32ND ANNUAL

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SEMINAR

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

"Elks Care — Elks Share"

READY ELKS—LET'S GO!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GER Message for Youth Activities 2
Junior Golf Program 3
Student/Teenager of the Month/year 4
Elks and Scouting 5
Elks Soccer Shoot 6
Elks National Youth Week 7
Public Safety Medal of Valor 8
Public Safety Medal of Service 8
Antlers Program 9
The Dictionary Project 10-12
JROTC Awards Program 13-14
Community Projects Contest 15
2026-2027 Grand Lodge Activities Committee 16



GRAND EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE

As American citizens, we know the invaluable role youth groups have in our country and local communities. It is why we support and recognize youth groups through programs which provide safe environments in which to meet, like our Antlers Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and Junior Golf Programs. They are well served as Grand Lodge programs. The growth in family participation at youth functions and sporting events gets more rewarding every year.

Another program promotes patriotism by inviting youth groups to participate in our local Flag Day ceremony. Our Dictionary Project can start as young as the third grade with giving the "gift of words" to elementary school students.

Make sure information about all the scholarship application opportunities are given to local high schools in your Lodge's jurisdiction. Publicize the "Most Valuable Student" scholarship program by submitting news releases and photographs to local media. State Associations and Local Lodges should remind Members that we offer Legacy Award scholarships for Elks family members. Also, we offer Emergency Educational Grants for children of deceased Elks. Information on all available scholarships is posted at elks.org.

This booklet offers many ideas our youth programs have to offer. We can acknowledge their accomplishments through "Student/Teenager of the Month/ Year" certificate programs and awards dinners. You can also show support by participating in National Youth Week, the first week in May, where we emphasize our commitment to our youth and communities. In all our programs, we promote a drug-free lifestyle. Our Drug Awareness Program has been promoted throughout all our youth programs and as an individual program, especially during Drug Awareness Month in October.

As First Lady Sandy and I prepared for our year traveling to visit Lodges throughout our great country in 2026-27, we recalled witnessing the State displays at Grand Lodge in the past. We are confident we will be overwhelmed and inspired as we learn more about the many charitable activities that our Lodges, State Associations, and Grand Lodge do to promote our youth programs. Many State Major Projects pertain to our youth through camps and special needs assistance, each are the foundation that keeps our youth active, productive, and inspired as they become the Elks and leaders of tomorrow.

Are you **READY ELKS – LET'S GO** by supporting our Youth Activities Programs. Thank you for showing our communities that we are dedicated to the youth of today and tomorrow's leaders.

Timothy F. Jaeger
Grand Exalted Ruler
2026-2027

▶*JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM*

A Junior Golf Program can be one of the most successful and visible programs under the guidance of the Activities Committee. We are encouraging each Lodge, District, and State to sponsor a Junior Golf Program or tournament during this coming year.

The following will elaborate on the two categories suggested above for your consideration:

▸Junior Golf Program Activities:

- Sponsor a "Golf Day" for Junior Golfers at your local course, or perhaps a rotation among courses in your area.
- Arrange for a time at the driving range or on the putting green for practice. Provide lesson(s) on a one-time or ongoing basis for youth.
- Invite a professional or trick-shot artist to demonstrate his/her skills.
- Inquire about program dollars for Junior Golf from your local or regional PGA. Have local Elks Members or a course professional give lessons on golf etiquette and rules.
- Sponsor a 2-4 week league season *(with teams)*; varying the type of play *(Best Ball, Alternate, or Individual Play).*
- Give some type of recognition or award at the end of any of these activities e.g., hats, T-shirts or prizes. A Certificate of Participation is available at: https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/CertificatesOfParticipation.pdf. Once you are in "Forms/Certificates", scroll down to the third certificate for the Junior Golf Certificate, which is PDF fillable.

▸Junior Golf Tournament:

- Sponsor a local tournament for the Jr. Golfers within your jurisdiction;
- Sponsor a district tournament for the Jr. Golfers within that jurisdiction; *and/or*
- Sponsor a state tournament for the Jr. Golfers in your state.

