

2013-14 National Veterans Service Commission Freedom Grant



Elks National Veterans Service Commission **FREEDOM GRANTS** **2013-2014 Guidelines**

Due to the demand by our Lodges to serve our Nation's heroes, we have increased the number of \$2,000 Freedom Grants to be awarded for 2013-2014 from 100 to 125. The Lodge Secretary or Designated Grants Coordinator may apply for a Freedom Grant from August 1 through August 31, 2013. Applications are online only.)

Grant applications will be judged by their completeness, the extent of Lodge support, and its predicted impact on those it is intended to benefit. Lodges which pledge their own resources, either in terms of volunteers or finances, will be given extra credit towards approval of their application.

Lodges which have failed to return a Final Report form for any previously awarded Lodge grants or which are not in compliance with GL Statute 16.010 (Grand Lodge annual assessment) are ineligible to apply for the Freedom Grant or any other Lodge grant. The Final Report Form, with related receipts or copies thereof, must be returned to be in compliance with the terms of the Freedom Grant. Final Report forms returned without actual receipts or copies thereof will not be in compliance. A listing of expenses without receipts is unacceptable.

Freedom Grants must be used between September 21st, 2013 and July 31st, 2014. The final report form must be turned in by August 31, 2014.

A Freedom Grant may fund more than one activity. For example, a Lodge could allocate \$500 for care packages to troops overseas, \$1000 for Christmas gifts for Veterans, and \$500 for a Thanksgiving dinner at a Veterans hospital or nursing home.

Freedom Grants awarded by the Elks National Service Commission may be combined with grants from the Elks National Foundation to create larger programs having a greater impact. The grants must be applied for separately, and there is no guarantee that both the Elks National Foundation and the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award grants to the same Lodge for the same purpose.

If you are new to applying for grants, or need some advice, the Elks National Foundation has developed a toolkit to aid Lodges applying for any type of grant. You can find the toolkit at:

<http://www.elks.org/enf/Community/toolkit.cfm> .It includes the steps to follow to best serve the veterans or active military personnel in your community.

Submitted by Don De Lap

Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org