

Press Release / Lodge Newsletter insert

The Elks Would Like To Tan Your Hide

The Elks have begun their annual big game hide collection to benefit our nation's veterans. Local hunters have the opportunity to stretch out a helping hand to veterans in need. The Elks have begun the annual collection of deer, elk and other animal hides which will be tanned and made into fingerless wheelchair gloves that will be given to our nation's wheelchair bound veterans. The Elks also have a program in place where tanned leather is made into craft kits that are distributed through the VA Hospital and Clinic system. The drive is part of a nationwide leather program that the Elks have been operating since 1948. The motto of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission is: "So Long As There Are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Will Never Forget Them".

Once donated, volunteers clean, salt, fold and stack the hides. They are then transported to tanneries for processing. After cleaning and tanning, a portion of the leather is made available in craft kits to veterans to make wallets, clothing, belts and moccasins for personal use or to enter in arts and crafts shows. The remainder of the leather is made into fingerless wheelchair gloves for disabled vets and is distributed through the VA system by representatives of the Elks. The program is funded by the Elks at no cost to veterans or the government. In fact, "Elks Leather" has become a national by-word among veteran patients everywhere.

Our veterans responded willingly to our call, and now it is only fitting that we respond to their needs.

For information on how to properly prepare, care for and donate a hide or to participate in this program, Please contact your local Elks Lodge _____ at _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Or you can contact Jim Vincent, Chairman, Colorado Elks Leather Program, 720-685-3208, Jim.Vincent@live.com Additionally please go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ElksVeteransLeatherProgram