Remember: Be creative in implementing these suggestions. You may want to incorporate one or more of the above with a swimming, tennis, and/or bowling event during your Youth Activity Day. Unlike football and basketball, golf is commonly recognized as a lifetime sport. The youth of America will benefit from any program and/or promotion of this worthwhile activity.



For information and help, contact:

William C. Bohnett
Junior Golf Program Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
2427 Country Orchard Steet
North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4700
C (831) 809-9092 • wbohnett@hotmail.com

▶*STUDENT/TEENAGER OF THE MONTH/YEAR PROGRAM*

The purpose of this program is to focus the public's attention on outstanding boys and girls from your community in two separate brackets: [high school] and [junior high school].

▸THE STUDENT/TEENAGER OF THE MONTH/YEAR:

The process of selecting a monthly and year-end student/teenager is very easy and simple by following these basic ideas:

1. Contact your individual principal of each school under your jurisdiction, requesting they all appoint a committee of peers to select one or more of its classmates to represent their school. Try to obtain equal representation of each school involved. Ask that no input or interference be made upon the committee from a principal, teachers, or adult other than to ensure this student committee is functioning in a proper manner.

2. The Grand Lodge website provides an overview of the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Program at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/YouthRecognitionProgram.pdf. Each school should be provided with a sufficient supply of nomination forms, which can be downloaded from page 8 of that link.

3. Each month the school's student committee meets to select one boy and one girl as Student/Teenager of the Month of your Lodge.

4. Invite the monthly winners and their parents to a Lodge meeting and recognize these young adults by presenting them with a corresponding "Certificate of Achievement." These certificates are also available at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/studentcertificates.pdf.

5. At the completion of the school year, your Lodge Chairman/Activities Committee selects a year-end winner, again presenting the top boy and girl at a Lodge meeting or at your Youth Week banquet.

It is important to remember that the selection of a top student is not based solely on one individual achievement *(i.e. as an outstanding athlete)*. Rather, the selection should be based upon multiple achievements, such as: character, leadership, community service, citizenship, scholarship and other factors that make up an Outstanding Teenager or Student.

For information and help, contact:

Richard W. Threadgill

Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Coordinator

Grand Lodge Activities Committee

333 Fair Street, Berea, OH 44017-2305

C (216) 210-5339 • bereaelk@gmail.com

▶*ELKS AND SCOUTING*

Although Elks Lodges have had to end their official relationship with Scouting America and its program, Scouts BSA as a "Charter Organization" or as an official sponsor of any Scout unit, we continue to believe in the stated mission of the Scouts BSA.

Lodges may choose to continue to support Scouts BSA activities by providing them use of Lodge facilities after obtaining a "Facilities Use and Indemnity Agreement" from the local Scout Unit or Council located at **https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/03.-UMC-FACILITIES-USE-INDEMNITY-AGREEMENT.pdf**.

▶SOME IDEAS OF WAYS FOR LODGES TO CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTIVE:

- Assist with items and materials needed.
- Formally recognize the Americanism training of Eagle Scouts by the presentation of a certificate and an American Flag.
- Recognize Girl Scouts with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards. Certificates are available at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities, then click on "Forms/Certificates."
- Recognize Eagle Scout Awards. These are available at that same link.
- Recognize individuals working in Scouting with a nomination for the Marvin M. Lewis Scouting Award. The application is available at: https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/MarvinLewisApplication.pdf.

▶BEFORE GETTING INVOLVED:

Download and become thoroughly familiar with the Elks and Scouting Managing Guidelines and the Grand Lodge Youth Protection Guidelines, both available at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/downloadPDF.cfm?thepdfID=82.

Also, information from www.scouting.org may be useful for an in depth understanding of scouting operations. Support for the youth of the communities we serve remains a most important part of the mission of the BPOE. However, in doing so, Lodges are encouraged to exercise great care and prudence when dealing with any youth group or organization.

