

BRUCE A. HIDLEY
Grand Exalted Ruler
P. O. Box 832
COHOES, NY 12047-0832



BRYAN R. KLATT
Grand Secretary
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
CHICAGO, IL 60614-1889

GRAND LODGE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MICHAEL T. OHREN
Chairman

7015 Beth Avenue
PAPILLION, NE 68133-2120
C (402) 660-0709
white-tail@cox.net

April 2023

Dear State Youth Activities Chairperson,

Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley, has requested all Local Lodges set aside May 1-7, 2023, as ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK. All Lodges are urged to sponsor programs throughout this week dedicated to the youth of our country.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee has asked each Exalted Ruler to see that a committee is appointed to conduct an appropriate program for Elks Youth Week. Elks National Youth Week should be the culmination of the 2022-2023 Lodges' Youth Programs. Programs such as luncheons or banquets honoring outstanding students, local Hoop Shoot winners, Soccer Shoot winners, Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners, are just a few examples of the activities that can be held during the week along with other scheduled events.

Please note that the Youth Week promotion is not a Grand Lodge-sponsored contest of Local Lodges. Any Youth Week Contests would be at the discretion of Local Lodges' respective State Associations. As a result, State Youth Activities Chairs, your help in promoting and stimulating this program in your state is essential to its success.

Please give this youth activity promotion your immediate attention. Be sure to brief your State Committee on the program and urge all your Lodges to participate in making our Grand Exalted Ruler's request a success!

Quality Youth Activities Programs such as Elks National Youth Week will enable us to become an important link of volunteers and leaders in the USA, demonstrating that *ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE*.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ohren".

Michael T. Ohren, Chairman
Grand Lodge Activities Committee

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A Fraternal Organization

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APRIL 2023

Dear Exalted Rulers-Elect,

Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley has requested that all Local Lodges set aside **May 1-7, 2023**, as **Elks National Youth Week**. All Lodges are urged to sponsor programs throughout this week dedicated to the youth of our country.

If your Lodge program has not already been started, please appoint a committee and charge it to promote this important program, which will create a favorable impact on your community. This committee should realize that the purpose of this week is to recognize our youth and to impress upon them that our American way of life is to be cherished. We must preserve and defend it.

Elks National Youth Week should be the culmination of the 2022-2023 Lodges' Youth Programs. Programs such as luncheons or banquets honoring outstanding students, local Hoop Shoot winners, Soccer Shoot winners, Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners, are just a few examples of the activities that can be held during the week, along with other scheduled events.

Please note that the Grand Lodge Activities Committee no longer sponsors the Youth Week Contest Awards presented at the Grand Lodge Session. Any Youth Week Contests would be at the discretion of the Local Lodges' respective State Associations. As a result, State Youth Activities Chairs are there to help in promoting and stimulating this program in your state. Their assistance is essential to its success. Feel free to contact your State Chairperson for information.

Quality Youth Activities Programs such as Elks National Youth Week will enable us to become an important link of volunteers and leaders in the USA, demonstrating that **ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE**.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ohren". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael T. Ohren, Chairman
Grand Lodge Activities Committee



ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

IDEAS—SUGGESTIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR PLANNING ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

MAY 1-7, 2023

We are submitting herewith for your use and guidance some Elks National Youth Week Program ideas, suggestions and recommendations, which have been used effectively in the past by Lodges and State Associations.

