

Valerie Peterson
Exalted Ruler

**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
A Fraternal Organization
Jackson Lodge No. 1713
Chartered July 17th, 1947**



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Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOY SCOUTS TEAM UP WITH JACKSON ELKS LODGE NO. 1713 TO PERFORM FLAG DAY RITUAL

Jackson, WY – June 14th of every year in the United States is Flag Day, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) Lodges from across the nation perform a Flag Day Ritual. This year, Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 and local Boy Scouts will be performing the ritual on Wednesday June 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson Elks Lodge at 270 W. Broadway and the public is encouraged to attend.

The ritual includes a presentation of the various flags of the United States throughout history, with a ceremony outlining the significance of each flag. “Patriotism is a key component of the Elks, and we like to share our love of country with the community,” says Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 Exalted Ruler Valerie Peterson. “The Flag Day ritual is a great time for Elks, visitors, and locals to come together and appreciate our flag and country.” As part of this all-American ceremony, the Elks will also have free hot dogs and apple pie à la mode for those in attendance until it is gone.

This year, local Boy Scouts will attend the ritual as well. “Having our boys attend the ritual helps to show them what it means to continue service and citizenship beyond their Scouting career,” says Gary Edington, Jackson Boy Scout District Program Director and Elk member. “Our Lodge is always looking for opportunities to partner with local Scouts,” Peterson noted, “these are our future community leaders.”

Although Flag Day was recognized nationally by Congress in 1949, the Elks had been celebrating the holiday since 1907 when the national Elks Grand Lodge designated June 14th as Flag Day by resolution. In 1911, the Elks Grand Lodge adopted mandatory observance of the occasion for all Lodges, which continues to this day. The Elks were also instrumental in prompting President Woodrow Wilson to recognize the observance of Flag Day through presidential proclamation in 1916.

“This is a fun and educational tradition, and the Jackson Elks Lodge is honored to perform this ritual for the community alongside the Boy Scouts,” Peterson said.

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The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded in 1868 to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship. Today the Elks are a fraternal order of nearly one million members with a network of more than 2,000 lodges in communities across the country. Annually the Order spends more than \$80,000,000 for benevolent, educational, and patriotic community-minded programs.

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