

# The Elks?

The Elks is an inclusive charity organization founded in the late 1800's. It was started by a group of performance artists originally from England. When one of their members became ill the company began doing charity outreach to help the family.

BPOE is the benevolent protective

Order of Elks and is a non political organization focused on community service. Members carry the motto of charity, justice, love, and loyalty to service, (or fidelity).

The organization welcomes people who are American citizens who believe helping ones local community members is a high value. Elks nation wide provide more scholarships than the US government.

Elks is a non political organization that allows diversity of opinion and promotes social interaction through service and community. Leadership positions are often held by women and leadership rotates every year. People learn the roles of leadership through holding the positions reflecting the values of loyal knight (justice), lecturing knight (love), leading knight (charity) and Exalted Ruler (loyalty to community and country). Members may be of any religion, with faith resting in belief in some form of a higher power.

The initiation meeting to join the Elks uses the poetry and ceremony text created by the original performance troupe to welcome new members. Once a member, people are supported and invited to bring their ideas to the organization, starting activities and opportunities all the way from teen tutoring to billiards clubs to weekly social dance nights, bridge clubs and to charity interests. Members are made welcome and can visit Elks lodges throughout the country.

The Elks animal is the symbol of protective care as in an Elks herd. Deceased members are fondly remembered in the hearts of Elks at the eleventh hour, meaning the stroke of 11pm is a moment to remember those who have passed on.

Local organizations can be found nationwide providing community,

fellowship,, and charity. Children and families are as welcome and loved as are individuals.

Many leaders of this country have been Elks members, and like many organizations founded in the late 1800's, the Elks started with an all male white membership and then evolved with the times of society to include people of color and welcome women into the organization.

Elks don't wear fancy hats or uniforms or seek recognition. However many opportunities are provided to society through quiet financial gifts from Elks lodges. To understand more, it is suggested to meet the people directly in your local Elks lodge.