



Elks Scholar Service Trips

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the day-to-day look like on an Elks Scholar Service Trip?

A: Each Elks Scholar Service trip's itinerary will vary based upon the location and the community partner or organization that we are working with. Each trip's itinerary will include service each day, planned group activities each night, the opportunity to meet Elks members from a nearby Lodge, and, of course, time to visit the sites near the trip location. We're happy to share a detailed schedule upon request.

What does "Learn. Serve. Connect." mean?

A: Learn, Serve, Connect is the tagline of the Elks Scholar Serve Trips initiative. By attending an Elks Scholar Service Trip, you will have the opportunity to learn about societal issues, serve those in need in the name of the Elks, and connect with your Elks Family from across the country.

What do we do when we're not serving?

A: Christina Dailey, a 2014 MVS scholar who attended the Summer 2015 trip, described it as "A mini vacation for \$50!" When we're not serving, we'll have time to explore the area and see some popular local sites. You'll also get to participate in group activities before reflection and free time each night. We will try to visit at least one local Elks Lodge and get the opportunity to connect with our #ElksFamily.

What do you mean by reflection?

A: It has been said that "service without reflection is just work." Reflection will be a time when we get to share what we're working on during the day, and hear about and learn from others' experiences. It's a time for us to come together as a group to unpack what we learned from our experiences that day, and to understand how we can incorporate what we are doing and learning on the trip to our lives back on campus or at home.

What expenses will I have during the week?

A: Your meals, lodging and transportation on site throughout the trip are all covered by the Elks National Foundation. You are responsible for a \$50 participation fee.

Do I need to bring extra spending money with me?

A: If you'd like. We suggest bringing at least \$20, but no more than \$100 on an Elks Scholar Service Trip. You'll only need spending money in the event that you'd like to buy something such as a souvenir.

Why should I fundraise for my Elks Scholar Service Trip?

A: While fundraising is not a required component of an Elks Scholar Service Trip, fundraising is an important part of any service-learning experience. If you are able to cover the travel costs of your trip through your own means, then you are not required to fundraise. However, we encourage participants to fundraise to cover the cost of travel expenses, if necessary. Please check out the Fundraising Webinar and Fundraising Guide on our website to help you get started in your fundraising endeavors.

Do you offer any financial assistance for my travel expenses?

A: The Elks National Foundation does not offer financial assistance for your travel expenses. However, there are many different fundraising techniques that you can employ to assist you in covering your travel expenses. Please check out the Fundraising Webinar and Fundraising Guide on our website for more information.

Can I use my scholarship funds to cover my travel costs?

A: No. Your scholarship funds are strictly for academic purposes and must be disbursed directly to your academic institution of higher learning.

What if I am accepted and attending an Elks Scholar Service Trip?

A: Congratulations! We're excited to have you join us on an Elks Scholar Service Trip. You'll have to complete and send in some forms along with your participation fee, attend an orientation webinar online, book your travel to the trip location, and check the packing list to make sure you're prepared while you count down the days until your trip!

Who do I contact with questions?

A: You can contact Elks Scholar Fellow, Maryann Slater at MaryannS@elks.org.