

In the first full-sized service trip since 2020, Elks Scholar Fellow Raleigh Cury led 20 Elks scholars to Florida to help with disaster relief and cleanup in the wake of Hurricane Ian.



## HOPE FROM THE WRECKAGE

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With 155 mph winds and up to 8 inches of rainfall, Hurricane Ian was one of the deadliest and costliest weather disasters to hit the United States in the past 100 years. According to the Associated Press, in its immediate aftermath, 2.67 million homes and businesses were without power, and more than 40,000 people were displaced.

In the darkness, Elks Scholar Fellow Raleigh Cury saw a light—an opportunity for Elks scholars to learn about disaster relief and preparedness, while helping residents recover from the devastation caused by Ian.

In January, Cury and 20 Elks scholars headed to Tampa for the Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip.

“I reached out to Rita Smith, Grants Coordinator and Exalted Ruler at Tampa Lodge No. 708, at the recommendation of ENF Senior Programs Associate Meghan Morris, about serving in Florida,” says Cury. “She said that they weren’t touched by the hurricane, but she knew a Lodge that was.”

Thrilled that she was asked to help with the trip, Smith immediately put out a call for clothing donations for Greater Pine Island.

“The whole concept of keeping in touch with these scholars really impressed me,” says Rita Smith. “What a great idea—instead of handing them money and saying goodbye, to say hello. I just love that.”

The Tampa Lodge only collected donations for three days, but the bus was nearly

*see Scholars, continued on page 2*







Tampa, Fla., Lodge No. 708 called on its community for clothing donations to benefit the people of Greater Pine Island. When the scholars arrived, they organized and packed almost an entire busload.

*Scholars, continued from page 1*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**MARCH 31:** Fiscal Year 2023  
Donation Deadline

**APRIL 1:** CIP Grant Applications  
Open

**APRIL 1:** Fiscal Year 2024 Begins

**APRIL 13-16:** MVS Leadership  
Weekend

**APRIL 20-23:** Elks Hoop Shoot  
National Finals

**APRIL 28:** Class of 2023 Legacy  
Awards Recipients Announced

full by the time the scholars were finished loading.

“The hours of sorting clothing were worth it when we saw the pure joy on the faces of the Elks at Pine Island as we unloaded the truck,” says Aditi Patel, a 2019 Most Valuable Student scholar. “We heard stories of how the hurricane affected the Elks firsthand and how they were helping their community rebuild. It was heartwarming.”

With work gloves and determination, the scholars set to work clearing debris from Greater Pine Island Lodge No. 2781. They loaded broken furniture onto trailers, cleared palm fronds, and removed the debris that had blown in through the completely missing roof.

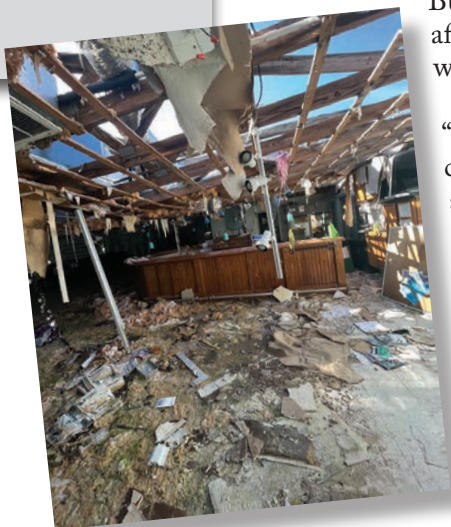
“It was a really emotional day,” says Cury. “We got to know the Elks working with us, and it was so sad to see what had happened to their Lodge.”


But it wasn’t just seeing the destruction of the hurricane that affected the scholars; it was the hope and community found within the wreckage that they took home with them.

“Even when Elks Lodges are suffering, the Elks do what they can to meet their community’s needs,” says Morris, who tagged along for the trip. “The Greater Pine Island Lodge was the recipient of a Community Investments Program Impact Grant. Even though their Lodge is no longer standing, the Elks stood firmly together to not only help one another, but also those in their community who needed it most.”

