



## Elks National Foundation News Release

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*For immediate release*

### **Elks National Drug Awareness Program and Marvel Entertainment Join Forces**

CHICAGO, Ill.— This year, the Elks National Drug Awareness Program teamed up with Marvel Entertainment and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to produce a comic book featuring Elroy the Elk, the Fantastic Four and Spiderman in a battle against underage drinking. The comic book, *Hard Choices*, is designed to educate fourth- through eighth-graders about the perils of underage drinking. Five-hundred thousand comic books are being shipped to select elementary and middle schools in Elks communities across the nation.

*Hard Choices* comes with a teacher's guide that contains fun, educational games for students to participate in, and also doubles as a poster. The comic book also features the Elks Drug Awareness Program Heroes Essay Contest. Fourth-through eighth-grade students can compete for the grand prize to appear in a Marvel comic book by writing a short essay about the great things they can accomplish by staying away from drugs and alcohol.

"This is an excellent opportunity to involve your Lodge in the Elks Drug Awareness Program, and make a positive connection with an elementary and/or middle school in your community," says Drug Awareness Program National Director Kent Gade. "There is no cost to your Lodge to get involved!"

Drug Awareness Program funding is provided by the Elks National Foundation, the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA. The Elks are committed to providing a healthy future for America's youth. This year the ENF granted \$598,000 to the Drug Awareness Program. In addition to educating young people about the dangers of drugs, the Elks provide positive alternatives such as the Hoop Shoot® and Soccer Shoot athletic programs and Youth Veteran Volunteers. The Foundation also annually awards more than \$3 million in college scholarships.

To learn more about the Drug Awareness Program, visit [www.elks.org/drugs](http://www.elks.org/drugs).

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