



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 goal for giving 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 goal for giving to the ENF, so start planning today.

**Grant Amount:** Every Lodge that meets the GER's per member goal for giving is eligible for a \$2,000 grant. New this year, every Lodge in which more than 15 percent of its members donated to the ENF in 2014-15 will be eligible for a bonus of \$500 when it achieves the GER's per-member goal. That means these Lodges will be eligible for a Gratitude Grant of \$2,500 instead of the standard \$2,000.

**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 cause. Gratitude Grants may also be split and 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.

**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 project and how it will serve the community.
- Tell us about your community. Why is this an important community need?
- Is there an opportunity for Elks to get involved in this project? Please tell us how Elks will participate.
- 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:** Gratitude Grant applications are available online only, starting July 1, 2015, until May 31, 2016. No exceptions. Gratitude Grants are available for use between the date your Lodge meets the per-member goal for giving to the ENF and July 31, 2016.

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

## Gratitude Grant Examples

Last year, more than 1,300 Lodges used a Gratitude Grant to serve community members in need. Here are a few standout projects from the 2014-15 fiscal year.

**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.

**Potosi, Mo., Lodge No. 2218:** Lodge members buy warm clothing for children in need. Local schools contacted the Lodge to ask for help with this great need. Lodge members purchase coats, shoes, socks, shirts, jeans and underwear for approximately 450 children residing within the county. Without the Elks help, these children might otherwise be without these basic necessities.

**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 event takes place at the Lodge. 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 and a take-home bingo set for the camp, Elks provide gift bags of toiletry items. The Lodge also delivers meals twice a year to area senior homes.

**Mission Viejo- Saddleback Valley, Cal., Lodge No. 2444:** This 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 the veterans received a certificate and job placement.

**"These grants have really been a huge part in helping our Lodge. With an increase in membership and more participation from current members, I know we'll be able to do some really great things for the community with the help of the CIP grants for years to come."  
– Pat Marchetti, Trenton, N.J., Lodge No. 105**

Good for Them	Better for the Lodge
Donation to food bank	Serve a monthly meals at the food bank
Donation to youth groups	Build a garden at local youth center
Little League sponsorship	Sports clinic for underprivileged youth
Purchase equipment for Special Olympics team	Host quarterly parties for youth with special needs
Donation to a local shelter	Renovate the playroom at a local shelter

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