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Joop Shoot volunteers stood in two lines, hands extended for high fives, at the edge of the same court where the WNBA's Chicago Sky won their 2021 championship game. A rumbling voice echoed through the Wintrust Arena as images of the Hoop Shoot National Finalists scrolled on the jumbotron and spotlights danced across the floor.

This year's contest marked the 50th anniversary of the Hoop Shoot as a national program, and the Elks hosted a gold-medal National Finals for the golden anniversary. As the Finalists and their families arrived in Chicago, their first stop was to check in at the Elks FanZone. The FanZone allows Finalists and their families to interact with one another and Elks volunteers, snap selfies at the Hoop Shoot photo wall, play board games, swap National Finals trading cards, and give back through Hoop Shoot Assists.

Hoop Shoot Assists emphasizes the importance of service, providing a place where families can drop off items for a veterans supply drive and write cards to veterans.

"I think it's important to volunteer because it's a win-win situation," said #IAmElksHoopShoot winner Alexis Wong, who won a trip to the 2022 National Finals by submitting a video explaining what the Hoop Shoot meant to her. Alexis competed in the 8-9 girls division in the 2020 virtual National Finals. "One, you can help the community and two, you can have more responsibilities in life early on."

see Hoop Shoot, continued on page 2





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 3-6: Elks National Convention in Atlanta

AUGUST: Fidelity Club Month

AUGUST 1: 2023 MVS Application Launch

AUGUST 31: Impact Grant Intent **Deadline**

SEPTEMBER 1: 2023 Legacy **Awards Application Launch**

Hoop Shoot, continued from page 1

Another tenet of the Hoop Shoot is the importance of practice, and many Finalists used the practice gym on Friday to prepare for the competition. Samuel Nolan, a competitor in the 8-9 boys division who was sponsored by New Albany, Ind., Lodge No. 270, and his father, Matt, agree that their favorite part of the Hoop Shoot is practicing and spending time together.

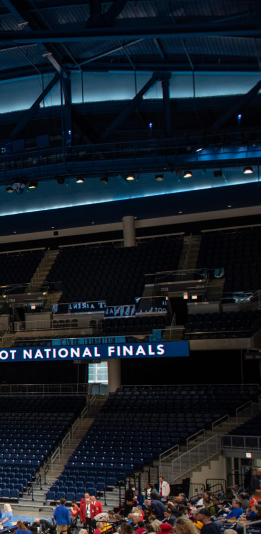
"I've been able to bond with him," said Matt. "Going to the gym with him twice a week, I've become even closer with my son. That's been my favorite part of it so far."

That night, Finalists and their families took a break from free throws and headed to Guaranteed Rate Field to catch a White Sox game, enjoying one last night of food and fun before the big day.

"When I step up to the line for the Finals on Saturday, I'll be thinking that my dad and I are practicing," said Samuel.

The Finalist's families offered a few last words of encouragement, reminding their competitor to breathe, focus and do their best before they stepped up to the line. Then, it was time for the Finalists to take their shot.

"I feel excited," said Croix Kendall, a Finalist in the 8-9 boys division. "I think



I'm gonna win. I don't know, I might. I really wanna go to Disney World."

Croix's mother, Kim, wasn't sure where he got the idea that winning the Hoop Shoot National Finals would also win him a trip to Disney World, but that idea drove him to shoot his best. Croix sank 24 out of 25 shots, tying with Samuel Nolan for first place. In the epic seven-round shoot-off that followed, Samuel sank 32 of 35, but Croix hit 33 to take home the win.

"I've learned that you're not supposed to brag," said Croix. "Just do what you can and focus on shooting. If somebody acts like 'I'm better than you,' just say, 'okay.' Because if you don't have good sportsmanship, then no one would want to be on your team."

Brendan Smith had the only perfect score of the day, taking home a Frank Hise championship, an Emile Brady award, and a Getty Powell Award.

