

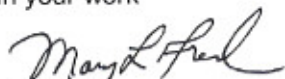


A child develops an understanding of the world and builds a frame of reference on what he or she knows. A dictionary provides the knowledge to better understand our world and the words to share information.

The Dictionary Project is now sponsored by organizations in all fifty states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It's exciting to watch the Project catch on and inspire so many people.

I want to thank the Elks for all of their help in introducing **The Dictionary Project** nation-wide to their members. Many Elks Lodges throughout the United States have joined the Dictionary Project and have distributed several hundred thousand dictionaries to children.

It is virtuous to work so hard to expand the vocabulary of the children where you live. I can't think of a better investment than putting words into the hands of children. Thank you for including us in your work


Director
The Dictionary Project

Students Speak Out:

"Elks are special people. I would love to be in the Elks but I'm not old enough. I think it would be fun to be in a club that helps kids. I love my dictionary. ... Carey"

"Thank you for the dictionary. Now I can spell and know what a word means. I'm so glad you got them for me and my class. ... Allen J."

"Thank you for the dictionary. I will use it for my writing assignment and to be as smart as Albert Einstein. ... Austin"

"Do you have fun doing things for kids like me? Thanks. ... Benjamin"

"Thank you for the dictionary. It is a prized possession. ...Shai"

"Thank you for the student's dictionary. It is really helping with my words. It is the most fun dictionary of all. My friends in my class love the dictionary, too. ...Quincy"

THE DICTIONARY PROJECT
PO BOX 1845
CHARLESTON SC 29402
www.dictionaryproject.org

The organization's official name is **The Dictionary Project** and is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The Federal Tax I.D. is #57-1029802.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



**"The limits of your
language are the
limits of your world."**

... Ludwig Wittgenstein



ARKANSAS ELKS

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a proud sponsor of youth programs throughout the United States. Of everything that the Elks do, perhaps nothing is more important than our work with the country's youth. The efforts of the Elks on behalf of the young... in Scouting and scholarships, sponsoring athletic and artistic endeavors, youth camps and drug awareness programs... sow the seeds of accomplishment and commitment that benefit the nation. The work and generosity of the Elks help today's youth become tomorrow's scientists, industrialists, educators, artists, athletes, doctors, judges, lawyers, and much more.

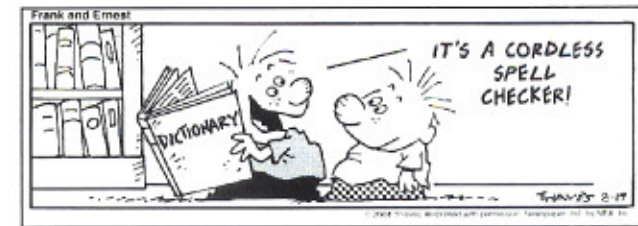
Lodges participating in the Dictionary Project report overwhelming acceptance and support by school administrators, teachers, students, parents, members, and news media. Many of these schools have adopted our Drug Awareness materials for use in their health classes and our other programs are receiving increased support as well.

Unfortunately, children are exposed at a tender age to those who profit from the sale and distribution of illegal drugs. Especially vulnerable are children who lack strong adult support and encouragement at home.

It's important that we reach as many children as possible with information and educational materials that will help them make the right decisions. The Dictionary Project, founded in 1995 by Mrs. Mary French in Charleston, South Carolina, is helping us do that.

The sole mission of The Dictionary Project is to distribute dictionaries to as many third-graders as possible. By 1999, Mrs. French, along with a board of directors and a network of volunteers, had raised enough money to put dictionaries in the hands of every public school third-grader in South Carolina. Now, the Order of Elks is proudly joining her in this effort to help children throughout America discover the power of knowledge and words. A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool a child should own. Its usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations and definitions it lists; it is a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing and creative thinking abilities. Students benefit from increased self-reliance and resourcefulness inspired by the maxim, "Look it up."

Most public schools have to struggle with rising day-to-day operating costs and are financially unable to provide dictionaries to individual students. School administrators and teachers appreciate our help. One teacher writes, "My class was excited when they first heard they were receiving dictionaries, but they were really thrilled with them after listening to your presentation. Every single one of them brought their dictionary to lunch that day and, even more amazing, I noticed students in the other two third grade classes carrying theirs to lunch as well. Thank you for caring so deeply about the education of our children."



Elks Care - Elks Share

Elks and Community Service

The Order of Elks was originally founded in 1868 to serve their communities and to help those less fortunate in time of need. Our dedication to community service is the driving force behind the success of our many programs.

With more than 2,000 Lodges in communities across the nation, Elks offer many no-cost programs that help schools to provide a better education and more opportunities to enrich the lives of students.

