

Good of the Order

Elks National Home - a retirement community exclusively for Elks members in Bedford, Virginia.

Elks Veterans Memorial, Chicago - a tribute to the bravery, loyalty and dedication of the thousands of Elks who have fought and died for our country. This is also the location of the Elks National Headquarters.

Local "Good of the Order" Events

Officer Installation - held annually in April to recognize incoming officers includes dinner and dancing after the ceremony.

Ritual Competition - The Initiation Ceremony we take great pride in and lodges across the country compete at District, State and National level. Sturgis is proud to be the home of several State Champion Teams and the National Champion Ritual Team 2007.

Elks Conventions - Held at the District, State and National level, Sturgis has been the host of several District conventions and participates at all levels.

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

Our Mission

To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity;
to recognize a belief in God;
to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members;
to quicken the spirit of American patriotism;
to cultivate good fellowship;
to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government,
the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

Elks

What Are We and What Do We Believe In?

-  Organized on February 16, 1886, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the largest American Benevolent Organization in the United States of America, with just under a million members.
-  We love our country and desire to preserve its cherished institutions, traditions and values.
-  We respect our neighbors and seek to promote their well being.
-  We love and enjoy life and believe this enjoyment is increased by sharing it with family and friends.
-  We believe laughter is better than tears, and a kind word more powerful than a frown.
-  We are a benevolent organization, not a "Social or Business Club".
-  We are dedicated to service to our communities and country.
-  We seek members who possess a deep sense of patriotism, fair play and dedication to noble causes.
-  We question no one's religion; we do not exclude anyone because of creed, race, ethnic origin, educational attainment, vocation material status or physical stature.
-  We measure character by what one is and does, not by titles or position.



The Order is a non-political, non-sectarian and strictly American fraternity. Proposal for membership in the Order is only by invitation of a member in good standing. To be accepted as a member, one must be an American citizen, believe in God, be of good moral character and be at least 21 years old.

We believe in helping others, but we also believe in having fun. Often we manage to combine the two. Some of our Lodges feature swimming pools, golf courses, playrooms and ballrooms; most have dining facilities; all offer family entertainment. We enjoy doing the good works we do and the people we do them with ... our families and our friends.



Sturgis Elks
#1381

All American Lodge
Gold Star Lodge
State Ritual Champs
National Ritual Champs

Membership Information

Programs & Activities

The Order spends more than \$80,000,000 every year for benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded programs

Youth & Patriotic Activities

Youth Programs

Hoop Shoot® - This National Free Throw Contest is the largest and most visible of the many youth activities sponsored by Elks lodges throughout the country. Boys and girls between the ages of 8 through 13 participate in the local contest which is held in December. The boy and girl in each age group with the best scores advances through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals in April.

Soccer Shoot - similar to the Hoop Shoot boys and girls ages 14 and under participate. Contestants also advance through four levels of competition. Drug Awareness

Pumpkin Patch Party for Disabled Children - held annually around Halloween the Elks hosts handicapped children from the St. Joseph County Pathfinders Center and other area programs for disabled and handicapped children and their aids for lunch, trick or treating and a pumpkin patch.

Other youth activities include ...

Drug Awareness Program
Youth Recognition Night
Americanism Essay Contest
Little League Baseball - team sponsor over 20 years.

Patriotic Events

Veteran's Picnic - Held at the VA Hospital in Battle Creek each June, Elks from around the State converge to cook and serve a picnic lunch to hundreds of veterans each year. One of the most rewarding programs we're involved in.

Veterans Day Dinner - hosted at the lodge around Veteran's Day we annually serve nearly 100 veteran's dinner as a thank you for their service.

Other patriotic activities include ...

Flag Retirement Ceremony - November
Flag Day Service - June
Memorial Service - December
History of the Flag - presented to local schools
Flag certificates - presented to local businesses for properly flying the flag

Charitable Events & Participation

Elks National Foundation - provides more than \$3.64 million in college scholarships each year.

Most Valuable Student scholarships are open to any graduating high school senior.

Legacy Awards are available to the children and grandchildren of active Elk members.

Emergency Educational Grants are available only to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks.

Elks Major Projects - Each State Elks Association has its own major project. The Michigan Elks Association annually provides equipment and supplies to handicapped children locally and statewide.

Gary Bender Memorial Scholarship - a scholarship established and funded by our Sturgis Elks Lodge to honor deceased Elk member Gary Bender, given annually to a local high school senior.

Local Charities

Boots & Shoes - well known in the community and held in conjunction with the Sturgis Kiwanis, this aptly named program distributes boots or shoes, gloves, hats and socks to young children who need them in the Sturgis School District. The children are also invited to a pizza dinner and get a visit with Santa Claus who makes sure they each receive a wrapped gift.

Operation Care Package - a program begun in 2003 that provides individual military units with needed items like flashlights and phone cards as well as other packages and greetings from the Sturgis Elks members to deployed military personnel from the area.

Christmas Giving Tree - Each year during the Christmas season the Sturgis Elks adopts a family in need through the FIA. Tags on the tree are chosen by members who purchase gifts and food for the family.

Thanksgiving Baskets - Each Thanksgiving season several baskets are assembled that include an entire Thanksgiving meal and are taken to Keystone Place homeless shelter or other community organization for distribution to families in the area.

Christmas Adopt-a-kid - In conjunction with the FIA and Sturgis Rotary many Elk members purchase gifts for kids in foster care in St. Joseph County.

Relay for Life - annual donation

Domestic Assault Shelter & Food Bank - donations

Social Activities

Feather Party (Roy Commenator night)

Held in early November since as long as most of us can remember, this is a great night at the lodge which includes a fish dinner and raffles of turkeys and hams as well as much camaraderie.

Elks Annual Golf Outing

A four person scramble held every summer at Klinger Lake Country Club followed by festivities at the Lodge which include a Steak Dinner and Dancing.

Christmas Eve Tom & Jerry Party

Also a long standing tradition at the Sturgis Elks, members stop by the Lodge on Christmas Eve to share a little Christmas cheer which may include the "Tom & Jerry" with fellow members and friends before heading off to church and family functions of the season.

St. Patrick's Day Pot O' Gold Party

Held annually near St. Patrick's Day in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce includes green beer, corned beef & cabbage, poker & black jack as well as other auction items and games.

Other social events include ...

Easter Egg Hunt
Kids Day at Comerica Park
Mother's Day Brunch
Motorcycle Poker Run to benefit handicapped kids
Live Bands & Shows
Pontoon Poker Run
Family Picnic
Toy Run Breakfast
Tailgate Parties
Scavenger Hunt
Feb Fest
Octoberfest Beer & Wine Tasting
Chili Cook Off
Great Elk Hunt & Sweet 16 Party
Auction of Officers
Silent Auction
Texas Hold 'Em Tournament
New Years Eve Party
Euchre Parties
Superbowl Parties
Valentine's Dinner/Dance
Steak Fry & Dinners