Hoop Shoot, continued on page 4

NAME IN LIGHTS

Six Frank Hise National Champions were crowned at the 2022 Hoop Shoot National Finals on April 30, at Wintrust Arena in Chicago. Their names will be displayed in a digital exhibit at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, The champions are:

Emersyn Hess, Girls 8-9, 24/25, Vincennes, Ind., Lodge No. 291

Kyla Lea, Girls 10-11, 22/25, Riverside, Calif., Lodge No. 643

Bree Besonen*, Girls 12-13, 24/25, Copper Country, Mich., Lodge No. 404

Croix Kendall, Boys 8-9, 24/25, 33/35, Delray Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1770

Madox Hodges, Boys 10-11, 24/25, Greater Spokane, Wash., Lodge No. 228

Brendan Smith*, Boys 12-13, 25/25, Marietta, Ga., Lodge No. 1657

*Getty Powell Award winners.

To learn more about the Finalists, Champions, and Elks Hoop Shoot Hall of Fame, visit elkshoopshoot.org.



ELKS HALL OF FAME

Much has changed since the Hoop Shoot began in 1946, but some things have stayed the same. Participants continue to use lessons they learned to succeed on and off the court. Volunteers continue to dedicate their time to the kids, their families, the Elks and the program.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary as a national program, the Elks Hoop Shoot established the Elks Hoop Shoot Hall of Fame, recognizing the most outstanding competitors and contributors: National Finalists who stood out or have gone on to do great things, and volunteers who have put

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Hoop Shoot, continued from page 3

Arriving at the National Finals, the competitors are undefeated; they won at the Lodge, District, State and Regional levels, but most of the Finalists lost on Saturday.

"I think it's a great life lesson too, that you're not going to win at everything you do," said Jason Tithof, father of 8-9 girls Finalist Conley Tithof, sponsored by Elmhurst, Ill., Lodge No. 1531. "It's an opportunity for you to get better, to build character, to work harder for next time, and you still have a lot to be proud of."

Conley hit 20 out of 25 baskets, placing fifth.

"She didn't win the championship, but she learned what it means to be a competitor, a supporter, and a positive role model for other girls her age," said Jason. "While winning is the goal, it's not the only goal. The journey provides so much more."

The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for 50 years. For 2022-23, including the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hoop Shoot as a national program, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the program. For more coverage from the Finals, visit enf.elks.org/HS22Recap.



Thether serving within their local communities through an Elks Scholar Service Grant or attending an Elks Scholar Service Trip, Elks scholars value and prioritize, ahem, service.

In March, a dozen scholars traveled to Chicago to serve in the name of the Elks.

"On the Elks Scholar Service Trip, I connected with people from various backgrounds and life experiences who share a common goal of service," says Aleah Hahn, a 2018 Most Valuable Student scholar from Michigan.

While in Chicago, the scholars served with organizations addressing food insecurity. Scholars sorted hygiene products and packed frozen meals for clients at Lakeview Pantry, one of the oldest and largest food pantries in the city, serving people whose incomes are below the government's threshold for poverty. In addition to connecting with their peers, Elks scholars listened to stories from individuals using the services at Care for Friends, an organization building pathways out of homelessness. At the last service site, Lincoln Park Community Services, scholars cooked and served a meal to individuals facing homelessness and poverty.

"Personally, these trips provide me the opportunity to break down stereotypes and assumptions that I subconsciously carry," says Hahn.

In late May, Elks Scholar Fellow Grace Roebuck led a dozen scholars on an Elks Scholar Service Trip to Seattle after the initial trip, scheduled for early January, was postponed—the service sites had been unable to host the scholars due to an Omicron COVID-19 surge.

Service Trips, continued on page 5

their heart and soul into making the program the best it can be. The inaugural class consists of 20 competitors and 24 contributors.

They are:

Competitors: Steve Alford, Zeb Alford, Melissa Arrowood, Seimone Augustus, Bill Brandsma, CJ Cowgill, Alyson (Johnson) Ellison, Sean Flohr, Brian Gibbs, Joseph Girard III, Jennifer Howard, Kelly Hughes, Chris Mullin, Taylor Robertson, Bonnie Samuelson, Karlie Samuelson, Jackie Stiles, Bryan Thoemke, Taylor Worman, Doris (Carie) Zerrusen

Contributors: Raymond (Buddy) Avezzie Jr., Robert Bartolameolli⁺, Richard Blinn, Emile Brady+, Frank Bonner, Bill Cook⁺, William Critchfield⁺, Cam Cronk, Linda Cronk+, Jim "JD" Dorris+, Jim Fuller, Bill Gerken⁺, Jerry Grafton, Randy Gragg, Richard Harris⁺, Frank Hise⁺, Walter Kettelle⁺, Vern Larson, T. Keith Mills, Getty Powell⁺, James Roche, Joyce Roche, Ron Shogren⁺, Larry Torres ⁺Posthumous Member



Bart Powell (left) presents Frank Bonner with his Elks Hoop Shoot Hall of Fame award on center court of the Wintrust Arena in Chicago.