At an Elks Hoop Shoot® Free Throw Contest, local lodges work in cooperation with elementary or middle schools to create a no-cost competition that's fierce, but fun. Since its origin in 1946, the Elks Hoop Shoot® has grown to include more than **three million** participants annually, making it the largest co-educational sports program in the country.

Based on a concept similar to the Elks Hoop Shoot® contests, the Soccer Shoot is an excellent program to teach the correct techniques needed to excel at playing soccer. With no-cost local competitions beginning in the fall open to boys and girls under the age of 14, the Elks Soccer Shoot has developed into an outstanding Elks sports program.

Patriotism & U.S. History

Educating students about U.S. history and helping them develop a sense of patriotism is another way Elks are helping schools. Local Elks Lodges provide teachers and classrooms with U.S. Flags, replicas of important historic documents and Pledge of Allegiance kits, all at no cost. In addition, the Elks sponsor an annual Americanism Essay Contest for fifth through eighth graders. This free contest gives students a chance to creatively express their patriotism and compete for savings bonds.

Elks Lodges help students outside the classroom by supporting Boys and Girls Clubs; 4-H programs; youth athletics including Little League, football and soccer teams; debate and speech programs; fine arts contests; and other local youth organizations. Many Lodges sponsor Scout Troops and offer their Lodges as meeting places.

Many state Elks Associations and local lodges offer additional programs and summer camps for children with special needs.



Drug Awareness & Prevention

The Elks Drug Awareness Program provides schools and communities with information such as coloring books for younger children and educational materials for older youth, to help encourage them to make smart and healthy lifestyle choices. Each year, Lodges sponsor drug awareness poster and essay contests that can be used in schools as well as regularly host or sponsor drug and alcohol-free dances and graduation parties. These no-cost programs and free learning materials are available to schools and communities through the local Lodge.



The Dictionary Project, supported by Elks lodges nationwide, is receiving overwhelming acceptance and support by teachers, students, parents and school administrators. Our goal is to reach as many children as possible with educational materials that will help them make the right decisions.

"The Dictionary Project has spread throughout all fifty states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It's exciting to watch the Project catch on and inspire so many people."

"Thank you, Elks, for introducing the Dictionary Project nation-wide to your members. Thousands of children benefit from the tireless efforts of your members and we are pleased that you have joined us in encouraging children to use a dictionary so that they will be able to use the English language effectively."

Mary L. French

Mary L. French, Dictionary Project Director



The Elks National Foundation is committed to building a better future and annually awards more than \$2.96 million in college scholarships to 500 school seniors nationwide through its Most Valuable Student Program. Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen is eligible to apply. The top awards range from \$60,000 to \$8,000 over four years. The Foundation also awards 484 additional \$4,000 scholarships annually.

"Elks are special people!"

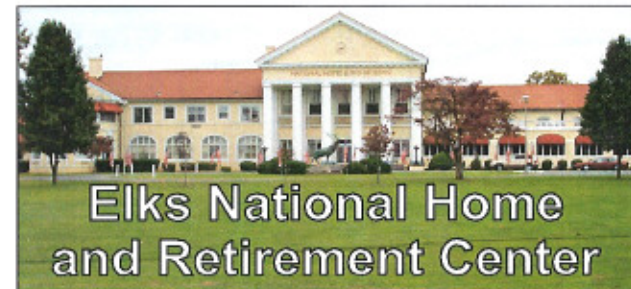
A sixth-grade student familiar with the Elks Hoop Shoot, Dictionary Project, Soccer Shoot, Americanism Essay Contest and Drug Awareness Program in her school wrote to the local Lodge about a very frightening and painful situation at home. She concluded her letter with a plea...

*"I don't know who else to turn to.
...Elks are special people.
...Please help me!"*



The Lodge was able to assist this child, as lodges across America do every day. To many children, veterans, victims of disaster, and others in need, Elks are indeed **Special People!**

"No one stands so tall as when bending over to help a child."



Of all the fascinating and interesting places to visit in Bedford, Virginia, the Elks National Home and Retirement Center, first established in 1903 for Elks members, is definitely a center of attraction, especially at Christmas time. Thousands of visitors drive through the grounds during the Christmas season to witness the outstanding displays of colored lights and decorations.

Elks National Home residents are all proud members of Elks National Home Lodge No. 8081. They actively support many charitable, veterans, youth and other community programs including the Dictionary Project.

Nearly 40% of Elks National Home residents are U.S. Veterans. Many are decorated heroes.

The Elks National Home can be reached by phone at 540-586-8232 or 1-800-552-4140 or by Email at ENHome@elkshome.org.



God Bless America

Throughout the history of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks there have been many famous members including business and political leaders, sports figures and entertainment celebrities.

