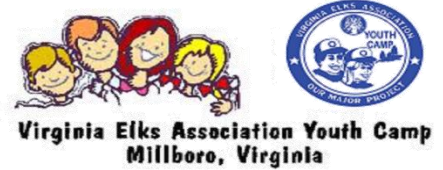


# Open Letter to Virginia Elks from VEYC President Swenor

Greetings Brother and Sister Elks of Virginia!



I hope everyone in the state is experiencing the beautiful weather we have here in Virginia Beach today! This is a sign that camping season will soon be upon us. It is time for each lodge to start preparing to once again give the children of Elkdom the experience to last a lifetime at the Virginia Elks Youth Camp!

Over the last couple of months, I have heard members from several lodges' state "they just don't have the additional funds or the support to transport the kids to camp or pay the fees associated with sending campers." This is disheartening for many reasons! The biggest reason for me is the fact that each city in Virginia that houses an Elks lodge also houses children and parents who would find this resource as invaluable. For the parents, the opportunity to give their kids a free weeks' vacation (for the parents too!) and for the kids who may never have the opportunity to attend a summer camp, meet new friends, experience new activities and make memories that will last a lifetime. Memories created by the ELKS!!

You don't have extra funds? Please go to the Youth Camp page on the state website – click Sample of VEYC Donation Request Letter and you will find a sample donation request letter, charitable donation form and our 5013-C certification letter. Go ahead; ask for assistance from local businesses! You might even find a new member in these local businesses!! It is very possible that you could find new members by talking about your Youth Camp.

You don't have help in transporting kids to camp? Ask your Vice-President in your district for help! We have been coordinating with lodges to pair up and ensure the kids get to camp. We are here to help!

You can't find campers? *If you know me well enough, I am sure you can imagine the look on my face right now!!* Of course you can!! Your lodges are promoting Drug Awareness, Dictionary programs, Hoop Shoot, Antlers Programs, among many other charitable acts every week that involve your community's youth. Take some brochures for the camp – talk about the camp! GET EXCITED ABOUT CAMP!!

Every member of the Executive Board of the VEYC is available to help you, answer questions, and provide whatever assistance that we can to make this camping year a success!

Please feel free to contact us- we are working for you and the kids!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Karyn Swenor, President VEYC

Submitted by Karyn Swenor

Send comments to [webmaster@virginiaelks.org](mailto:webmaster@virginiaelks.org)