

ELKS PROGRAM FOR TEENAGER and/or  
STUDENT of the MONTH TEENAGER and/or  
STUDENT of the YEAR

This program is intended to focus the public's attention on outstanding boys and girls and help dispel people's inclination to remember the bad and not the good things that youngsters do to distinguish themselves. In addition, the program will bring your Lodge good public relations. This is a program for teenagers and students BY teenagers and students with the help of the Youth Activities Committee of the Local Lodge. Teenage and student girls and boys of the month are selected by students. Arrangements are made with the newspaper(s) in your community to publish the pictures and accomplishments of these youths. Near the end of the year, a teenager and student of the year are selected from the teenagers and students of the month. All teenagers and students of the month and their parents are honored with a dinner as guests of the Lodge during Elks National Youth Week. Teenagers-and-students-of-the-year winners should not be announced until the annual dinner. Principals and superintendents of schools should also be invited to attend.

HERE'S HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM: —

1. Discuss the project with the editor(s) of your newspaper(s). Point out that the PART I — Elks will do all the leg work for the newspaper and note that the project will bring both the newspaper and the Elks good public relations. Point out the advantages of a possible circulation increase since the program involves all high schools situated within your Lodge jurisdiction. For best results, the stories on the teenager and student of the month should be carried on Page One. Editors are well aware that they likely print more stories telling about the good things the youth of the community accomplish compared to the stories about the youth who get into trouble. Because the public is prone to talk about the "bad kid," the good publicity youngsters receive is sometimes overlooked. This program is designed to specifically dispel this situation.
2. Ask the principal of each high school in your jurisdiction to appoint, from the student body, a five-member Teenage Selection Committee. This committee should select one or more of its members to represent them on an area committee that equally represents all the high schools involved. This committee should consist of no fewer than five nor more than one representative from each school. The details for this should be worked out locally. There should be no interference from principals, teachers or other adults in selecting the winning boys and girls other than to make sure that the committee is functioning and to impress upon them that they have a serious job to perform.
3. Each school is provided with nomination forms for students to fill out and submit to the student panel. Forms are available to Elks Members at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>. Letters of recommendation from teachers, employers and others may be attached along with a wallet-size photograph.
4. At the end of the month, the Student Selection Committee in each school meets. The committee reviews the applications then selects the school's nominees, one boy and one girl, for teenager and student of the month. The selection is based on character, leadership, service, citizenship and scholarship. No one achievement is important enough to warrant one of the honors. In other words, if a boy, for example, is an outstanding athlete, that of itself doesn't qualify him for teenager or student of the month. Or if he is a straight "A" student, that of itself doesn't do it either. He has to be a well-rounded youngster.
5. The chosen school representative(s) then meet with representatives from other area schools at the Elks Lodge where they are treated to refreshments. Each school representative is permitted to give an oral presentation on the school's two candidates. The area panel reviews the candidate's application and recommendations. After all nominees' qualifications are presented, the area panel selects the boy and girl teenagers and students of the month.

6. Immediately after the selection of the teenagers and students of the month, the Elks chairman of the project should fill out a news release form and take it promptly to the newspaper office, along with pictures of the winning youths.
7. Nominees from individual schools for that particular month may be represented to the area panel the following month or as often as desired by the individual school committees. There is also nothing to prohibit committee members from being nominees. In the event a representative should be selected, it is recommended that another member of the school's committee present the candidate's qualifications to the area panel.
8. At the end of the school year, and just before the banquet held by the Lodge during Elks National Youth Week in May, the area panel again meets at the Elks Lodge. Each teenager and student of the month should be invited to attend. The area panel then has the opportunity to refresh its memories and evaluate additional accomplishments made during the year. The original applications are reviewed and, without the candidates in the room, the area panel selects the teenagers and students of the year, one boy and one girl. Certificates should be presented to the teenagers and students of the year. Certificates may be downloaded by Elks Members at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm> or obtained through the Grand Lodge Activities Committee Member in charge of this program.
9. If some other group or organization has implemented this program in your area, try to work with them and select Elk winners. If it is not possible to select a teenager of the month or year, then work a student of the month and year program.
10. If there are special problems in your area, the Grand Lodge Activities Committee member will be happy to help solve them.

Several other aspects that need to be mentioned:

1. The program can be expanded to select District and State winners. This increases the sphere of recognition of the winners.
2. The use of the Elks building as a meeting place for the area panel further utilizes Elks facilities as a community center.
3. By spotlighting deserving youth, they then become role models for the other youth.
4. The community will be strengthened by recognizing and developing potential leaders who will assume the leadership roles of tomorrow.
5. Finally, the Order of Elks is doing a service for the youth of the community. Let us help close the so-called "generation gap." Perhaps the reason some youth are rebellious is because they feel left out of the mainstream of adult activities. Their accomplishments, activities and contributions to society need to be recognized, and this is one way we, as Elks, can and must do it.

**JUNIOR TEENAGER —and STUDENT PART II of the — MONTH and YEAR**

1. This is a newer Grand Lodge Program for Junior High School students. It embraces school grades seven, eight and nine.
2. It is the intention of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee to introduce this program to a segment of youth heretofore overlooked by Elks and other organizations.
3. Follow the same guidelines for the Junior Programs as used for the teenager and student program with minor variations worked out locally.

Grand Island Lodge Teen/Student of the Month Committee:

Jeremy Brandt – Chairman