Elks Scholar Service Trips are just one of the many ways the ENF engages scholarship recipients with the tenets of Elkdom, inspiring them to give back to their community and, maybe, become Elks themselves one day.

Greater Pine Island, Fla., Lodge No. 2781 felt the full force of Hurricane Ian, but even though their Lodge is barely standing, the Elks are on their feet to help the rest of their community.





Sibling rivalry inspired Jackson and Justice Midyett to practice hard and get to the Hoop Shoot National Finals in 2016. This year, Jackson returns as a member of the BackBoard to inspire the 2023 National Finalists. Get to know him at [enf.elks.org/Midyett](https://enf.elks.org/Midyett).



## ON THE REBOUND

Rebounding is essential to the Hoop Shoot. Whether the ball misses its target or swishes through the net, someone has to get the ball back to the line quickly to keep the contestant in rhythm. That's the job of the BackBoard.

Composed of former Hoop Shoot National Finalists, the BackBoard attends the National Finals to rebound for the Finalists and impart some wisdom. This year's 11-member BackBoard features an all-star lineup.

Not only is Jerika Moore a 2015 National Champion, she is also a third-generation Elk at Canon City, Colo., Lodge No. 610. Moore competed in the Hoop Shoot all six years she could. In her final year of eligibility, all her hard work finally paid off.

"Whether the volunteers were rebounding the ball for me, taking score, or working closely behind the scenes, they all had the best attitudes," says Moore, who has fond memories of her trip to the Finals. "Now that I'm older, I want to be that encouraging presence."

Moore went on to play basketball in college, as did fellow BackBoard member Jackson Midyett. Sponsored by Paducah, Ky., Lodge No. 217, Jackson and his sister, Justice, were both National Finalists in 2016.

"Without the discipline that it took for this contest, I would not be where I am today, on and off the court," says Midyett.

Midyett returns to Chicago without the sibling rivalry that fueled his 2016 run, but with wisdom for the 2023 National Finalists.

"The contest is not just about winning or losing," says Midyett. "It's so much more. This is one of my favorite memories from my childhood. The Elks are our family and friends for life."

*The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 50 years. For 2023-24, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit [elks.org/hoopshoot](https://elks.org/hoopshoot).*

## PACK THE STANDS

Tension, anticipation, excitement—that's what you can expect from the Hoop Shoot National Finals.

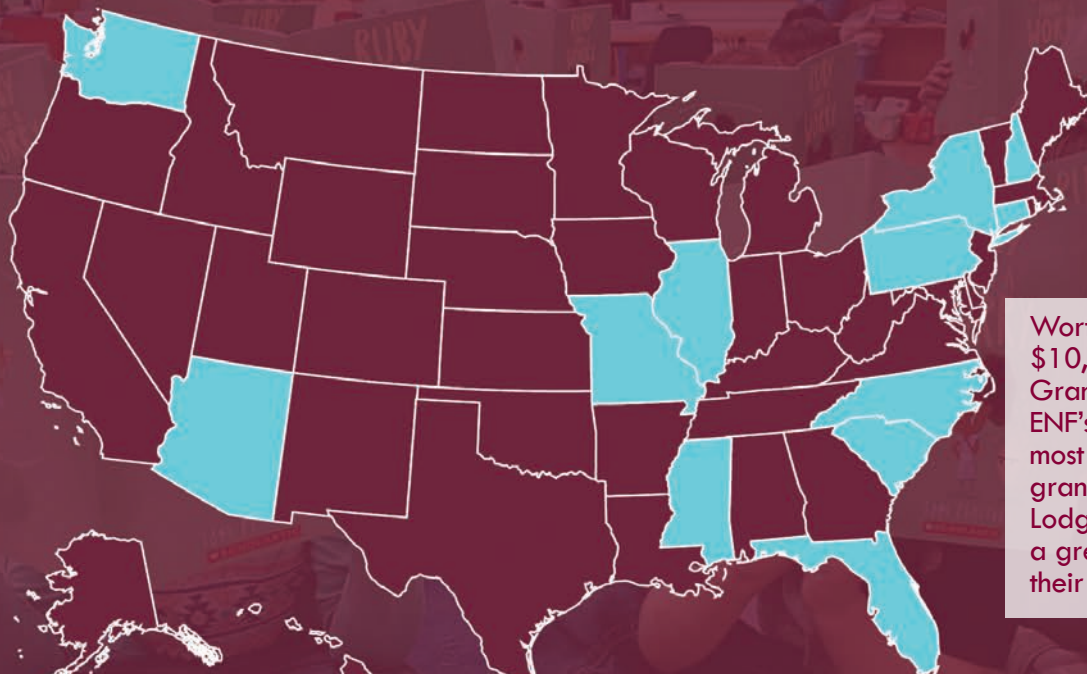
On Saturday, April 22, the 72 top scorers from across the country will step up to the line at Wintrust Arena, home of the WNBA Chicago Sky, to take their shot at the national championship. You won't want to miss it!

