

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is pleased to announce a new program called ‘Freedom Grants’. Freedom Grants are \$2,000 grants available to the first 75 Lodges that successfully complete an online application. These grants can be used to serve veterans or active duty military personnel in their Lodge community, and can be applied to more than one project. For more information, please visit our website, <http://www.elks.org/vets/freedomgrants/>.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Apply for a Freedom Grant

Lodge Secretaries:

1. Go to www.elks.org.
2. Go to the Members Only heading at the top right side of the page, and click on Lodge Secretaries.
3. Sign in to CLMS1 or CLMS2, and find the ENF Hotline heading on the right side of the page.
4. Click on the Freedom Grant link to access the application.

Freedom Grants

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission announces Freedom Grants!

Freedom Grants are \$2,000 grants available to the first 75 Lodges that apply to serve veterans or active duty military personnel in their Lodge community.

To best serve your community’s veterans or active duty military personnel, while promoting your Lodge and the Elks, we encourage you to use the Freedom Grant for more than a cash donation. Develop a grant project that involves both veterans or active duty military personnel and Elks.

Examples of Freedom Grant uses (list is not inclusive):

- Provide supplies to and volunteer at a transitional house for homeless veterans.
- Host a pool party for active duty military and their families.
- Have a holiday dinner at the local veterans hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary.
- Hold a video game tournament at the Lodge.
- Participate in a Stand Down.
- Volunteer and support a local USO.
- Coordinate an outing to a sporting event.
- Arrange an Honor Flight for local veterans.
- Host a “Welcome Home!” event for local troops returning from a tour of duty.

The Elks National Foundation offers a toolkit for the steps to follow to best serve the veterans or active duty military personnel of your community. Visit www.elks.org/enf/community/toolkit.cfm for complete details.

Freedom Grant projects must take place between September 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, and can be used for two or more events. Applications are approved on a first come, first served basis. Submitted applications will be reviewed until all 75 grants are claimed or until March 31, 2012. Here are the four steps in Freedom Grant process.

1. The Lodge Secretary must complete all sections of this online application and be one of the first 75 Lodges to submit.
2. If your Lodge's project meets the criteria, we approve the grant and send the check and the required Final Report Form.
3. Hold the Freedom Grant project(s).
4. After the project, complete and mail the Final Report Form, along with all grant related receipts, to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. This is a required form. Lodges that do not complete this step will not be eligible for future grants. The Final Report Form is due by August 31, 2012.

For more information, please contact us at vets@elks.org or [773-755-4736](tel:773-755-4736)