



Scholars on the Santa Monica service trip rode the wave of fellowship as they connected with one another and the California Elks. The scholars visited four Elks Lodges, including Redondo Beach, Calif., Lodge No. 1378, where they met Exalted Ruler Paul and Linda Redgrift (pictured) and many other Elks.

MINI SERVICE TRIPS HAVE MAJOR IMPACT

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After a 16-month, COVID-induced hiatus, Elks Scholar Service Trips returned this summer in a mini way with a major impact.

“We put the trips on hold for the safety of the scholars, staff, Elks, and the populations we serve,” says Grace Roebuck, a 2016 top 20 Most Valuable Student who serves as the ENF’s Elks Scholar Fellow, responsible for planning and leading the service trips. “But we had a window this summer, and we squeezed through it.”

Roebuck planned three miniature versions of the classic week-long service trip over a six-week period in Chicago, Santa Monica and Boston. While the trips were mini in terms of length—three days—and size—designed for around 10 scholars instead of 20—the impact was significant.

In Chicago, the scholars helped sort furniture and household goods and prepared more than 200 meals for individuals and families who recently exited homelessness. They also paid a visit to Elks Headquarters, where ENF Director Jim O’Kelley and Assistant Director Debbie Doles featured the scholars on the *Midday Minute*. Watch the episode now at enf.elks.org/MiddayMinute!

“My time on the trip has taught me the value and intention of volunteering,” says Shiv Patel, a 2018 top MVS winner who recently received a Weigel Medical School

see Service Trips, continued on page 2



In Boston, the scholars met community members in their neighborhoods as they worked with Fresh Truck to deliver produce to folks with inequitable access. Elks Scholar Service Trips give scholars the opportunity to take their service on the road and connect with different communities and one another.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER: ENF Month

NOVEMBER: Elks Veterans Remembrance Month

NOVEMBER 15:
2022 MVS Application Deadline

DECEMBER 17: Impact Grant Recipients Announced

JANUARY 17, 2022:
CIP Grant Applications Close

FEBRUARY 7, 2022: Legacy Awards Application Deadline

MARCH 31, 2022:
2021-22 Fiscal Year Closes

APRIL 7-10, 2022:
MVS Leadership Weekend

APRIL 30, 2022: 50th Anniversary Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals

Service Trips, continued from page 1

Scholarship toward his education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. “I hope to carry this personal growth with me as I pursue a profession dedicated to helping others in need.”

On the West Coast, the scholars worked with Harvest Home, a community for young mothers-to-be and new mothers experiencing homelessness, and Safe Place for Youth Community Garden, which serves youth facing housing insecurity.

In addition to serving, the scholars received a warm #ElksFamily welcome from four different Lodges, including Santa Monica, Calif., Lodge No. 906, where they packed hygiene kits alongside 2021 Legacy scholar Elise Knebel. Though Knebel wasn’t on the service trip, she received a Cornerstone Grant—a \$500 grant available to Elks Scholars to complete a service project with a Lodge—for her Kindness Kits for Veterans project.

The scholars also met Past National President Bob Duitsman and competed in the first-ever Elks Scholar Olympic Games. Santa Monica’s R.A. Pickett helped make the Elks scholars feel welcome at the Lodge and throughout the Elks community.

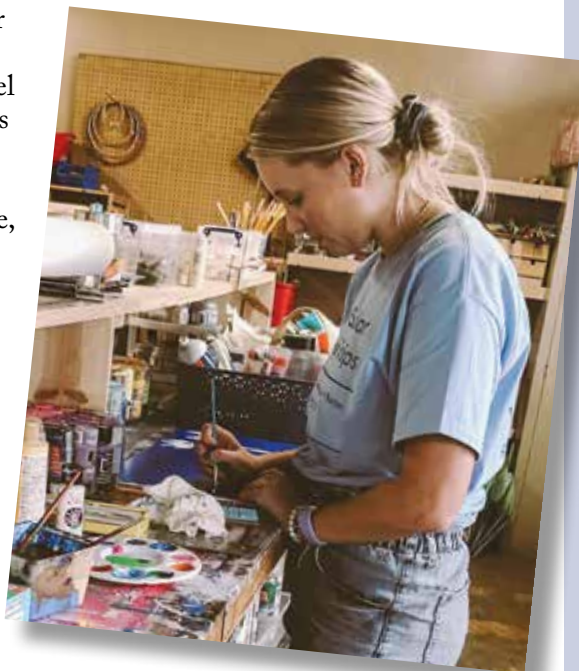
In Boston, the scholars sorted and boxed more than 8,500 pounds of food; helped bring fresh produce to communities with inequitable access to healthy



