

Elks Drug Awareness Essay Contest

**The theme for the 2025-2026 contest is: "DRUGS ARE A GRAVE MISTAKE"**

Rules

The contest is open to all **6th, 7th, & 8th grade students.** **Participants must write their essay themselves**, but they may get help from teachers, parents, or friends in the form of ideas.

* **Length**: No longer than 250 words.
* **Paper size**: 8 1/2 x 11 inch.
* **Text**: Typed, computer generated text, hand written or hand printed.

Judging will be based on the following:

* Closeness to the theme
* Neatness
* Originality
* Correct grammatical structure

Each entry must have the following information on the back of the essay:

* Student's full name
* School, location, grade
* Elks lodge name
* Must also be accompanied by Hold Harmless agreement

**Due date:** January 31st

**Winners**: Your local Elks lodge will select the top essays, using the criteria listed above. Awards for local winners will be announced in January.

**STATE WINNERS** will be announced in February at the Spring meeting. Each State winner will receive 100.00

**National recognition**: Each State Drug Awareness Chairman will choose one overall winner. This winning essay will be submitted for entry into the National contest and may be featured on the [www.elkskidszone.org](http://www.elkskidszone.org/) website and/or in ENF or DAP publications. ALSO AWARDED $300.00

**Cyndi Russell**

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Elks Drug Awareness Poster Contest

**The theme for the 2025-2026 contest is: "DRUGS ARE A GRAVE MISTAKE"**

Rules

The contest is open to all **3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students. Poster paper**: Ideally, posters should be submitted on 81/2 x 11 inch paper. However, posters submitted on paper up to 11x24 inches in size will be accepted. Please contact your [local Elks Lodge](http://www.elks.org/lodges/default.cfm) for additional information, as some areas might have additional criteria.

Judging will be based on the following:

* Closeness to the theme
* Neatness
* Originality
* Correct grammatical structure

Each entry must have the following information on the back of the poster:

* Student's full name
* School, location, grade
* Elks lodge name
* Must also be accompanied by Hold Harmless agreement

**DUE DATE:** January 31st

**Winners**: Each lodge will select a winner, using the criteria listed above. The lodge will notify winners in January.

**STATE LEVEL WINNERS**: The state willer will be announced at the Spring Meeting. Each State WINNER WILL RECEIVE 100.00

**National recognition**: Each State Drug Awareness Chairman will choose one overall winner. This winning poster will be submitted for entry into the annual National Elks contest and for inclusion in the Elks DAP Coloring Book. Winning Posters may also be featured on the [www.elkskidszone.org](http://www.elkskidszone.org/) website - online coloring book and/or in ENF or DAP publications AND AWAREDED 300.00

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Elks Drug Awareness Video Contest

**The theme for the 2025-2026 contest is: "DRUGS ARE A GRAVE MISTAKE"**

Rules

* The contest is open to two age groups:
  + Pre-High School 7th-9th graders
  + High School 9th-12th grade
* Participants: May be an individual or group
* Length: 2 to 5 minutes in length
* Format: Flash Drive or similar "mobile" media in readable format

Judging will be based on the following:

* Closeness to the theme
* Neatness
* Originality
* Age and Language appropriate
* Positive message
* Quality of video

Each entry must include the following information:

* Student or Group's full name
* School, location, grade
* Elks lodge name
* Must also be accompanied by Hold Harmless agreement
* If minors an additional release form is required

**Due date:** January 31st

Send the local lodge winner to Cyndi Russell And it will be forwarded to the national chairman

**Winners:** Your local Elks lodge will select the top videos, using the criteria listed above. The lodge will notify winners. Winning videos will be forwarded to District Competition. District winners will be forwarded to State Level Competition. All winning entries become the sole property of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and may not be returned.

**National recognition:** Each State Drug Awareness Chairman will choose one overall winner. This winning video will be submitted for entry into the National contest and may be featured on the [www.elkskidszone.org](http://www.elkskidszone.org/) website and/or in ENF or DAP publications. And awarded $300.00.

**Cyndi Russell 864-247-5768 Cyndilay@yahoo.com**

**Local Lodge Chair Guide**

Lodge Chairs are the **frontline leaders** of the **Elks Drug Awareness Program (DAP)**, bringing vital education and awareness directly into their communities. Whether they are **expanding an existing program or starting one from scratch**, Lodge Chairs play a **critical role** in organizing events, distributing resources, and engaging with local schools, youth groups, and law enforcement to **spread the message of prevention**.

While **some lodges have well-established DAP initiatives**, others are just beginning their journey. **Lodge Chairs help build momentum, encourage participation, and ensure their lodge plays a meaningful role in the fight against substance abuse.**

**Key Responsibilities Expanded**

**1. Establishing or Expanding the Program**

* If the lodge **does not yet have a Drug Awareness Program**, the Lodge Chair **lays the foundation** by introducing initiatives, gathering support, and launching **community outreach efforts**.
* If a program already exists, the Lodge Chair works to **expand, improve, and sustain its impact**.