The song "God Bless America" was written by one of America's greatest songwriters, Irving Berlin, and was introduced on national radio by Kate Smith during her weekly Kate Smith Hour on November 10, 1938, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. The song was heard by millions of radio listeners.

What most people do not realize is that Irving Berlin was an Elk. Theatrical producer Harry Hirshfeld sponsored Berlin, who was 40 years of age at the time of his initiation, into New York Lodge #1. Berlin remained a proud Elk up to the time of his death at the age of 104.

Like Elks members then and now, Irving Berlin had no desire to cash in on his patriotism. In 1940 he established the *God Bless America Foundation* with all royalties from the song and its performance earned by either Berlin or Miss Smith going to the *Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America*. That arrangement exists to this day because, "The complete nonsectarian work of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts is calculated to best promote unity of mind and patriotism, two sentiments that are inherent in the song itself."

Irving Berlin proudly demonstrated long ago ...

Elks Care - Elks Share



God bless our Veterans,

God Bless the men and women serving in our military,

and **GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

Elks and Patriotism

The Order of Elks is committed to promoting the patriotic principles of individual freedom, opportunity, and dignity. In 1907, Elks members adopted a resolution which designated June 14 as Flag Day. In 1911, the Grand Lodge mandated that all local Lodges observe Flag Day with appropriate ceremonies, making the Elks the first national fraternal organization to require the observance of Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman, himself an Elks member, designated June 14 as Flag Day by signing an act of Congress.

Freedom Is Not Free

BY 1988 AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC CADET MAJOR KELLY STRONG

I watched a flag pass by one day,
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform, so young, so tall, so proud.
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil,
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea?
How many died on foreign soil?
No, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

I heard the sound of taps one night
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant, "Amen!"
When a flag had draped a coffin of a relative or friend.

I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands, with interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea,
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No! FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a proud member of the Citizens Flag Alliance which supports legislation prohibiting physical desecration of the Flag of the United States.

An OVERVIEW of the BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Great organizations don't just happen. They evolve from sound, visionary leadership, a willingness to change what needs to be changed, and the commitment to safeguard those guiding principles most critical to organizational success. Committed to patriotism and charity, the Elks have now disbursed nearly \$5 billion in cash, goods and services to the nation's youth, veterans, the disadvantaged and handicapped, victims of disaster, and in support of patriotic and civic programs.

Most organizations have a primary goal and objective. In contrast, the Elks support just about every community and national program that helps those in need and often contribute to the success of programs sponsored by other organizations. Elks support and contribute regularly to schools, Veterans' organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, police, fire departments and emergency services. Elks assist the young and the needy throughout this great nation.

Non-sectarian and non-political, drawing its members from all sections, all denominations, and from all political parties, the Order has always been a medium through which those of differing creeds and political affiliations and sectional viewpoints would reach a better understanding of each other.

With its record of war service, its benefactions, freely and impartially bestowed, its tolerance and good fellowship, and its all-pervading spirit of good will, the Order makes an irresistible appeal to men and women who love their country and welcome the opportunity to serve in their communities.

Elks Lodges throughout America provide ongoing support of our veterans. We also are helping families of our men and women serving in our nation's military through the **Elks Army of Hope** and **USO** programs, providing needed support services as well as financial assistance. Nationwide, Elks live up to their motto, "**So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them!**"

**Remember our Veterans.
"All Gave Some, Some Gave All!"**



ARKANSAS STATE ELKS DICTIONARY PROJECT



“The limits of your language
are the limits of your world.”

...Ludwig Wittgenstein



Mary French - Director
The Dictionary Project

Thank you for introducing *The Dictionary Project* to Elks lodges nation-wide. Thousands of children benefit from the tireless efforts of your members who are now planting the seed of inspiration in children throughout the United States. It is virtuous to work so hard to expand the vocabulary of the children where you live. I can't think of a better investment than putting words into the hands of children.

Thank you for *Caring and Sharing*.

The Dictionary Project exists in our communities because of member and community support. We are truly grateful to everyone who supports literacy in our communities in this practical way.

Elks throughout America are very excited about the future of this project and the opportunities we will have to reach more children with the gift of words.

Thank You!!!

Students Write:

“Thank you, Elks, for giving us such cool dictionaries. I like the dictionary because it tells you sign language, Braille, planets, states, and lots more exciting stuff. I will use the dictionary to look up words, learn sign language, history on all 43 presidents, look up the locations of states and learn multiplication. Thank you again Tristan”

“Thank you for the dictionary . I will use it for my writing assignment and to be as smart as Albert Einstein. ...Austin”

“I love my dictionary. I would love to be in the Elks but I'm not old enough. I think it would be fun to be in a club that helps kids. ... Carey”

A Teacher Writes:

“My class was excited when they first heard they were receiving dictionaries but they were really thrilled with them after listening to your presentation. Every single one of them brought their dictionary to lunch that day and, even more amazing, I noticed students in the other two third grade classes carrying theirs to lunch as well. Thank you for caring so deeply about the education of our children.”