food items; and sorted donations for children in need. The scholars also had time to connect with two Weigel Medical School Scholarship winners local to Boston—2020 recipient Ganeev Singh, who is studying at Tufts University School of Medicine, and Jessica Phan, a 2021 recipient studying at Harvard.

From coast to coast, Elks scholars met the needs of different communities, engaged in impactful service, and created long-lasting memories and friendships with their #ElksFamily.

“I found myself incredibly close to a group of people I had just met,” says Patel. “This camaraderie is something I will cherish for years to come. I hope that other Elks scholars will take advantage of such a unique opportunity to engage with the Elks community as well.”



At Humble Design in Chicago, 2019 Legacy scholar Averyl Crouse painted decorations to help turn houses into homes for people exiting homelessness.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Every year, the National President sets a per-member-giving goal to encourage Elks to support their Foundation. In 2020-21, then-National President Paul Ryan set the goal at \$4.80. Even during a pandemic, Elks blew that goal out of the water, donating \$7.727 per member.

In all, 46 state associations achieved the per-member-giving goal. Nevada took home the trophy—the state’s 5,649 members donated a total of \$98,794.95 to the Elks National Foundation, achieving a per-member-giving total of \$17.489.

In second place was Utah: 3,550 members donated \$52,622.33, or \$14.823 per member. Mississippi followed in third: 2,697 members donated \$37,425.59, or \$13.877 per member.

South Carolina took fourth: 5,116 members donated \$69,046.19, or \$13.496 per member. Last—but certainly not least—the 13,367 Elks of Texas donated \$176,916.76, or \$13.235 per member, to finish fifth.

You can check out the current and prior-year per-member-giving standings at enf.elks.org/reports.

After the Convention's Opening Ceremony, America's favorite party band, the Party Crashers, did anything but crash the party. Sponsored by the ENF, the Party Crashers brought the house down and kicked off the Convention with a performance to remember.



NATIONAL CONVENTION: THE ELKS TAKE TITLE TOWN

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

A diamond is forever, much like the bond between the Elks National Foundation and its donors. That's why Diamond is the highest level of the ENF's cumulative recognition program, honoring lifetime gifts totaling \$100,000.

Jody Patterson of Pendleton, S.C., Lodge No. 2861; Ward Marsh of Cadillac, Mich., Lodge No. 680; and Charlie Lester of Wichita, Kan., Lodge No. 427, all reached the Diamond level in 2021.

A new donor, Marsh became a Diamond level-donor this spring. Patterson joined the Diamond ranks in January. She is passionate

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Move over Bucs. Make room Lightning. There was a new champion in town this summer when the Elks moved into the Tampa Bay Convention Center for our (mostly) annual reunion.

After a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elks National Convention returned for a scaled-down, pandemic-sensible show in the new Title Town. Accommodations included a ticketing system for workshops and seminars, socially distanced general sessions, and no exhibit hall, but as the saying goes, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

As always, the Convention was a wonderful opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, learn, and bask in the essence of Elksdom. That essence was on full display at Opening Ceremony on the Fourth of July, where the Order highlighted its charitable programs.

Jim Grillo, then-chair of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, kicked off the Elksdom's Charities at Work segment with a promise: "We're going to move fast, and we're going to hit hard, but I promise you: When we're done, it will be like our own fireworks show in this hall, because you're all going to be bursting with pride."

Successive presentations focused on how Elks charitable programs adapted to the pandemic. The Hoop Shoot's Makenna Cannon talked about bouncing back. ENF Assistant Director Debbie Doles pulled double duty. First, she set up videos of the top two Most Valuable Students. Then, she talked about the vital role Community Investments Program grants played in helping Lodges meet incredible need during the pandemic. Elks National Veterans Service Commission Director Mary Morgan praised Elks volunteers for being there

for veterans at a time when they were more isolated than ever. The Elks also were recognized on stage as Partner of the Year by Help Heal Veterans. PGER Millard Pickering then talked about the Drug Awareness Program.