For information and help, contact committee coordinators:

Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.
Scouting Program Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
8902 Grant Street, Overland Park, KS 66212-3858
C (913) 284-3347
celjr76@gmail.com

Roger McQueen
Scouting Program Assistant Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
201 E. Nishna Road, Shenandoah, IA 51601-2416
C (712) 246-3313
rmcqueen1961@gmail.com

▶*ELKS SOCCER SHOOT*

The official Soccer Shoot Manual offers detailed guidance and instructions. It can be downloaded from the elks.org website:
https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/downloadPDF.cfm?thepdfID=86.

Best practices for a successful Soccer Shoot:

1. Begin planning well in advance of your event. Select a date/time and reserve a field or indoor facility. Plan to hold your event well in advance of the District Soccer Shoot.
2. Involve all the members of your Lodge's Activities Committee, especially Public Relations.
3. Promote the program in the media, Lodge newsletter, and online well in advance of the event, and after. Write a news article and provide an advertisement. Point out that this is a national competition, and that the winners could become a District, State, Regional, or National Champion. Include information on your Lodge and the Elks.
4. Invite youth organizations in your community (Scouts, Rainbow, DeMolay, Boys/Girls Clubs, church groups, clubs, and other recreational sports programs, not just soccer). Any group of young people who can have fun kicking a soccer ball.
5. Contact your local schools to enlist their participation through their physical education dept. Make flyers to distribute and/or place in the school. Talk to your high school soccer coach to see if their team would be willing to volunteer or offer a small clinic to those waiting to shoot. Reach out to soccer summer camps to host a Soccer Shoot.
6. Follow the instructions for making the soccer goals. The Five-Goal Contest goals can be made using PVC piping and the Grid Goal Contest goals can be made using either PVC or rope. The following age categories are eligible for the respective contests:
   - Five Goal Contest — Ages 7 & under
   - Grid Goal Contest — Ages 8 & 9; Ages 10 & 11; Ages 12 & 13; Ages 14 & 15 *(Optional)*
7. Use only approved equipment; make sure to have the correct size of soccer ball(s) available and that they are inflated properly before the event.
8. Have an adequate supply of registration forms, scorecards, pencils, clipboards, and instruction sheets for judges. Also have measuring tape and spray paint on hand to mark kicking lines.
9. Follow all rules and regulations of the Elks Soccer Shoot. No exceptions or deviations should be allowed.
10. Forward the necessary information/registration form to your District Chairman immediately after the contest.
11. Make sure to provide your Lodge Secretary with the number of participants, Elk & Non-Elk volunteers, hours worked (before, during, and after the event), miles driven, and any money spent on the event. Ask them to enter the information into the Charity Records under line 1103-Athletic Events-Soccer Shoot.

For information and help, contact:
Terence P. Ford, Chairman
Soccer Shoot Program Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
85 Joseph Road, Naugatuck, CT 06770-2304
C (203) 232-0636 • tpford317@gmail.com



▶*ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK*

The Grand Exalted Ruler of our Order has decreed that the first week in May be set aside to recognize the youth in your community.

Programs such as a luncheon or banquet honoring outstanding students, local Hoop Shoot winners, Soccer Shoot winners, Drug Awareness poster contest winners, outstanding scholars and establishing a "Government Day" are examples of activities that can be conducted on a Local Lodge level.

Lodges are encouraged to obtain endorsements and proclamations from the Mayor of your community. Endorsements of Elks National Youth Week are likely to be obtained from the governing authority, if sought in proper fashion. The Grand Lodge Activities Committee provides Lodges and State Associations with fillable sample proclamations at: https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/youthweekproclamation.pdf. Develop these for presentation to a governing authority for acceptance.

EARLY PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION IS A MUST, AND THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THIS PROGRAM STARTS NOW!!

