



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

GRATITUDE GRANTS

Flexible Grant to Meet Local Needs

Gratitude Grants are the ENF's way of saying thank you to every Lodge that meets the GER's per-member-giving goal to the ENF. These \$2,000-\$2,500 grants offer an opportunity for Elks to think about how best to serve their community and make it stronger. Last year, 85 percent of Lodges met the per-member-giving goal to the ENF, so start planning today!

Grant Amount: Every Lodge that meets the GER's per-member-giving goal is eligible for a \$2,000 grant. Additionally, Lodges in which more than 15 percent of its members donated at least \$10 to the ENF in 2016-17 (per the ENF Membership Support Report) will be eligible for a bonus of \$500. This bonus will be automatically added to your Lodge's Gratitude Grant application, and you will have the ability to request up to \$2,500.

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.

Flexibility: If the Lodge is unable to plan an active project, it may use a Gratitude Grant to donate funds or supplies to a charitable organization. Gratitude Grants may also be used for more than one project.

We encourage your Lodge to use its Gratitude Grant in an active way. Choose a project that gives Lodge members a chance to get involved and see the results of the grant first-hand. To encourage active projects, each Lodge that applies to use the Gratitude Grant for a donation will receive a follow-up email from the ENF asking the Lodge to consider more active ways to serve the community. Please read the entire email, and contact the ENF with any questions.

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

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's charitable project and how it will serve the community.
- Why is this an important community need? How will the Lodge identify people in need to help?
- We highly encourage your Lodge to consider using the Gratitude Grant in an active way. Active projects increase visibility in the community and encourages more people to get involved. How many Lodge members will volunteer? What are their duties and responsibilities?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project? How will the Lodge measure its success?

Visit our webpage at elks.org/cip.

Questions? Contact the Grants Office at 773/755-4730 or LodgeGrants@elks.org.

- Itemized budget. *Please note: No more than 10 percent of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses. This includes t-shirts and other non-essential merchandise.*

Application Dates: Gratitude Grant applications are available online only, starting July 1, 2017, until May 31, 2018. No exceptions. Gratitude Grants are available for use between the date your Lodge meets the per-member-giving goal to the ENF and July 31, 2018.

Gratitude Grant Examples

Last year, more than 1,330 Lodges used a Gratitude Grant to serve community members in need. Check out some examples of great Gratitude Grant projects.

Richmond, Va., Lodge No. 45: Elks serve veterans at a local Transition Rehabilitation Program and homeless veterans enrolled in the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program. The Lodge hosts several cookouts, a Stand Down for the homeless veterans, and a picnic at the Lodge for spinal cord injury unit patients.

Ashland, Ore., Lodge No. 944: Elks partner weekly with Lifespan Respite in order to relieve the burden of community members caring for a family member in need, such as someone with a medical condition or physical disability. For four hours each week, the Lodge opens its doors for the event. Elks help with set-up, clean-up, and provide food and needed supplies.

Perryville, Mo., Lodge No. 2701: Elks host a bingo dinner for a camp of 35 to 40 seniors with disabilities. The camp is a permanent living facility for residents. In addition to small bingo prizes, Elks provide gift bags of toiletries. The Lodge also delivers meals twice a year to local senior homes.

Mission Viejo- Saddleback Valley, Calif., Lodge No. 2444: The Lodge supplies veterans in need with necessary items for a job skills course. Elks work very closely with VetNet, a charitable group dedicated to assisting with job training, job placement and clothing for veterans. The supplies were for a five-day customer service course after which veterans received a certificate of completion and job placement.

| Good for Them | Better for the Lodge |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Donation to food bank | Serve monthly meals at the food bank |
| Donation to youth groups | Build a garden at local youth center |
| Donation to veterans group | Assemble Welcome Home Kits for veterans in need. |
| Donation to a local shelter | Renovate the playroom at a local shelter |
| Donation to restore a city building. | Partner with youth to hold community clean-up days. |

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