FORCES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

In conjunction with the Seattle Elks Scholar Service Trip, Senior Programs Associate and CIPster Meaghan Morris traveled to the Pacific Northwest to visit three Elks Lodges and see their Impact Grants in action.

Each Lodge identified largescale needs within their communities and tailored their Impact Grant projects to meet those needs.

Ballard (Seattle), Wash., Lodge No. 827 uses its Impact Grant to run a community garden at Jubliee Women's Center. They grow fresh produce while reducing stress, encouraging social interaction, and improving self-esteem for residents. While the scholars were on the Service Trip, they had the opportunity to serve side-by-side with Morris and Ballard Exalted Ruler Katie Logan in the community garden.

Bremerton, Wash., Lodge No. 1181 promotes literacy and disaster preparedness through its Impact Grant by reading to children enrolled in the Head Start program. The program prepares children for situations ranging from natural disasters to social awareness to traffic sign comprehension, all while fostering a love for reading.

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Service Trips, continued from page 5

While the Chicago Service Trip focused on food insecurity, the Seattle Trip offered a broader scope of service at organizations supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, people in recovery, and women experiencing poverty. Scholars spent their days at Immanuel Community Services, Jubilee Women's Center and DESC Rainer House.

"What really has drawn me to all these service trips is being able to serve the local community and work with local organizations," says Elks Scholar Advisory Board Member Nishitha Karumuri, a trip participant and 2019 Most Valuable Student Scholar from North Carolina. "I've really been able to see the community impact we have when we work with these local nonprofits. I love to learn about what every city does and hopefully bring it back to my hometown."

After their first day of service, the scholars were treated to an evening of Elks fellowship by Ballard, Wash., Lodge No. 827. Scholars took in breathtaking views of Puget Sound on a boat tour hosted by the Ballard Lodge. Following the tour, the scholars headed to the Lodge, where they showed off their Elks Trivia knowledge and got to know the Elks of Ballard.

"This was my first time going to an Elks Lodge out of my state, which is superduper cool," says Kat Nakamura, another member of the SAB and a 2019 Most Valuable Student Scholar from California. "Not only is it beautiful here, but the people are so amazing to talk to and connect with."

Nakamura didn't know much about the Elks before applying for a scholarship, but now it is hard for her to imagine her life without us.

"I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without the Elks," says Nakamura. "Even in those periods where I didn't feel as connected, I knew I had the Elks and they were there to uplift me, which was great. I hope to be an Elk really soon."

At the end of each day, the scholars reflect on service. Upon reflection, they often find that their expectations of service, communities and one another have changed.

"Elks Scholar Service Trips are life-changing, and I think that is due to the quality of the people you serve with," says Hahn. "Elks Scholars are truly special individuals, and I am so honored to have my place in the #ElksFamily."

The Elks Scholar Service Trips provide scholars the opportunity to learn about societal issues, serve in the name of the Elks, and connect with their Elks family. For more information about the trips, visit <u>enf.elks.org/ScholarServiceTrips</u>.



Every student who received one of the 504 Elks National Foundation Most ■ Valuable Student Scholarships is a star, brightening their communities through passion, service and curiosity. But one of this year's top winners has truly astronomical dreams.

"My dreams are fed by celestial wonder, compelling me toward astrophysics as a means to make our universe a bit less unexplained and a bit more knowable to all," says Kaden Oquelí-White, sponsored by Slidell, La., Lodge No. 2321.

Kaden will attend Columbia University to study astrophysics and pursue a career in academia. Though he is focused on the vastness of the cosmos, he seeks an impact much closer to home by using his education and experiences to engage diverse populations, specifically encouraging Latino students to pursue Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Math careers.

"My fervent resolve to contribute astronomically to humanity and increase STEAM field awareness is as infinite as the heavens themselves," says Kaden. "I am a resolute young man who yearns to know and inclusively share the stars."