Suggested Youth Week Proclamation

The fillable version can be downloaded at:
https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/youthweekproclamation.pdf

FOR LODGE USE

Whereas, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has designated May 1-7, as Youth Week to honor America's Junior Citizens for their accomplishments, and to give fitting recognition of their services to Community, State and Nation; and,

Whereas, **(name of your Local Lodge)** will sponsor an observance during that week in tribute to the Junior Citizens of this Community; and,

Whereas, no event could be more deserving of our support and participation than one dedicated to these young people who represent the nation's greatest resource, and who in the years ahead will assume the responsibility for the advancement of our free society; and,

Whereas, our Youth need the guidance, inspiration and encouragement which we alone can give in order to help develop those qualities of character essential for future leadership; and go forth to serve America; and,

Whereas, to achieve this worthy objective we should demonstrate our partnership with Youth, our understanding of their hopes and aspirations and a sincere willingness to help prepare them in every way for the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship:

Now Therefore, I **(name of your town's mayor here)**, Mayor of **(name of your town here)**, do hereby proclaim the first week in May as Youth Week, and urge all departments of government, civic, fraternal and patriotic groups, and our citizens generally, to participate wholeheartedly in its observance.

_____
Mayor of

_____

FOR STATE USE

Following is a suggested copy of a Governor's Elks National Youth Week Proclamation:

Whereas, The Elks Lodges of the State of **(name of your state here)**, will observe May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week in tribute to our Junior Citizens, honoring them for their achievements and contributions to the life of the Community, State and Nation.

Whereas, it is our responsibility to guide, inspire and encourage our youth, to go forth to serve America, our privilege to manifest a lively interest in all their activities and ambitions, and help prepare them for the duties and opportunities of citizenship, which is the objective of Elks National Youth Week.

Now Therefore, I **(name of Governor of your state here)**, Governor, do hereby proclaim the first week in May as Elks National Youth Week, and I call upon all citizens and all departments of state and local governments to cooperate in the observance, that we may attain these worthy objectives.

_____
Governor

Elks Care — Elks Share

▶*PUBLIC SAFETY MEDAL OF VALOR*

Each and every day we hear of a tragic event resulting in the death of police officers, firefighters, or emergency services personnel. The loss of life by those who are dedicated to our protection leaves not only their respective families but each one of us searching for the reason why.

We feel tremendous remorse and hope that in some way we can offer comfort to those who were so sadly affected. Many of our Lodges pay tribute to Public Safety personnel with annual Law and Order and/or Emergency Medical Service nights. Many times those who have paid the supreme sacrifice are overlooked.

Now, we have a means of recognizing those individuals. It helps us become known as an organization that truly cares about those individuals and their families and allows us to elevate our image in the community. The medal is suitable for engraving the name of the individual.

The medals can be ordered by your Lodge Secretary through the Grand Lodge Supplies/Shipping Department using CLMS. The order number for the Medal of Valor is 575100. It costs $9.00 plus shipping and handling.



Here is our opportunity to pay homage,
say thank you and express our gratitude.

▶*PUBLIC SAFETY MEDAL OF SERVICE*

Many Lodges currently have programs where they honor individuals who are putting their lives on the line everyday to protect our communities. A new Medal of Service is now available to present to these individuals. This new medal will cover all first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Certificates are available to download from the elks.org website under the Activities Committee at www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/PublicSafetyCertificate.pdf. These are "fillable" certificates and can be personalized and presented with the medals.

The medals can be ordered by your Lodge Secretary through the Grand Lodge Supplies/Shipping Department using CLMS. The order number for the Medal of Service is 575200. It costs $9.00 plus shipping and handling.



For information and help, contact:

Roger McQueen
Medal of Valor & Medal of Service Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
201 E. Nishna Road, Shenandoah, IA 51601-2416
C (712) 246-3313 • rmcqueen1961@gmail.com

▶*ANTLERS PROGRAM*

The Antlers Program has been authorized by the Grand Lodge to again become a Grand Lodge Activities Committee Program. The Antlers was initially organized over 70 years ago by Elks Lodges across our nation. The purpose of the Antlers was to help Lodges in their service-oriented programs, as well as to develop this type of activity for youngsters between 12 and 21 years of age inclusive, to work on their own. It was hoped that the Antlers Program would also encourage its young members to become Elks Members upon reaching the age of 21.

When World War II broke out, the Antlers Program was unable to continue its active status, and was eventually terminated by the Grand Lodge in July 1967.