Elks Care



Elks Share

Q: WHAT IS THE DICTIONARY PROJECT?

A: A community Service project with the goal of presenting a personal dictionary to each third grade student in the United States.

Q: WHY SHOULD ELKS BE INVOLVED?

A: Because it is:

- a wonderful literacy project
- an opportunity to be involved in a hands-on project that does not require a lot of time.
- relatively inexpensive
- an opportunity to unite with other people in the community in a cooperative effort to distribute more dictionaries to more students and schools
- a program praised by school administrators, teachers, students, parents and news media.

Q: HOW DO WE BEGIN?

Step One: Contact your local school principals or school superintendents and explain the project. Once permission is granted to proceed with the project, obtain the number of third grade students enrolled in each school you plan to cover.

By cooperating with other organizations in your area, you may be able to increase the number of schools who will benefit from the project. If one organization is giving the Student Dictionary to the third grade students, you can inquire about giving Spanish/English or French/English dictionaries to the students in addition to the Student Dictionary. It does not work well to present only the bi-lingual dictionaries to individual students as they still want the same one that the other students receive.

Step Two: Prepare to personalize the dictionaries while waiting for their arrival. Label designs can be downloaded from the Dictionary Project Web Site through the Get Involved link. Or you can design your own label. Once the dictionaries have arrived, arrange to have a "work party" to place the labels and an Elks Drug Awareness book mark in each of the books.

Let your members know of your participation in the Dictionary Project. Some of them may want to purchase dictionaries for a particular school in memory or honor of a family member. When this is done, the labels should reflect the involvement and contributions of all.

When ordering dictionaries, be sure to order enough to give one to each classroom teacher. On the presentation day, take extra dictionaries, including labels and book marks, for new students.

Step Three: Points to make during your brief visit:

- Introduce yourself. Ask the students to put their first and last name in the dictionary so that if they lose the book, it can be returned to them.
- Explain that you are visiting their school to give each student his/her own personal dictionary as a gift.
- Try to engage the students as much as possible because they want to contribute to the conversation.
- Ask why people use dictionaries; then emphasize that in the business world it is important to spell words correctly. A command of the English language makes you more effective in your work. A dictionary is a tool that everyone can use.
- Invite the students to look up an unfamiliar word in their dictionary and read the definition. Or ask the students to suggest words and then look up a few of the words. Talk about the meaning and discuss how some of the words have multiple meanings.
- Encourage the students to use the dictionary every day. They are not expected to spell every word correctly from memory, but they are expected to use a dictionary so that in all of their writing every word is spelled correctly.
- Have someone take photos of individual student reactions to the dictionaries and include these photos in your Lodge bulletin to enhance member pride and support.
- Don't wear out your welcome. The visit should last 10 - 15 minutes.

Before leaving, make sure school officials know that the Elks have a well established Drug Awareness Program and your Lodge can provide numerous materials at no cost to the school. Many schools will work with you in conducting your Red Ribbon Week. Many schools also use our pamphlets in their health classes.

You can also encourage the school officials to have their students participate in the Americanism Essay Contest program as well.



DICTIONARY PROJECT ORDER FORM

Dictionary Title	Number of Books per box	Number of Boxes Needed	Requested Donation Per Box	Total Pledge
The Best Dictionary For Students	24		\$30.00	
A Student's Dictionary <i>(Recommended by Youth Activities Committee)</i>	24		\$40.80	
Merriam Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary	24		\$48.00	
Merriam Webster's Dictionary for Students	24		\$42.00	
Classic Reference Library Dictionary, Encyclopedic Edition	24		\$48.00	
Webster's Thesaurus for Students	24		\$42.00	
Merriam Webster's Spanish/English Dictionary	24		\$48.00	
Webster's Worldwide Spanish/English Dictionary	60		\$75.00	
Webster's International Atlas	24		\$78.00	
How to Use a Dictionary - How to Use a Thesaurus	30		\$118.50	
Vocabulary Builder	24		\$48.00	

PRICE INCLUDES SHIPPING. THERE IS NO SALES TAX.

TOTAL: \$ _____

Shipping Address:

Billing Address:

Elks Lodge Name: _____ Lodge No. _____

Elks Lodge Name: _____ Lodge No. _____

Individual Name/Title: _____

Individual Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

City & State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail all orders to: **The Dictionary Project**
PO Box 1845
Charleston, SC 29402

I would like to pay by: Check/Money Order VISA Master Card American Express

Name: _____ Card# _____ Exp _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You may also order online at www.dictionaryproject.org
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