



Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

# PROMISE GRANTS

## *Activities for Youth*

Promise Grants are \$2,500 grants available to the first 500 Lodges that apply to hold an eligible charitable youth event. Promise Grant applications are available online starting July 1, 2015. All Lodges are eligible to apply. Promise Grants offer Lodges a chance to be a positive influence in their communities by hosting an event that builds the character and competence of local youth.

### Five Promises to Youth

- **Providing youth with safe places**
- **Promoting healthy living**
- **Offering support from caring adults**
- **Emphasizing the importance of education**
- **Encouraging community service**

### Promise Grants must be activities in which Elks and youth have direct interaction.

They cannot be donations of funds or supplies. The goal is to encourage Lodges to hold events that give youth and Elks a chance to come together. We encourage Promise Grant projects that focus on serving underprivileged or at-risk youth.

**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; 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.

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### Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's charitable activity and how it will serve local youth.
- Why is this project needed in your community? How is the Lodge making an effort to reach out to youth in need?
- Elks participation is required. Tell us how Lodge members are actively involved in this activity and how many will be involved.
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this activity? How will the Lodge measure its success?
- Itemized budget. *Please note: No more than 10% of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses.*

**Application Dates:** Promise Grants are available to the first 500 Lodges to submit eligible applications. Applications are online only, starting July 1, 2015. Promise Grants may be used between July 1, 2015, and July 31, 2016.

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

## Promise Grant Examples

**Fullerton, Calif., Lodge No. 1993** assists local school-aged children that are in need of specialized one-on-one tutoring. The volunteer tutors and Elk members provide lunch, school supplies and 1 hour per-student of free tutoring every Saturday. Additionally, Lodge members prepare a healthy lunch for the children and allow them to select school supplies that would assist them with their studies.

**Springfield, Ill., Lodge No. 158** provides their swimming pool, 5 certified life guards and 1 swim instructor to teach underprivileged youth to swim and be comfortable around water. The Lodge works with Springfield Public Schools Scope Project, a before and after school program for children of parents who work or are in educational training.

**Mountain Home, Idaho, Lodge No. 2276** partners with the local Parks and Recreation Department to provide arts and craft classes to low income children in the community. The project includes one class a month to approximately 50 low income children for a full year. Elks volunteer as chaperons at each event and assist with registration.

**“Our Lodge’s Promise Grant was extremely successful. We helped approximately 100 individuals and it reinforced to us that Elks are all about charity and giving back to the community”**  
**- Valree Thompson, Plano-Richardson, Tex., Lodge No. 2485**

**Redwood City, Calif., Lodge No. 1991** partners with InnVision Shelter Network, a homeless shelter that provides interim and stabilization shelter, permanent supportive housing, outreach, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention services. Elks work with local high school students to hold a day of fun for children at these facilities. At the end of the day, they provide each homeless child with a backpack of school supplies, snacks, and a phone book with contact information for their new friends and potential tutors/mentors.

Not a Promise Grant project	Great Promise Grant project
Distribute drug awareness supplies	Hold an after-prom party at the Lodge
Sports team sponsorship	Start an intramural sports league for at-risk teens
Holiday party for Elks and their families	Back-to-school party for foster children
Dictionary Project	A reading fair or book club for youth in need
Donation to Boys & Girls Club	Organize a field trip for Boys & Girls Club youth

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