While the contest is the featured event of the Hoop Shoot National Finals weekend, there are many other fun activities to get your blood pumping, including the Friday Night FunFest and the Awards Banquet.

Don't miss out on the excitement and the opportunity to (silently) cheer on this year's National Finalists. Registration is open until April 3 and is required for all Hoop Shoot events. Find more information and register online at [enf.elks.org/HS23Reg](https://enf.elks.org/HS23Reg).

If you can't make it, visit [enf.elks.org/2023Finals](https://enf.elks.org/2023Finals) on the day of the contest to watch the action from home.





Worth up to \$10,000, Impact Grants are the ENF's largest and most competitive grant, allowing Lodges to make a great impact in their community.



## A GREAT IMPACT

### LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

The scholars are back in town! After three years of virtual programming and interviews, the Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend is returning to Chicago from April 13-16.

To kick off the weekend, two Elks scholar leaders will guide the finalists through a series of team-building activities to break the ice and help alleviate those pre-interview jitters.

On Saturday, the Top 20 finalists will interview with a panel of national judges for the top awards of \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000. Though the stakes are high, every finalist is guaranteed to receive a scholarship of at least \$20,000.

*continued on facing page*

The Impact Grant application process is competitive. More than 160 Lodges pitched projects with Impact Intents, 46 were selected to submit full applications, and only 12 Lodges received grants.

To qualify for the Community Investments Program Impact Grant of up to \$10,000, Lodges must understand a problem in their community, imagine a unique solution, and muster the volunteer power to execute it. These 12 Lodges were up to the task.

Statesville, N.C., Lodge No. 1823 and Putnam, Conn., Lodge No. 574 plan to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness by providing necessities and educational opportunities.

In a similar fashion, Pendleton, S.C., Lodge No. 2861 will offer teens involved in the Medicaid Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services program parenting classes, tutoring, personal development resources, and opportunities to foster relationships with healthcare professionals.

Four Lodges strive to improve mental health in their communities. Portsmouth, N.H., Lodge No. 97 and Galena, Ill., Lodge No. 882 hope to decrease isolation and improve mental health by providing opportunities for fellowship through outings and activities. Portsmouth will focus on sailors at the local naval base, while Galena will work with adults with developmental disabilities.

Rensselaer, N.Y., Lodge No. 2073 and Cocoa, Fla., Lodge No. 1532 are both using Impact Grants to assist with trauma recovery and aid veterans with PTSD. The Rensselaer Lodge plans to take advantage of its riverside location by offering activities on the water, and the Cocoa Lodge will provide art therapy and nourishment.

Three Lodges have chosen to focus on their communities' need for safe living conditions. Huntingdon, Pa., Lodge No. 976 and Hattiesburg, Miss., Lodge

No. 599 plan to help make homes more accessible by installing ramps for veterans in wheelchairs and completing other home modifications. Blue Springs, Mo., Lodge No. 2509, will provide CPR classes and install carbon monoxide detectors.

