

## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Every fall local school children in grades 5-6 and 7-8 are provided an opportunity to participate in a contest involving writing a 150 word essay on an Elks assigned patriotic topic. Local winners are chosen and awarded savings bonds and their essays are sent on to the District for further competition and awards with the possibility of advancing to the state, regional, and national competitions.

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

The members of Deptford Lodge #2708 enjoy active participation in many social and family activities. We offer Pool Leagues on Monday evenings all year; a Horseshoe League from May until October on Thursday evenings; Shuffleboard Leagues from September to December and January to April on Wednesday evenings; Game Nights including cards and dominoes every Thursday evening all year; Friday "Trivia Nights" the first and third Fridays each month; Cook-off/Karaoke nights once a month; "Thanksgiving Giving" and "Christmas Giving" for families in need; Breakfast with Santa Claus; Holiday Parties at Halloween, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas, New Years Eve, Valentine's Day Comedy Night & St. Patty's Day; Breakfast with the Easter Bunny; Country Western Night; family picnics; decade nights and food theme nights; Eagles football viewing with free food, reduced drink prices & giveaways; and other interesting and enjoyable events!

## MEMBERSHIP = OPPORTUNITIES



*The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America has more than 1 million members in more than 2,100 local lodges nationwide.*

*The Elks are one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the world!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

To inculcate the Principles of our Order - Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate the Order as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the BPOE of the USA will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that

*Elks Care – Elks Share*

*If you would like to learn more about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks or how to become a member of Deptford Lodge #2708 or a local Lodge in your area, please go to our website or call the Lodge at 856-848-7373. We will be happy to answer your questions.*

*The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks*



**Of the USA**

*Elks Care – Elks Share*

*Who we are ...*

*What we do ...*

*Printed and distributed by*

**Deptford Elks Lodge #2708**  
733 Highland Avenue, PO Box 5412  
Deptford, NJ 08096

**856-848-7373**



# Who we are ...

Citizens of the United States over the age of 21 who believe in God.

*The Elks organization first began as the "Jolly Corks" and was lead by London born comic, singer and dancer, Charles Vivian. Although first congregating for their own amusement, the Jolly Corks, a group of artists and thespians, decided to dedicate the group to helping the needy. This idea first began when one of the Jolly Corks died leaving his wife and children alone.*

*On February 16, 1868, in New York City, the Jolly Corks formed the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, lead by Mr. Vivian. As social activities and benefit performances increased, the popularity of the group swept across the country. Soon, groups from other cities were requesting permission to form their own Lodges.*

*The Elks then asked the New York State Legislature for a Charter that would allow the Grand Lodge to establish Lodges anywhere in the United States. The charter was granted and on March 10, 1871, the founding group received the first local charter as New York Lodge No. 1.*

*And still today, the Elks continue the tradition and uphold the four virtues of our Order - Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. The Elk, a peaceful animal, will rise in defense of its own in the face of a threat. The Elk represents a distinctly American intensely patriotic and family oriented brotherhood.*

# What we do ...

## OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elks National Foundation provides more than \$4 million in college scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors. The "Most Valuable Student" scholarships are open to every graduating senior. Legacy Awards and Emergency Educational Fund Grants are available only to children or grandchildren of Elks. Deptford Elks Lodge also provides scholarship money to two Deptford High School seniors. Contact your high school counselor or local Elks Lodge for more information.

## SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

The New Jersey State Elks Special Needs Children's Committee maintains a summer camp in Haskell, NJ. Elks Camp Moore (a.k.a. "The Miracle on the Mountain") is the New Jersey Elks State Project and averages 700 special needs campers per season attending for one week sessions. Individual Elks Lodges in the state pay for the campers they sponsor. The Camp's primary function is to enable children to use and further develop recreational, social and leisure skills through activities presented in a positive, enjoyable, and appropriate manner in a real life situation with a one-on-one counselor for every child. Deptford Lodge also sponsors a Special Needs Dance the third Friday of each month (except December) in the Lodge Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Elks "Hoop Shoot" is a contest open to girls and boys from 8 to 13 years of age. It is a no cost competition where children attempt to sink four shots. The local free-throw contest is held in the fall at Gateway High School. Winners from the three age categories (8-9, 10-11, and 12-13) earn the right to advance to the District competition where another victory may place the hoop-shooting hopefuls on the path to state, regional, and even National Championships which conclude in April. Since its origin in 1946, the "Hoop Shoot" has grown to more than 3 million participants annually, making it the largest coeducational sports program in the country.

Deptford Elks Fishing Derby is held every spring at Greenwich Lake in Gibbstown, NJ. Boys and girls up to 14 years of age attempt to catch the most or the longest fish and every child is presented with prizes at the conclusion of the event. This is a no cost event where bait is provided and lunch is available for the children and their families. Children must have their own fishing rod.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Every year the Elks Southwest District Drug Awareness Committee sponsors a poster contest for local school districts with savings bonds awarded for winning entries. Through literature, multi-media tools, workshops and training seminars, the Elks programs educate students, parents, schools and volunteers about the dangers of drug use. Contact us for more details.