Over the past several years, many Lodges nationwide have shown interest in renewing this program and have begun their own Antlers Program. This was instrumental in convincing the Grand Lodge of its worthiness. Through the efforts of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee over the last several years, the Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws of the Organization were submitted for Grand Lodge approval. After some revision, the delegates gave this program preliminary approval at the 2002 Reno Convention. The Antlers Program is now a fully functioning program of the Activities Committee.

The Antlers of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has adopted the following elements as major objectives:

- To quicken the spirit of American Patriotism;
- To teach respect for parents and love of home;
- To inculcate the fundamentals of good citizenship;
- To aid in a worthy cause;
- To establish foundation of character;
- To promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; *and*
- That to respect the convictions of others in matter of worship and religion is true "Americanism."

The Antlers Program is a project we can all support. It can involve Public Relations, Lodge Activities, Membership, Americanism, Ritual, and Activities Committees in our Local Lodges and communities.

Your Lodge Secretary can order the Antlers Pin through the Grand Lodge Supplies/ Shipping Department using CLMS. The order number for the Pin is 575400. It costs $3.00 each, plus shipping and handling, with a minimum order of 5 Pins.

Our Local Lodges currently support more than 125 Antlers Charters.

The documents needed to start an Antlers program, such as Charters, membership cards, Rituals, Bylaws, Membership Applications, etc., can be downloaded at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm.

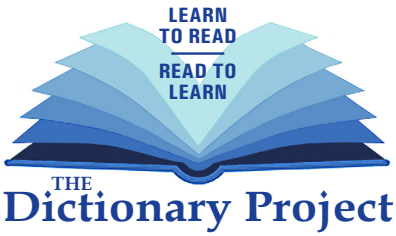
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO CONTINUE THIS GROWING PROGRAM!!

For information and help, contact:
E. Mac Kidd
Antlers Program Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
245 Loyd Road, Pulaski, TN 38478-8043
O (931) 433-7935 • C (931) 307-3176
kiddkovesheep@gmail.com

▶*THE DICTIONARY PROJECT*

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 by Mrs. Mary French of Charleston, SC. The sole mission of this non-profit organization — which we as Elks share — is to distribute dictionaries to as many 3rd graders as possible in the 50 United States and our environs. In 1999, 10,295 dictionaries were distributed. Varying service clubs were the main thrust of sponsorship. In the 2004-2005 Lodge year, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks became involved. Dictionaries have been distributed to every state of the Union, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. More than 1,282 Lodges have participated in the program and each year Elks Lodges distribute an average of 245,000 dictionaries to grade school children, according to the website, https://www.dictionaryproject.org. Elks have donated more than 4 million books to schools throughout their communities.

The Dictionary Project is a wonderful community service program. Consider these motivations for your Lodge to become involved. ***It is:***



