



NEW MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

STEVENS POINT ELKS LODGE #641

WELCOME!

CONGRATULATIONS on your initiation and welcome to the Stevens Point Elks Lodge #641. You have joined a prestigious organization dedicated to “doing good.” We are very proud to have you among our membership.

The mission of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is to:

*Inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government; the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that **Elks Care and Elks Share.***

THE MENTORING PROGRAM FOR NEW MEMBERS:

You have take a BIG step in your life to become an Elk. But the initiation is just the FIRST STEP! As you may anticipate, there is much for you to learn about being an Elk. To assist you in that effort the Stevens Point Elks Lodge has established a “New Member Mentoring Program.”

The primary objectives of the Mentoring Program is to enlighten you on all the wonderful things that await you as a member of the Elks. We have found that it is not unusual for newly initiated members to be unaware of the tenets of Elkdom, what the various Lodge activities are, whether they are permitted to be involved in those Lodge activities, whether their involvement would be welcome, what their involvement would entail or how to become involved. It is your mentor's job to address these issues and to help you enjoy the fullness of being and Elk. We assure you that you will find great reward and personal satisfaction in by being INVOLVED in your Lodge and in Elkdom.

The primary objectives of the Mentoring Program are:

1. To ensure that you are informed and educated with regard to Elkdom

in general and to the activities the Lodge in particular, what the activities entail, when they occur, how they are structured, who runs them, how they relate to Grand Lodge and Elkdom, and what their overall intent is.

2. To ensure that you are aware that your participation in these events is permitted, welcomed AND ENCOURAGED, what that engagement would entail, and what sort of time or effort of commitment that engagement would mean.
3. To introduce you to the Activity Chairmen to facilitate and foster your further education and potential engagement in activities for which you may be interested.

We certainly do not want you to feel coerced or intimidated, but openly given the information, the opportunity and a strong encouragement to get involved in Lodge activities that may be to your interest. You will find that you will enjoy your membership and get more out of it the more you get involved in the Lodge activities. So, pick something you enjoy, dive in and have FUN! We guarantee that your involvement will not only help others but will give you great pride and expose you to what true Elkdom is: *Elks Caring and Elks Sharing*.

While you are welcome to approach any member or officer with any question you may have it is the responsibility of your mentor to be your “first line” of help and information regarding anything Elkdom. If you have a question it is your mentor's responsibility to get you a full, accurate and complete answer. So do not be afraid to ask questions – that is how we learn.

SOME THINGS YOU MAY EXPECT YOUR MENTOR TO DO:

Your mentor has a serious responsibility to you and to Elkdom. Your mentor will want to discuss a number of things with you and you should feel free to ask your mentor ANY questions – whatever the nature – about your membership, the Lodge and Elkdom. You should expect to meet with your mentor frequently over the course of your first year as an Elk.

You can expect your mentor to do certain things and you should be prepared to cooperate and participate. You should expect your mentor to:

- Bring you to upcoming Lodge meetings, answer any questions

you may have regarding the meetings and the rituals.

- Bring you to one of the next initiation ceremonies. You will understand much more about what is said and what it means when you are not the “deer in the headlights.” This is very important and you should plan to attend an initiation as soon as is convenient.
- Host you and your spouse to an “introductory dinner” at the Lodge, introduce you and your spouse to other Lodge members and their spouses that may be present.

SOME THINGS YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR MENTOR:

Here are some things you may wish to discuss with your mentor:

MEETINGS:

- Lodge Meetings – what they are about and when they are held
- Lodge Board of Directors Meetings – what they are about and when they are held
- Lodge Committee Meetings – what Lodge Committees there are, when they meet, what they do and who the committee chairmen are
- Elks State and National Conferences and Conventions – when they are and what they are about

LODGE EVENTS: that may be of interest to you:

- Youth Activities – primarily fundraising activities such as spaghetti dinners
- Chili contest – held each year with prestigious awards
- Smokefest – held each year, fantastic eats!
- Christmas basket distribution – held in December to help those less fortunate
- U.S. Constitution Contest – held in February to award scholarships
- Most Valuable Student Scholarship – held in December to award scholarships
- Cops-n-Bobbers – held in June in partnership with the Portage County Deputy Sheriffs Organization
- Elks Family Picnic – held in June, a family and veterans affair

- Mother's Day Brunch – held on Mother's Day to celebrate the holiday
- Old Timers Banquet – held in November to honor long-standing members and present Lodge awards
- Flag Day Ceremony – held in June and mandated by Grand Lodge
- Elks Hoop Shoot – held usually in December, a youth basketball event
- Lodge Memorial Service – held in December to recognize members that have passed away over the preceding year.
- Soccer Shoot – usually held in July, a youth soccer event
- Valentine Dinner – a romantic Valentines day event
- Officer Nominations and Elections – held at Lodge Meetings in February each year.
- State Presidents Visit – held (usually) in March
- Prospective Chair/Committee dinner – held in January for members interested in becoming officers or participating in Lodge committees

And, there are often other Lodge events such as Packer Parties and Steak Nights, that are scheduled on a more ad-hoc basis. All Lodge events are published in the Lodge newsletter, "The Jolly Cork".

OTHER ITEMS:

- Charities, Inc. – what it is and its relationship to the Lodge
- The Trustees of the Lodge – who they are and what their role is
- The House Committee – the chairman, its membership and role
- The "House Rules" – what they are (IMPORTANT – make sure you have a copy of these!)
- The Lodge By-Laws (IMPORTANT – make sure you have a copy of these!)
- The Statutes of the Order (IMPORTANT – make sure you have a copy of these!)
- The "11:00 O'clock Toast" - what this is and what it means
- "Officer of the Day" (door duty) – what it is and why we do it
- The Jolly Cork – make sure you have a copy and that you are on the mailing list for future issues
- Our website: www.elks641.com
- Camp Wawbeek – what it is and what role the Elks perform
- Steak Nights – what these are and how you can help – help is always welcome

- Elks National Foundation (ENF) – what it is and what it does
- The Wisconsin Elks Association and its relationship to the local Lodges
- The State President and President-Elect – who they are
- Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Lodge officers, who they are and the role of Grand Lodge
- The District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: who this is and their role
- The District Vice President – who this is and their role
- Various Lodge committees and who the chairmen are.
- Volunteer opportunities – this is the “heart” of Elkdom. Make sure you discuss with your mentor what activities you would like to get involved in as a volunteer and make sure you know whom to contact.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOU:

You may wish to peruse the information available on the following websites:

Stevens Point Elks Lodge #641 website:
www.elks641.com

Wisconsin Elks Association website:
www.wielks.com

Elks National website:
www.elks.org

IN CONCLUSION:

Obviously, this document is not meant to be exclusive nor exhaustive – there are undoubtedly other things you need to discuss with your mentor and you should feel free to do so.

REMEMBER: You will get much more out of your experience as an Elk if you **GET INVOLVED** in Lodge activities and in Elkdom! So, be prepared for one of the greatest experiences of your life. Get involved and **HAVE FUN!**

You have been assigned a MENTOR. Your mentor is:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ALT. PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Schedule of meetings with your mentor:

DATE	TOPIC
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