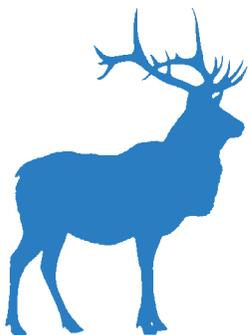




## ESTABLISHED IN 1946

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission was established in 1946, immediately after World War II, with the sole mission of serving our nation's veterans. Though much has changed since then, the Elks' dedication to serve veterans and military members in need has never wavered. In VA clinics, veterans' homes, USOs, homeless shelters and more, thousands of Elks volunteers give generously of their time, energy and resources to serve veterans and military members each year.

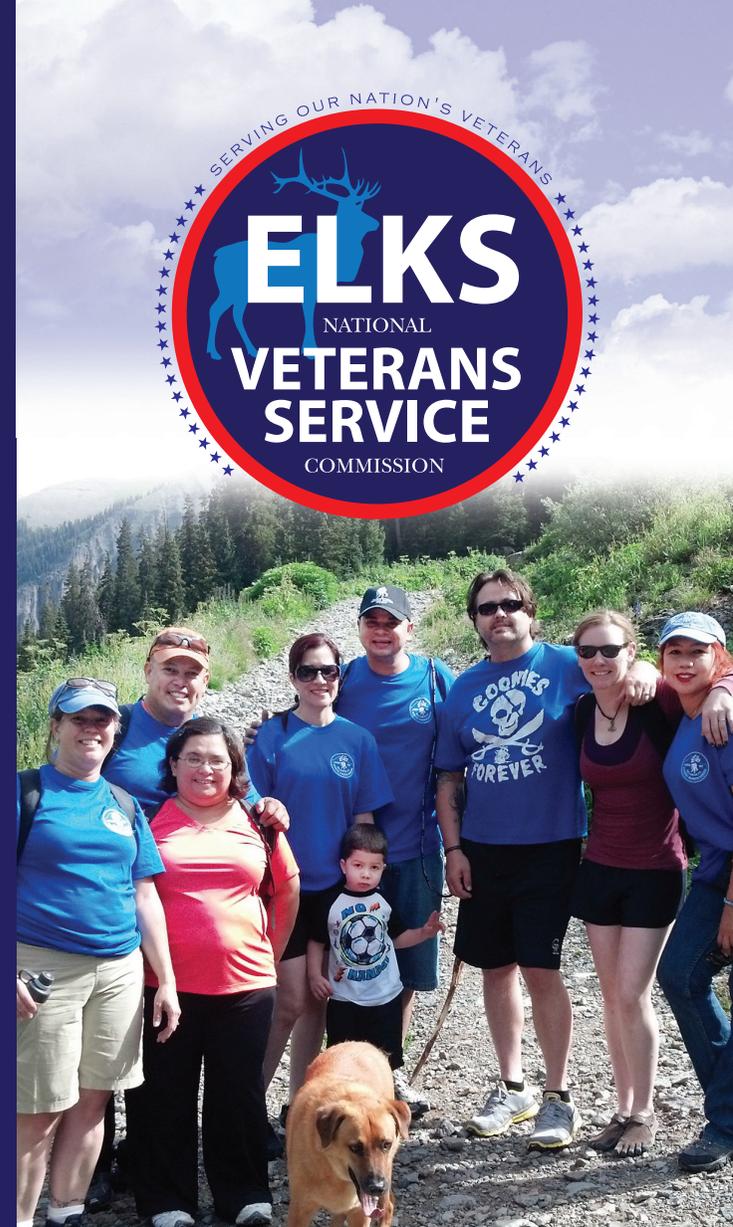


*It's clear that Elks have a passion for serving veterans. Here are a few ways you can turn that passion into action.*



The Elks are a non-political, non-sectarian, American fraternal order founded in 1868. The Elks' charitable programs are carried out by a network of more than 1,900 lodges and 800,000 members in communities all across the country.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation.



**Elks National Veterans Service Commission**  
2750 N. Lakeview Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

Phone: 773/755-4736 • Email: [Vets@elks.org](mailto:Vets@elks.org)  
Web: [www.elks.org/vets](http://www.elks.org/vets)

**Their Service Is Done.  
Now, It's The Elks' Turn  
To Serve.**

# OUR PROGRAMS

*Elks pledge to never forget our nation's veterans. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission puts that pledge into action, promising service to our nation's veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need.*

## FREEDOM GRANTS

These competitive grants are awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of today's veterans and/or active-duty military members. Meaningful Elk involvement is strongly encouraged.

Elks use these grants to provide food and clothing for hospitalized veterans, participate at Stand Downs, host military family recreation events, assist homeless veterans, support student veterans and more. Don't miss out on a chance to apply!



## WELCOME HOME

In partnership with the VA, the ENVSC has pledged to end veteran homelessness. The Welcome Home program helps Lodges gather welcome home kits for veterans entering homes; provides emergency assistance to prevent homelessness for veterans; spreads public awareness; educates landlords and communities about renting to veterans; and supports Elks who provide direct housing assistance to homeless veterans.

Together, we can provide the tools and support necessary for homeless veterans to transition successfully into healthier and more stable lives.

## ELKS VAVS PROGRAM

More than 600 Elks serve as Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputy Representatives, providing comfort, support and friendship to hospitalized and recovering veterans in VA hospitals and facilities across the nation.

Each month, these representatives use ENVSC funds to directly serve veterans by hosting social events, teaching art and exercise classes, donating needed supplies and more. Become a representative at a hospital near you, or work with your local representative to help them do more.

*"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."*



## VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM

Elk volunteers work with local hunters to collect, salt and prepare donated hides. All hides are then delivered to tanneries, and the finished leather is used for therapy kits for recovering veterans and professionally-crafted gloves for veterans in wheelchairs.

*"The Elks do so much for veterans. It shows there's people out there that care, genuinely care about the welfare of us. This is what the Elks do for the veterans. It gives you some hope, it kind of heightens your spirits."*

— Erin, Air Force Veteran



Visit [www.elks.org/vets](http://www.elks.org/vets) to access applications, guidelines, order forms and to learn more about all our programs.