**2. Community Outreach & Engagement**

* Build partnerships with **local schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, and health professionals**.
* Organize **educational events, presentations, and activities** that bring the **message of prevention** to the community.

**3. Volunteer Recruitment & Coordination**

* Encourage **lodge members** and **community volunteers** to participate in events and initiatives.
* Work with **District and State Chairs** to ensure volunteers receive the **support and resources needed**.

**4. Resource Distribution**

* Ensure that **DAP materials** (brochures, videos, posters, etc.) are available at **lodges, schools, libraries, and community centers**.
* Work with **District and State Chairs** to obtain and distribute the latest educational resources.

**5. Organizing Events & Initiatives**

* Plan and host **drug awareness activities, Red Ribbon Week events, youth contests, and public education programs**.
* Coordinate with local **Elks lodges, civic groups, and government agencies** to maximize impact.

**Catalyzing Change**

Lodge Chairs **lead by example**, bringing together **volunteers, educators, and community leaders** to create a **culture of prevention and awareness**. Their work ensures that **drug-free education reaches those who need it most**—especially young people.

**Overcoming Challenges**

Since **not every lodge has an active Drug Awareness Program**, Lodge Chairs **play a crucial role in breaking barriers** by:

* Educating lodge members on the **importance of the program**.
* Engaging key **stakeholders** to build **interest and participation**.
* Seeking support from **District and State Chairs** for guidance and materials.

[**ElksDAP.org**](https://elksdap.org/)

One of newest online portals to share drug education materials, news and resources developed for parents and teachers by the Elks Drug Awareness Program to the public.

* Digital drug education materials
* Videos & media content
* News and articles on Drug Awareness
* This website; training and materials for State Chairs

Visit Elks DAP Portal at: [ElksDAP.org](https://elksdap.org/)

[**ElksKidsZone.org**](https://elkskidszone.org/)

Kid friendly website containing Drug Awareness materials including:

* Bigg Milt’s Life Lessons videos
* Coloring books
* Comic books
* Trivia games
* Videos
* Drug education materials and resources,Visit Kids Zone at: [ElksKidsZone.org](https://elkskidszone.org/)

## [ElksTeenZone.org](https://elksteenzone.org/)

Drug Awareness resources for adolescents to teens:

* Videos
* Trivia Games
* Crossword Puzzles
* Quizzes
* Student Resources
* Educational Articles
* 10 Published Lessons
* Audio & screen reader support for users with disabilities
* Teacher resources for standards alignment

Visit Teen Zone at: [ElksTeenZone.org](https://elksteenzone.org/)

**ElksDrugQuizShow.com**

Drug Awareness in-person game for adolescents to teens:

* Exclusive game to run at your school
* Based on our Online Lessons Platform
* Buzzers and game equipment available

Visit the Drug Quiz Show at: [ElksDrugQuizShow.com](https://elksdrugquizshow.com/)

**YouTube.com/ElksDAP**

Our YouTube channel with all of our videos and media content. Subscribe to our channel to get notified when we post new videos.

Visit the Elks DAP YouTube channel at: [youtube.com/ElksDAP](https://youtube.com/ElksDAP)

**CLMS Reporting – A Guide for Lodge Chairs**

**Why Logging DAP Activities in CLMS Matters**

As a **Lodge Chair**, you are responsible for ensuring that **every Drug Awareness Program (DAP) activity at your lodge is logged in CLMS**.

Why is this important?

* It **ensures your lodge gets credit** for its volunteer efforts.
* It **helps secure funding and resources** for future activities.
* It **demonstrates the true impact of the Elks DAP** at the national level.

**What Needs to Be Logged?**

Every **lodge-level** DAP activity should be reported, including:

* **Drug awareness presentations, school visits, and youth programs**.
* **Volunteer hours spent on DAP activities**.
* **Community engagement efforts**, including Red Ribbon Week and other awareness events.
* **Meetings with schools, law enforcement, or local organizations** regarding DAP.
* **Distribution of educational materials** (brochures, pamphlets, digital content).

**How to Stay on Track**

**1. Log Activities Promptly**

* Enter activities **as soon as possible** after they occur to ensure accurate reporting.
* If unsure **how to log something**, reach out to your **District Chair** for guidance.

**2. Keep Track of Volunteer Hours**

* Record **all time spent on DAP efforts**, including **event setup, presentations, and travel**.
* Encourage **other volunteers to submit their hours** so nothing is overlooked.

**3. Check for Missing Reports**

* Review past **events and activities** to ensure they have been **logged properly**.
* If something was **missed**, enter the data as soon as possible.