Sponsored by Salisbury, N.C., Lodge No. 699, Breana Fowler also dreams of furthering the education of others, and she has already started by creating a Peer Mediation Program at her high school. The program allows students who have been suspended or received other disciplinary action access to a safe space led by trained mediators.

Students who finish the program by doing community service and completing a creative consequence, like a reflection essay, have the suspension or other repercussion permanently removed from their school record. Stars continued on page 8 The Bremerton Lodge provides each child a book to share with their families, normalizing a culture of safety and readiness in every home.

Morris joined Bremerton Elks at Head Start to read to the children about social awareness and traffic sign comprehension.

Last, but certainly not least, Morris visited Port Townsend, Wash., Lodge No. 317. The Lodge uses its Impact Grant to deepen relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness by providing necessities focused on shelter, warmth, hygiene, and safety through its supply shop. Morris saw connections form between this population and the Elks firsthand, and she volunteered for the Port Townsend Lodge's Beacon Grant project, packing lunches for elementary school children who face food insecurity.

The CIP staff reviews every grant application with care, but reading about a grant project on paper is nothing like seeing it in person. "Witnessing the Port Townsend Elks in action really brought their Impact Grant project to life," says Morris. "The Lodge is a force in their community, the likes of which could not be reflected on paper."

Visit enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants to learn more about Impact Grants.



Faith Sjoberg (right) seen here with 2022 BackBoard Member Crystal Bell, has stayed engaged with the Hoop Shoot since aging out in 2018.

KEEPING THE FAITH

If you're a long-time reader of Heartbeat, you may remember past National Finalist Faith Sjoberg. Faith reached the Elks **Hoop Shoot National Finals** three times from 2016 to 2018. Impressed by the Elks volunteers who support the Hoop Shoot, Faith's parents—Kevin and Susan—joined Presque Isle, Maine, Lodge No. 1954, the same Lodge that sponsored Faith in her Hoop Shoot tenure.

After Faith aged out of the Hoop Shoot, she stayed involved with the Elks and the program, rebounding at Lodge and District contests.

With a penchant for service, Faith applied (not surprisingly) for a 2022 Legacy Awards scholarship. A condition of the scholarship is annual participation in service with an Elks Lodge.

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"The program allows students to come to peace with their past and recognize their feelings, not ignore them," says Breana. "I am proud to say that more than three dozen students have completed the program so far, and it will be implemented into various schools, districtwide, this year."

Breana will start at Spelman College this fall, where she will study education. She hopes to open her own boarding school and to influence education policy and curriculum by becoming the secretary of education, but that is a dream for the future.

"Right now, I am currently investing in myself, gathering all the tools and resources that are presented to me," she says. "I believe that I am the change I am so desperately seeking, and I want to inspire others through advocacy, telling my journey, or simply demonstrating my passion to others."

Breana and Kaden both earned \$50,000 scholarships. The second-place winners, who earned \$40,000 scholarships, are Jang Choe, sponsored by Henderson/Green Valley, Nev., Lodge No. 2802, and Florence Onivuke, sponsored by Sanford, Fla., Lodge No. 1241. The third-place winners of \$30,000 are Mohamed Ibrahim, sponsored by Fort Morgan, Colo., Lodge No. 1143, and Anita Zahiri, sponsored by New Orleans, La., Lodge No. 30.

For 2022-23, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.8 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.



PROUD TO BE AN ELK

ichael and Linda Stanley met 44 years ago on a blind date. When they met, ⚠ Mike was an active member of Van Wert, Ohio, Lodge No. 1197—and he is still a member there today.

"I have been married to Mike for 42 years," says Linda. "I have gone from being a wife of an Elk, to an Elk member, to the first woman ER in our Lodge, and also the first woman District Deputy in our district."

Mike has served in several positions, but it was at the Elks National Convention in 2006, when he was Ohio State President, that he had his proudest moment.

"As our state president, I escorted the top MVS winner Tracy Meng, who was from Ohio, onto the stage," says Mike. "I was proud to be from Ohio and proud to be an Elk."

They're both so proud of the charitable work they have done through their Lodge that they decided to include the ENF in their estate plans.

"Because this small thing you can do, to provide money to the ENF when you are gone," says Mike, "helps make sure the ENF will continue on when you are no longer here."

Leave your legacy. For additional information about ENF planned giving, please visit elks.giftlegacy.com. To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Kate Keating Edsey at KateE@elks.org or 773/755-4866.