1. Have the mayor of your city or the president of your town or city council issue a *Youth Week Proclamation*. It is suggested that the request be made by the Exalted Ruler or Chairperson of the Youth Activities Committee.
2. Governors of states should likewise proclaim the **FIRST WEEK in MAY 2023**, as **Elks National Youth Week**. This request should be handled by the State Association Presidents or the State Association Youth Committee Chairpersons.
3. Suggested drafts of a Mayor's Youth Week Proclamation and a Governor's Youth Week Proclamation are made a part of this release.
4. A determined effort should be made by each of our 1,800-plus Local Lodges throughout the country to stage a Youth Week Parade, with all high schools, public, parochial and private, within the jurisdiction of each Lodge, invited to participate with their bands, drill teams and cheerleaders. An invitation should also be extended to any other organized youth groups, such as church groups, to march in uniform. Prizes should be awarded to the school or group with the best drill team, for the greatest number in line of march, for the best band and the best in appearance. Every type of media, newspaper, radio and television should be requested to give your Lodge the coverage that such a promotion deserves. Such a demonstration would prove to the citizenry of this great country that the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks with the cooperation of the Local Lodges are doing their part, in a big way, to combat juvenile delinquency.
5. Suggest to your city or state officials a Student Government Day. The boys and girls could take over the offices of the Elected Officials for one day.
6. Arrange with your Chief of Police to engage and swear in high school seniors to work on school patrols, ride with police in police cars, observe handling of cases at headquarters and spend an entire day in the police department to observe its various functions, and in that way learn what goes on in this important department of government.
7. Sporting events are another project that creates public interest and in which boys and girls are eager to participate, such as track and field meets, basketball, baseball, boxing, fishing tournaments and road races.
8. There are many other suggestions in the Youth Activities Manual as to how Youth Week can be served.

The Committee realizes that the success of this Youth Week Program depends on the measure of cooperation received from the Local Lodges and the State Associations. We feel confident of that cooperation and pledge again the assistance of our Committee in every possible way. Make Elks National Youth Week, **May 1-7**, an outstanding youth observance and one that will reach out to more boys and girls and serve them in a helpful, honorable and constructive way.

We again reiterate that you are at liberty to adopt such Elks National Youth Week Programs as best meet the need in your area and such as your facilities and budget will permit. We do urge that each and every Exalted Ruler plan some appropriate observance of Elks National Youth Week and strive for its recognition in your State's Contest.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Michael T. Ohren, *Chairman*

Elks Care — Elks Share

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GRAND LODGE
Benevolent and Protective
ORDER OF ELKS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Suggested Youth Week Proclamation

FOR LODGE USE

Whereas, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has designated May 1-7, as Youth Week to honor America’s Junior Citizens for their accomplishments, and to give fitting recognition of their services to Community, State and Nation; and,

Whereas, () will sponsor an observance during that week in tribute to the Junior Citizens of this Community; and,

Whereas, no event could be more deserving of our support and participation than one dedicated to these young people who represent the nation’s greatest resource, and who in the years ahead will assume the responsibility for the advancement of our free society; and,

Whereas, our Youth need the guidance, inspiration and encouragement which we alone can give in order to help develop those qualities of character essential for future leadership; and go forth to serve America; and,

Whereas, to achieve this worthy objective we should demonstrate our partnership with Youth, our understanding of their hopes and aspirations and a sincere willingness to help prepare them in every way for the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship:

Now Therefore, I (), Mayor of (), do hereby proclaim the first week in May as Youth Week, and urge all departments of government, civic, fraternal and patriotic groups, and our citizens generally, to participate wholeheartedly in its observance.

Signature font

Mayor of

FOR STATE USE

Following is a suggested copy of a Governor’s Elks National Youth Week Proclamation:

Whereas, The Elks Lodges of the State of (), will observe May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week in tribute to our Junior Citizens, honoring them for their achievements and contributions to the life of the Community, State and Nation.

Whereas, it is our responsibility to guide, inspire and encourage our youth, to go forth to serve America, our privilege to manifest a lively interest in all their activities and ambitions, and help prepare them for the duties and opportunities of citizenship, which is the objective of Elks National Youth Week.

Now Therefore, I (), Governor, do hereby proclaim the first week in May as Elks National Youth Week, and I call upon all citizens and all departments of state and local governments to cooperate in the observance, that we may attain these worthy objectives.

Signature Font

Governor

Elks Care — Elks Share