With temperatures rising to 106 degrees in the summer months, Casa Grande Valley, Ariz., Lodge No. 1957 will use its Impact Grant to provide cooling stations, information, and heat relief kits to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Last—but certainly not least—Lynnwood, Wash., Lodge No. 2171 is founding the Lynnwood Elks Early Childhood Resource Center to distribute important baby and toddler necessities like diapers, formula and strollers to families living below the poverty line.

The Elks involved in these projects have great ideas, big hearts, and giving hands. We can't wait to see the impact they have on their communities.

*The Elks National Foundation helps Lodges serve their communities in significant and ongoing ways by awarding Impact Grants of up to \$10,000. To find out more about Impact Grants and the Community Investments Program, please visit [enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants](https://enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants).*

*In addition to the 12 new Impact Grants, 48 Lodges had their Impact Grant projects renewed for an additional year of funding. Check out the 48 renewals at [enf.elks.org/Renewals23](https://enf.elks.org/Renewals23).*

To celebrate their accomplishment, the scholars will conclude the weekend with a celebratory dinner cruise on Lake Michigan.

The scholars will go home with more than just financial aid for their college careers—they'll leave Chicago with an invitation to something bigger: an opportunity to be part of a national network of like-minded peers and a permanent place in the #ElksFamily.

For 2023-24, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.8 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit [enf.elks.org/MVS](https://enf.elks.org/MVS).

## ASK THE ENF...

**Q** My Lodge has never applied for a Community Investments Program grant, and we would like to get involved next year. Any tips on where to start?  
—Anticipating the Application

**A** Dear Anticipating,  
Grant applications for the new fiscal year open on April 1, so it is the perfect time to start brainstorming! Our goal is to put CIP grant funds in the hands of every Elks Lodge, so we try to make it as easy as possible to get started. The Spotlight Grant is the perfect grant for any aspiring CIPerstar.

The \$2,000 grant comes with a handy toolkit of pre-made project ideas to encourage childhood literacy, help our nation's veterans, and combat food insecurity. Just pick a project from the list to get started.

If your Lodge sees a different community need that it wants to address, then it has already taken the first step toward applying for one of the other CIP grants. The process is easy as 1, 2, 3, 4! Check out the four steps to CIPcess at [enf.elks.org/CIPresources](https://enf.elks.org/CIPresources).

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).



# ENF IN YOUR STATE

Every year, the ENF strives to give back more money to your state than it received in donations. In the 2021-22 fiscal year, Elks gave more than \$7.7 million to the ENF, allowing the ENF to give more than \$14 million back to the Elks for State Grants, Scholarships and Veterans Service in 2022-23. When you add all of that together, it can only equal one thing.



## State Grants

Every year, the ENF gives a financial contribution to support your state's major project. Portions of these grants also support your state's Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and other charitable programs.

In 2022-23, the ENF awarded more than \$10 million in grants to the state associations.



## Scholarships

The ENF awards a total of 500 Most Valuable Student scholarships and 350 Legacy Awards scholarships. Scholarships are also available to the children of Elks who are deceased or totally disabled.

In 2022-23, the ENF awarded more than \$4 million in scholarships.



## Veterans Services

The ENF also provides the Elks National Veterans Service Commission with funding to support its volunteers working in veterans hospitals and medical care centers.

In 2022-23, VAVS volunteers received \$675,000 in funding from the ENF.

## A Big Difference

For every \$1 the Foundation received from Elks in 2021-22, it gave back \$1.824 in 2022-23. And that doesn't even include the money granted to Lodges through the Community Investments Program! When you give to the ENF, you're giving to support your Lodge, your state, and the entirety of Elkdom.



**What does the ENF give to *your* state?**  
Visit [enf.elks.org/YourState](https://enf.elks.org/YourState) or scan the QR code to find out!



# FIDELITY CLUB

We thank the members of the Fidelity Club, who give automatic, monthly donations to the ENF.  
As of January 2023, these sustaining donors have given 200, 150, or 100 Fidelity Club gifts to the Foundation.  
To learn more about the Fidelity Club and see the complete honor roll, visit [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](http://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub).

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