The day before traveling to the 2022 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals, this time as a fan, Faith was notified that she was the recipient of one of the 350 Legacy Awards scholarships.

"I just wanted to say thanks for an amazing Hoop Shoot weekend," wrote Faith. I am so fortunate to have been able to experience it, and this time without the stress of the competition."

"Also, I wanted to thank you for the Legacy Scholarship. You have done way too much for me, so I cannot thank you enough."

To see the full list of Legacy Awards scholars, visit enf.elks.org/leg22.



Visit enf.elks.org/HBSpring, and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2021-22 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/fellowship.

(+ Denotes deceased member; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee; > Denotes John F. Malley Society; * Denotes Fidelity Club; # Denotes Loyalty Club; < Denotes Named Scholarship donor)

CHARITY (\$10,000)

John and Caroline Allman# Stephen W. Barker > John W. Carman William W. Carpenter > Edward G. Downs ># Sharon E. Glasrud Tony Hafford Charles W. Lester >*# Ward Marsh John C. McAuley T. Keith Mills PGER Jody M. Patterson *#< Raymond F. Ross Sr. #< Gabrielle U. Scott ># Ronald M. Teal Linda E. Weigel *# J. Wayne Wrightstone < Ronald J. Zais #

HOPE (\$5,000)

Kristin Amenson Terry L. Barnaby Nick Bradley * Tommy M. Carey # Kathryn W. Foy ># John and Carol Fuller *#< N. Todd Graves ># Patricia A. Heller # Mark J. Henderson # Marlen J. Hoesly #< Craia J. Huch *# Fred D. Kelsay +# Sharon S. Kelsay # Kenneth A. Larson Jr. # Darwin Leatherman *# Marilyn Leatherman *# Louis J. Mancuso Jr. # James D. Nantz + Chris M. Ord # R.A. Pickett >*#< Patricia J. Powell *# Leonard W. Ritterpusch Jr.# Gunther K. Schroth # Elaine Simone # Thomas F. Straughen + Westley C. Stull *# Jimmy Tilley # John J. Williams # Mary A. Zino #

FAITH (\$1,000)

Joann Abeyta *
Steven C. Abrahams
John D. Absmeier #
Matthew A. Adamczyk
Edward J. Adams #

Nancy L. Alba Mark A. Alderman *# Tim Allison John D. Amen PGER ^# Bradley Anderson # Dean A. Anderson Jr. *# David E. Anger *# Janis Annunziata # Richard D. Antal * Oscar Aranda Rocco A. Arcaro III Bettyann Archambault *# Roger G. Armstrong Robert E. Arthurs Alane Asp *# Steven Asp *# Douglas L. Austin # Cres C. Baca # Patricia A. Baccus *# Elizabeth Bailey Bryan Baker Alan A. Baranyai # Wayne E. Barnes * Charles L. Basil *# Joseph C. Basil *# Ronald R. Bauer >*# Brian L. Baye John R. Bayless # **Donald Baynes** John F. Beard # Thomas L. Beasley Gerard T. Beaudoin III Donald E. Behnke *# Linda R. Bellefeuille * Harold P. Bensch Alan E. Berg # William J. Berger # Jon A. Berry Norman J. Biegaj # Ronald L. Binford Kathleen A. Bischoff * Terry L. Blackwell Mark A. Blair Richard D. Blake # Jay W. Blanchard Jim Blanchard *# Terrence W. Bobka # Robert J. Bocher # Harvey S. Boelts Michael S. Bohan Patricia R. Bohan David Boies Joyce R. Bonanno # James Booth Scott Borror

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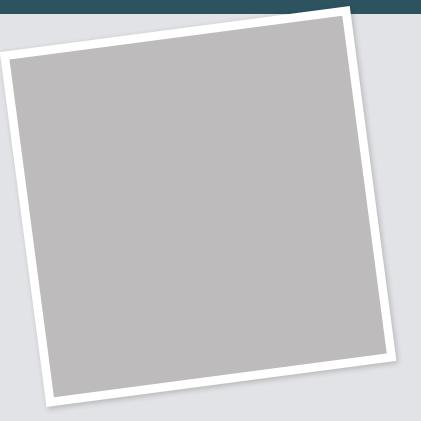
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