“[The Elks didn’t] get to be 153 years old without being resilient,” pointed out PGER Grillo. “We learned how to use Zoom, we modified some of our guidelines, we made some changes. Things looked a little different, but the important thing is that we got back out there [and] served our communities.

“Because that’s what Elks do. We are America’s premier charitable organization. Even during a pandemic. Maybe *especially* during a pandemic.”

The presentations featured seven short films, including profiles of the top two Hoop Shoot champions and the top two Most Valuable Student scholars. Watch the films at enf.elks.org/2021Films.

The segment delivered on PGER Grillo’s promise.

“I will admit, it brought some tears to my eyes,” said fellow California Elk David Coleman, who was in the audience in Tampa. “I was proud to be an Elk and a member of the ENF family (as the state’s fundraising chair).”

Opening Ceremony concluded with a concert by the Party Crashers, sponsored by the ENF. It was a fantastic show made even better by the people in the audience—old and new friends alike.

The rest of the week featured many educational opportunities, including a couple hosted by ENF staff. A third was cut short by another party crasher—Hurricane Elsa, who did her best to disrupt the Convention, forcing an early close on the convention center on Tuesday and a late start to the Closing Ceremony on Wednesday.

But, as Title Town knows better than most, every champion must overcome adversity. We hope to see you in Atlanta for the 2022 Elks National Convention!



At the 2021 Elks National Convention, Hoop Shoot’s Makenna Cannon (right) and ENVSC Director Mary Morgan gave a heartfelt overview of last year’s programming.



Jodi Patterson named a scholarship after her late husband, Jeffrey, through the ENF’s named scholarship program. She became a Diamond-level donor in January.

about ENF programs, including her favorite: the Most Valuable Student scholarship. She honored her late husband by naming the Jeffrey Patterson Memorial MVS Scholarship through the ENF’s named scholarship program.

Much like Patterson, Lester is dedicated to the MVS scholarship program. He serves as MVS Coordinator and volunteers for the Hoop Shoot, too.

Lester—who reached the Diamond level in May—is also a member of the John F. Malley Society. His planned gift to the ENF ensures his support of youth will continue in perpetuity.

“The more I give to the Foundation, the better I feel,” Lester says. “It makes me feel good to do something for someone else. If I can help more kids along the way, I’ve accomplished something.”



SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!

Visit enf.elks.org/HBSummer, and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!



Hoop Shooting the Breeze host Makenna Cannon talks with Bart Powell, son of the program's first national director Getty Powell and a longtime friend of the program.

TUNE IN FOR HOOP SHOOT NEWS

With a brand-new Hoop Shoot season comes a new season of *Hoop Shooting the Breeze*, the YouTube show all about the program.

In the first episode of season two, host Makenna Cannon sat down with Bart Powell, son of the program's first national director Getty Powell and a longtime friend of the program.

Powell has been a vital part of the National Finals since 1972. Every year, he presents the Getty Powell Award—named for his father—to the top overall girl and boy National Finalists.

Tune in at enf.elks.org/breeze to see the program's rich history through the eyes of someone who was there.

After watching the premiere, catch our two Griteos featuring

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LITTLE LIBRARY AT THE LODGE



Sharing your favorite book is a great way to grow community, and Milwaukee, Wis., Lodge No. 46 is building strong bonds in its community by providing books to kids and families who don't have access.

whose families may not have access to reliable transportation to the public library or the funds to buy books.

"We hope that this project will improve reading comprehension and literacy rates by making books more available for not only children to read themselves, but for parents to read to infants and preschool-aged children," says Elisabeth Mulvany, Esteemed Leading Knight for the Lodge.

According to a recent study in the United Nations News, the rate of children who are experiencing difficulty reading has increased more than 20 percent in the past year due to the pandemic and subsequent school closures. Little Free Library cites that two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own. Providing accessible reading materials for children and families is the first step toward improving literacy rates.

"There are so many ways to encourage literacy—contests, summer reading challenges, book exchanges, storyteller sessions for children, giving books as gifts, volunteering as tutors, or hosting 'reading clinics' for kids," Mulvany says. "Instilling the importance and fun of reading is more important than ever."