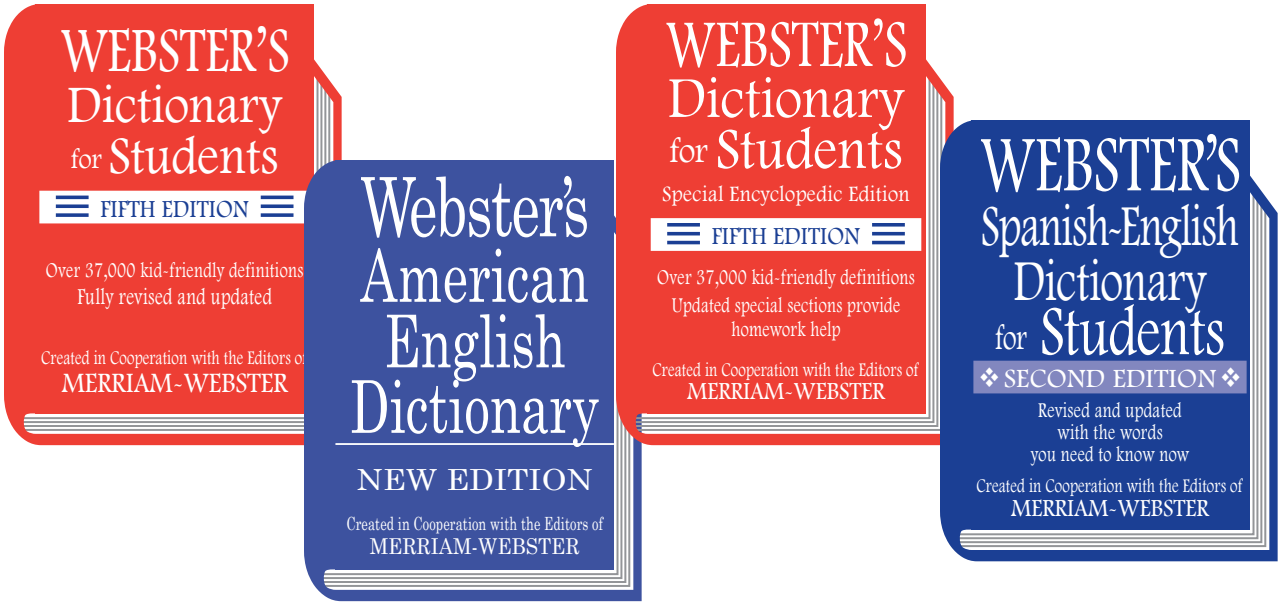
- ✓ A wonderful literacy project.
- ✓ An opportunity to be involved in a hands-on project that does not require a great deal of time.
- ✓ Relatively inexpensive.
- ✓ An opener of doors into the schools of your community, paving the way for other youth projects — scholarships, essay contests, support of Scouting, an Antlers Program, etc.
- ✓ A subject of media coverage, to let the community know of the good works you do, of your concern for our nation's young people.

▸How do we begin?

Once you have decided to participate in the Dictionary Project, determine the funds needed to sponsor the project, and decide how many dictionaries you can present within your budget.

▸Where to go for help?

You can contact your GLAC representative for the project; he/she can get the necessary information and forms to you. Also, you can email the Dictionary Project source directly at www.dictionaryproject.org. Here, you may review the different dictionaries available. The popular student dictionary — titled "The Best Dictionary for Students" — Costs $90 for 24, including shipping. A sample kit of different dictionaries and reference books is available to order for $40–$60 per box, depending on your chosen sample kit.



▸What comes next?

Step One: Contact your local school principal(s)/administrators(s) to explain the project. From them *(after permission to continue the project is granted)* obtain the total number of 3rd graders to be involved. Many communities contain parochial schools, private schools, and Christian academies in addition to the public schools. By involving these schools, you further our mission to present a dictionary to every 3rd grader in our country.

Step Two: Many Lodges choose to personalize the dictionaries with labels for names and an Elks logo accompanying the name and number of your Lodge.

Step Three: Points to make during your visit:

Introduce yourself and make a brief presentation so the students know the dictionaries are being presented by your Lodge as a personal gift. If you do not personalize the dictionaries with name labels, have them write their names and addresses in the front cover at that time.

Some dictionaries editions, e.g., A STUDENT DICTIONARY, contain much valuable information that you can point out to the students for their use. This one contains, in addition to the dictionary, for example, a table of weights and measures, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, maps of the seven continents, information on the fifty states, biographies of the U.S. Presidents, facts about the solar system as well as several other fact sections.

In closing, encourage the daily use of the dictionary.

Your visit should last 10-15 minutes; 3rd-graders' attention spans fall within this length of time.

Step Four: Utilize media coverage; it is a great project and media cooperation should be easily obtained.

Information and Suggestions

Distribution: Select a distribution date that can be tied to an important literary event – e.g., the week of October 16th, Noah Webster's birthday.

Be sure to order enough dictionaries to be able to present one to each classroom teacher. Also, to appear on the agenda at the board of education meeting with a dictionary for board members and administrators present is invaluable PR.

Have a few extra dictionaries with you in case new students have enrolled.

A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool that a child could own. Its usefulness goes beyond the spelling, pronunciation, and definitions it lists; it is a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing, and creative thinking abilities. Students benefit from an increase in self-reliance and resourcefulness inspired by the maxim, "Look it up!"

