



BEACON GRANTS

Ongoing Lodge Community Service Projects

Beacon Grants are \$2,000 grants available to every Lodge. These grants offer Lodges an opportunity to develop an ongoing, Elks-led charitable project.

Requirements:

- ❖ **New** - If your Lodge has not received a Beacon Grant before, it must be used to start a project that the Lodge has never previously funded. If your Lodge received a Beacon Grant in the past, it should use the 2015-16 grant to continue that project. Ideally, your Lodge will continue to use the Beacon Grant for the same successful project year after year.
- ❖ **Ongoing** – Project must be something repeatable that the Lodge is committed to continuing on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Funds should be used in the same manner every year.
- ❖ **Elks-led** – Project requires hands-on Elk involvement. The Lodge should be in charge of the grant funds.
- ❖ **Activity** – Project must be active and focus on a single community need. It cannot be a donation of supplies or funds, and cannot be split between projects. Elks involvement must be directly related to the use of funds.

Charitable Focus: ENF Grants should always be used for charitable purposes. Keep the following IRS defined categories in mind when planning a grant project: relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged; advance education, but not through scholarships; lessen the burdens of government; lessen neighborhood tensions; eliminate prejudice and discrimination; combat juvenile delinquency.

Restrictions: ENF Grant guidelines state that Lodges may not use grants to support State Major Projects, national Elks programs, fund scholarships, Hoop Shoot events, youth awards nights, poster and/or essay contests, appreciation dinners, fundraisers or general community events.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's charitable project, and how often it will occur? (Beacon Grant projects must occur at least annually.)
- Tell us about your community. Why is this an important community need?
- Elks participation is required. Tell us how Lodge members are actively involved in this project, how many will be involved, and how the project will be identifiable as Elk-led.
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project? How will the Lodge measure its success?
- Itemized budget. *Please note: No more than 10 percent of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses.*

Application Dates: Beacon Grant applications are available online only, starting July 1, 2015 until March 31, 2016. No exceptions. Beacon Grants may be used between July 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016. Your Lodge's application should be submitted and approved before the project occurs.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.elks.org/enf/community/BeaconGrants.cfm>.
Questions? Contact the Grants Office at 773/755-4730 or LodgeGrants@elks.org.

Beacon Grant Examples

Lockport, N.Y., Lodge No. 41: For the past three years, the Lockport Lodge has partnered with Challenger Sports Program to provide activities for youth with mental and physical disabilities. In the fall the Lodge plans a Halloween party and in the spring the Elks organize a bowling tournament. Over the course of the year, 30 Elks volunteer with this project.

Manistee, Mich., Lodge No. 250: Manistee Lodge partners with SafeNet, a collaborative effort between the local school district and a community mental health agency, to provide a golf clinic for local youth. SafeNet focuses on providing at-risk elementary and junior high school students with meaningful summer activities and the Lodge's golf clinic is a hole-in-one!

**"Beacon Grant successes include meeting local needs and creating visible involvement in our community. It also generated a tremendous amount of pride in being an Elk."
– Kenneth Johnson, Hot Springs, Ark., Lodge No. 380**

Elberton, Ga. Lodge No. 1100: Each week 10 to 15 Elks visit the local senior center for "Senior Sundays". The Elks provide meals for low-income seniors enrolled in the center's lunch program. The Senior Center Director helps the Lodge identify seniors who are in need of the program. Elks who are unable to donate their time to serve meals can be involved by donating non-perishable food.

Dover, Del., Lodge No. 1903: During June and July, Dover Elks meet with families at the local homeless shelter, The Shepherds Place, to provide assistance for school-age children. At each appointment, the Elks provide backpacks and school supplies to homeless youth. In total, the Lodge plans to assist up to 70 children.

Dallas, Texas, Lodge No. 71: The Dallas Lodge works with shelters, nursing homes and youth centers to identify individuals in need of winter wear. Then, the Lodge uses grant funds to purchase flannel and wool which members crochet into hats and scarves.

Tenafly, N.J., Lodge No. 2271: Veterans moving from transitional homes to a permanent residence can rely on the Elks for a kick-start to their new chapter. The Tenafly Lodge packs boxes filled with necessary household items like pots, pans, sheets, dishes and towels and then gives them to veterans before their big move. The Lodge works with the local transitional shelter and Bergen County Veterans Service organization to identify veterans in need.

Not a Beacon Grant project	Great Beacon Grant project
Dictionary Project	Youth & Elks monthly reading program
Donation to Wounded Warriors	Bi-annual outings with local Wounded Warriors
Little League sponsorship	Sports camp for youth with disabilities
Purchase equipment for scouts	Partner with scouts on community service projects
Donation to DARE	Quarterly drug-free activities for at-risk teens
Donation to a veterans group	Social activities for VA hospital residents

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