If your Lodge is looking to improve family literacy in your community, the possibilities are plentiful with CIP grants. Learn more at elks.org/cip.

From left: Most Valuable Student and Elks Scholar Fellow Grace Roebuck joined Legacy scholar Elise Knebel and PGER Bob Duitsman at the Santa Monica Elks Lodge for an evening of service—and fun.



SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS BACK

It seems like just yesterday we welcomed a new class of Elks scholars to the #ElksFamily. But a new scholarship season is already under way.

The 2022 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest opened on August 2. The MVS scholarship is open to high school seniors who are U.S. citizens. The 500 four-year scholarships are awarded based on academics, service, leadership and financial need.

The top 20 National Finalists will attend the 2022 MVS Leadership Weekend in Chicago to learn about the Order and serve in the name of the Elks. That same weekend, the top 20 will also interview for the top awards, which range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 National Semi-Finalists will receive \$4,000 scholarships.

Spread the word to the high school seniors in your life to apply by **November 15, 2021**. Learn more about the MVS contest and find the application link at enf.elks.org/MVS.

The 2022 Legacy Awards contest launched on September 1. Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships for high school seniors who are the children and/or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks.

Any child or grandchild (or stepchild, step-grandchild or legal ward) of an Elk who joined the Order on or before April 1, 2019, is eligible to apply. Legacy scholars are required to serve with a Lodge every year.

Legacy Awards applications are due on or before **February 7, 2022**. Learn more about the Legacy contest at enf.elks.org/leg.

the latest recipients of the Getty Powell Award.

Sponsored by Great Falls, Mont., Lodge No. 214, Ellison Graham was one of 10 competitors to shoot a perfect 25/25 in the 2020 National Finals, which concluded virtually last spring. Hers was the only perfect score on the girls' side, and the first in the 8- to 9-year-old girls' division since 2013.

Caden Thompson also shot perfectly, but so did three other 12-13 boys. He needed 20 additional shots, all perfect, to win the tie-breaker and take home the gold. Caden was sponsored by Claremore, Okla., Lodge No. 1230.

Watch enf.elks.org/Ellison20 for Ellison's Griteo. Check out enf.elks.org/Caden20 for Caden's Griteo.

This year marks the Hoop Shoot's 50th anniversary as a national program, and the Elks intend to deliver a gold-medal National Finals for a golden anniversary.

On April 30, 2022, the 72 National Finalists will toe the line at Wintrust Arena, a new, state-of-the-art, 10,000-seat facility in Chicago that's home to the WNBA's Chicago Sky and the DePaul University Blue Demons. Let's pack the stands!

Early bird registration for the 2022 National Finals weekend opens on November 1. Learn more at elks.org/hoopshoot.



By starting a monthly gift through the Fidelity Club for as low as \$5 a month, you can help support your favorite ENF programs and build stronger communities.

FIDELITY CLUB MONTH

This August, the Elks National Foundation celebrated all-things Fidelity Club with the first-ever Fidelity Club Month.

The Fidelity Club is the ENF's sustaining giving program. Donors who establish automatic, monthly gifts to the Foundation have their names listed on the website and receive special recognition, like an exclusive pin.

Monthly gifts have a significant impact on the ENF's programming. Ninety-three percent of Fidelity Club donors renew their gifts every year, compared to just 54 percent of annual donors.

"The Fidelity Club is definitely very special and deserves the attention that we are giving it," says Donor Services Coordinator Ashley Hart (pictured above, on right). "Things move the quickest through the grapevine with the

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Past National President and then-ENF Board Chair Jim Grillo (left) and then-National President Paul Ryan are big friends of the ENF, and they support the ENF in one of the easiest and most secure ways: by giving monthly donations through the Fidelity Club.



BE LIKE JIM: JOIN THE CLUB!

At the 2021 Elks National Convention, Jim Grillo, then-Chair of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, announced that he had officially joined the Fidelity Club by starting a monthly gift to the Foundation.

In the first months of the pandemic last year, Grillo watched as the Foundation's Endowment Fund declined in value while donations were down 35 percent.