Most schools today have to struggle with rising day-to-day operating costs and are not financially able to give dictionaries to individual students. The schools appreciate our help.

We hope every Elks Lodge in America and our environs will help in this united effort, providing once again that *Elks Care — Elks Share!*

For information and help, contact:
Nick L. Bettencourt
Dictionary Project Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
P. O. Box 854, Condon, OR 97823-0854
C (541) 379-6854
nickcody97823@hotmail.com

▶*JROTC AWARDS PROGRAM*

The JROTC Awards Program was first introduced at the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention. This new program aims to recognize our future leaders by focusing the public's attention on outstanding Cadets from your community. In 2025, the JROTC Awards Program became fully approved by the Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), and now all JROTC cadets can wear the B.P.O.E. award ribbon and medal on their uniform for any JROTC military branch.

Procedure for setting up a JROTC Awards Program for your Lodge:

1. Locate your JROTC Schools by State at the national level through the following websites:

- **US Army —** https://usarmyjrotc.army.mil/
- **US Navy —** https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NJROTC/
- **US Marine Corps —** https://www.mcjrotc.marines.mil/About/
- **US Air Force —** https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104476/air-force-junior-reserve-officer-training-corps/
- **US Coast Guard —** https://www.uscg.mil/Community/JROTC/

2. Contact the schools in your area that have a JROTC Program and ask to speak to the Senior Instructor to see if they would be interested in participating in the new Elks program. If they are, request that they select a Cadet, whom they feel has proven him or herself to be a true leader in academic achievement as well as community service projects, and one who maintains the highest standards of performance in all fields of endeavor. Be sure to coordinate your efforts with other Lodges in your District that may be close to the same school(s) your Lodge wants to contact. You may want to consider making it a District Program with all Lodges in your District participating.

3. Inform the Instructor that your Lodge will provide them with a certificate and a medal to present to the Cadet they select. Your Lodge may want to have a Lodge Officer(s) or Member(s) attend the ceremony to make the presentation to the Cadet, if permissible.



For information and help, contact:

Richard W. Threadgill
Junior ROTC Program Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
333 Fair Street, Berea, OH 44017-2305
C (216) 210-5339 • bereaelk@gmail.com

4. If your Lodge holds a banquet/dinner to recognize outstanding youth in your community, you should consider inviting the Cadet and their family to the Lodge for a dinner and recognition.

5. A printable/fillable JROTC Certificate is available on the Grand Lodge website under the Activities Committee at:
www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/JROTCAwardsProgram.pdf.

The JROTC Medal can be ordered from the Grand Lodge Supplies/Shipping Department by using CLMS. The item number is 575300, costing $25.00 each, plus shipping/handling.

The JROTC medal makes a terrific companion gift to the JROTC certificate. Any Cadet will be proud to receive both awards.



▶*COMMUNITY PROJECTS CONTEST*

In an effort to make sure the public is informed, the Grand Lodge Activities Committee has instituted a contest on a national level called the Community Projects Contest. Each of our Lodges is urged to adopt, implement, and promote a community project to inform the citizens of their communities about what we do for them.

Since each Lodge is different and each location has its own specific needs, no single program has been specified. However, in each situation as much information should be shared with the public as possible.

Elks National Foundation grants can assist in putting on community projects in your community. They should be seriously considered.

The fillable contest entry form can be accessed at:
https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf

LODGE COMMUNITY PROJECTS CONTEST

— ENTRY FORM —

Lodge Name _____ Lodge # _____

Community Project Contest for April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 Lodge Year

District _____ State Association _____

Lodge Membership as of March 31, 2026 _____ Lodge Size Division* _____

Lodge Community Project Chairperson _____

Description of Community Project _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Attach pictures, if available)

	Points
Number of Lodge People Involved _____ × 1 =	_____
Number of Man-hours Involved _____ × 2 =	_____
Number of Days for the event _____ × 5 =	_____
Number of Public Attending _____ × 5 =	_____
Number of Newspaper Articles _____ × 5 =	_____
Number of Radio and Television Reports _____ × 5 =	_____
Number of Electronic Media Messages** _____ × 5 =	_____
Number of Signs Posted _____ × 5 =	_____
Total Points =	_____

(Please note that all entries must be received by May 1, 2027.)

