will each say and pronounce your name in full and then repeat after me:

I, _____, of my own free will, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

(Pause for them to repeat)

I will support and uphold the rules and regulations of
_____ Antlers Lodge No. _____.

(Pause for them to repeat)

I will always uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and respect our nation's flag

(Pause for them to repeat)

I will always remain steadfast, loyal, and honest with the other members and all those with whom I deal with

(Pause for them to repeat)

From this point forward, I will guide my life so as never to be cold or indifferent to the needs or feelings of others

(Pause for them to repeat)

I will live my life to promote the virtues of good citizenship

(Pause for them to repeat)

I will always conduct myself in such a way that by my example all are inspired to a greater love and respect for others, for home, and family.

(Pause for them to repeat)

I acknowledge the debt of gratitude I owe to my parents for the sacrifice, guidance, and support they have given to me and I vow never to forget all they have done for my benefit.

(Pause for them to repeat)

Finally, I promise to exemplify the motto of the Antlers: **“Do unto others as we would they should do unto us”**.

(Pause for them to repeat)

At ease. One truth should be made known to you before you proceed further. We, as Antlers, strive to prove that we are not cold or indifferent to the higher and better things of life. Like all good American citizens, we love our country and the principles upon which it is founded. But, in addition to promoting the virtues of citizenship, we also know the debt we owe to our parents.

Antlers designate the hour of Ten O’Clock as a memorial to those who gave us our being

Twilight, and then the hour often,
That brilliant point on the dial of time
Which, with Antlers, is the setting?
For the most precious of all gems, the jewel of parenthood.

If our parents are living,
Endeavor today to see all that they are and have been to us,
And let them know of it.
Be kind to them while you may.
If our parents have passed from this world,
Venerate their memory.
In your every action and thought.

At this sacred hour for Antlers, let each of us breathe. The sweetest sentiment of all,
To our Beloved Parents.

(The Grand Exalted Ruler and Chaplain now return to their stations and the Grand Exalted Ruler gives one rap of the gavel.)

Grand Exalted Ruler:

The principles for which this organization stands are “Brotherly Love and Fellowship”, “Justice and Good Judgment”, and “Charity”.

Towards the cause of “Brotherly Love and Fellowship” I charge each of you to always strive to be sincere, caring, and kind with all people with whom you deal from this point forward. There must be no room in your lives for unkind words, or malice towards others.

Towards the cause of “Justice and Good Judgment” I charge you to always exercise thought, concern, fair play, and good sportsmanship in all you do from this point forward. Should any questionable situation arise in your life, ask yourself this question: What is the right thing to do?

Conscience will answer that your actions must be fair, considerate, and right even though it may be difficult to do. I assure you that if you always make choices that are fair, just, and right, you will be repaid many times over throughout your life.

Towards the cause of “Charity”, this virtue is typified by unselfishness. Throughout your lives you must strive to share with others some of the many gifts with which we are endowed. It is through helping others that you are made most whole and strong. Charity also teaches us to forgive and forget. It is the cornerstone of the Antler motto: **“Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.”**

I charge you that these noble qualities should continue to guide you throughout the rest of your life.

Finally, I charge and direct you to have fun and enjoy what you do with this organization and everything else you do for the rest of your lives.

By virtue of the authority vested in me, I now declare that each of you are official “charter” members of _____ Antlers’ Lodge No. _____. Congratulations to each of you. Please give them a big round of applause.