"It was scary," Grillo reflected. "You start thinking, 'Are we going to be able to fund all the things we wanted to do this year? Will we have to scale back programming when our communities need us most?'"

During that extremely difficult period, Fidelity Club donors buoyed the Foundation. Sustaining gifts provided a reliable revenue stream with which the ENF could provide vital, immediate relief through Community Investments Program grants without being forced to raise cash from investments in a down market.

Grillo credited sustaining donors for buying critical time for the market to turn around and the Foundation to find its footing.

By the end of April 2020, 800 new scholars joined the #ElksFamily. By the end of the fiscal year, 3,300 college students would receive financial support; hundreds of youth would develop grit and find closure for the suspended 2020 Hoop Shoot season; and 1,558 Lodges would receive at least one CIP grant.

"Our Fidelity donors were a constant, reliable source of donations that we never had to worry about," Grillo said. "Now, I'm one of them."

Other notable members of the Fidelity Club include former First Lady

Stacey Ryan, who joined in June, and her husband, Paul, who has been a member since 2019. Like many ENF supporters, they can't pick a favorite program, so they support them all.

"We love the Hoop Shoot program, we love the Scholarship program," PGER Paul Ryan says. "The ENF supports everything that [Stacey and I] are behind, and we're going to stand behind everything now and into the future. We really need to keep our programs out there."

Joining the Fidelity Club makes giving easy. It's safe and secure, and it helps the Foundation cut down administrative costs and focus funds on vital programs.

It takes about five minutes to sign up, but the impact of sustaining gifts is too great to be measured. Be like Jim (and the past first couple) and start a sustaining gift to the ENF at enf.elks.org/BeLikeJim.



Former First Lady Stacey Ryan can't decide which program to support with her Fidelity Club gift, so she supports them all! Her monthly gift helps the Foundation sustain its programs.

Elks. The more we talk about stuff, the more Elks are spreading that information through their Lodges and districts. Fidelity Club Month really gave us the opportunity to share information about the program."

Sustaining gifts help your favorite Foundation programs continue to grow. They help to increase Lodge's per-member-giving totals—that means your Lodge could more easily qualify for a Gratitude Grant and its Fidelity Club bonus.

On top of that, sustaining giving is affordable—monthly gifts can be as little as \$5 per month.

During Fidelity Club Month, 236 donors started monthly gifts! The Foundation's previous record, set in February, was 192. Even though August is over, you can still celebrate the easiest way to support the ENF by establishing your monthly gift—if you haven't already—at enf.elks.org/fidelity.

ASK THE ENF...

Q I learned a long time ago that any time you have the chance to hear Elks scholars speak, you should listen. I don't get out to as many Elks events as I used to, and hearing from those young people is one of the things I miss most. Where can I find content featuring program participants?

—Listening in Lancaster

A Hi, Listening! Check out the Elks National Foundation's YouTube channel. The Foundation's channel is full of content like *20 for 20*, which features Elks scholars, and *Hoop Shooting the Breeze*, a show all about the Hoop Shoot. Plus, *Take a CIP* and the *Midday Minute* keep viewers updated about the Community Investments Program and all-things ENF. New films premiere every week, and there's even exclusive interviews with the 2020 Elks Hoop Shoot Getty Powell winners and the 2021 top MVS scholars. Get watching at enf.elks.org/YouTube.

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at enf@elks.org.

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2020-21 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/fellowship.

(+ Denotes deceased member; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee; > Denotes John F. Malley Society;
* Denotes Fidelity Club; # Denotes Loyalty Club; < Denotes Named Scholarship donor)

CHARITY (\$10,000)

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Edward G. Downs >#
Sharon E. Glasrud
Tony Hafford
Patricia A. Heller #
L. Scott Henry #
Charles W. Lester >#
Edgar W. Miner #
Jody M. Patterson *#<
Ernest P. Roales #
Raymond F. Ross Sr. #<
Jerome and Janet Scanlan
Gunther K. Schroth #
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John D. Amen PGER ^#
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Gerald and Linda Grimes #
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Marlen J. Hoesly #<
Jon L. Laffin +#
Deborah Maffett *
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Gregory T. Neylon +
Chris M. Ord
Leonard W. Ritterpusch Jr. #
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