Exalted Ruler's Name _____

Exalted Ruler's Signature _____

Exalted Ruler's E-mail _____

Send this entry to: **William J. Mack**
Community Projects Contest Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
58 Golf Road, Barnesville, PA 18214-2809
E-mail: pspmack2022@gmail.com
C (570) 590-3330

(Please note that all entries must be received by April 1st, 2027)

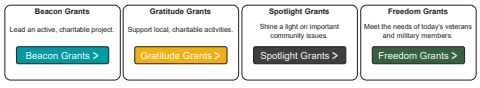
*LODGE DIVISIONS:

(The following membership divisions were adopted at the February Advisory meeting in 2021)

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

** Electronic Media Messages include E-mail, Twitter, Facebook, and etc.

https://www.elks.org/cip/



For information and help, contact:
William J. Mack
Community Projects Contest Coordinator
Grand Lodge Activities Committee
58 Golf Road, Barnesville, PA 18214-2809
C (570) 590-3330
pspmack2022@gmail.com

2026-2027 GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN • AREA 1: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT • Soccer Shoot Program | Committee Web Page

TERENCE P. FORD *{Terry}*
Naugatuck, CT Lodge No. 967
85 Joseph Road — C (203) 232-0636
Naugatuck, CT 06770-2304 — tpford317@gmail.com

AREA 4: IN, KY, MI, OH, VA, WV • JROTC Program Coordinator | Student/Teenager of Month/Year Program

RICHARD W. THREADGILL *{Dianna}*
Berea, OH Lodge No. 1815
333 Fair Street — C (216) 210-5339
Berea, OH 44017-2305 — bereaelk@gmail.com

AREA 5: IL, IA, MN, MO, WI • Medal of Valor & Medal of Service | Assistant Scouting Program Coordinator

ROGER McQUEEN *{Julie}*
Shenandoah, IA Lodge No. 1122
201 E. Nishna Road — C (712) 246-3313
Shenandoah, IA 51601-2416 — rmcqueen1961@gmail.com

AREA 7: AZ, CA, GU, HI, NV, PI, UT • Junior Golf Program Coordinator | Disaster Relief Program Coordinator

WILLIAM C. BOHNETT *{Sue Ellen}*
North Las Vegas, NV Lodge No. 2353 — H (702) 648-7577
2427 Country Orchard Street — C (831) 809-9092
North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4700 — wbohnett@hotmail.com

AREA 2: DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA • Community Projects Contest Coordinator

WILLIAM J. MACK *{Holly}*
Frackville, PA Lodge No. 1533
58 Golf Road — C (570) 590-3330
Barnesville, PA 18214-2809 — pspmack2022@gmail.com

AREA 3: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, PN, PR, SC, TN • | Antlers Program Coordinator

E. MAC KIDD *{Dawn}*
Fayetteville, TN Lodge No. 1792 — O (931) 433-7935
245 Loyd Road — C (931) 307-3176
Pulaski, TN 38478-8043 — kiddkovesheep@gmail.com

AREA 8: AK, ID, MT, ND, OR, SD, WA, WY • Dictionary Project Coordinator

NICK L. BETTENCOURT *{Cody}*
Condon, OR Lodge No. 1869
P. O. Box 854 — C (541) 379-6854
Condon, OR 97823-0854 — nickcody97823@hotmail.com

AREA 6: AR, CO, KS, LA, NE, NM, OK, TX • Scouting Program Coordinator

CARL E. LINDSEY, JR. *{Sheri}*
Overland Park, KS Lodge No. 2395
8902 Grant Street — C (913) 284-3347
Overland Park, KS 66212-3858 — celjr76@gmail.com

GLAC

Grand Lodge Elks Convention • Chicago, IL • July 5–8, 2026