

Valerie Peterson
Exalted Ruler

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



Fernando Escobedo, PER, PDDGER
Secretary

**270 W Broadway Ave
PO Box 1713
Jackson, WY 83001**
(307) 733-1713 • elks1713@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/JacksonHoleElks/

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Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Rich Ochs
Public Relations Chair
Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713
307-690-4535
rochs77@gmail.com**

JACKSON ELKS LODGE TO HOST ANNUAL "HOOP SHOOT" FOR KIDS

Jackson, WY – On Saturday, December 16, 2017, Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 will be hosting the annual Elks Hoop Shoot® at the Teton County Recreation Center at 155 E Gill Ave in Jackson. Event registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the competition starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

The Elks Hoop Shoot® is a free throw contest for youth who will be between the ages of 8 to 13 as of April 1, 2018. This annual event starts with local Elks lodges across the United States. Boys and girls compete in their age group in a contest consisting of 25 free throws. The top boy and top girl in each age group advance to the District finals in Riverton, WY. From there, the same process is followed, where they advance to Wyoming State Finals in Casper, then Regional Finals in Denver, and eventually the winners move on to National Finals in Chicago. Winners of the National Finals will have their names permanently inscribed in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA among basketball legends. Travel expenses for contest winners are paid for by the Elks.

"The Elks Hoop Shoot® is probably my favorite youth program that we put on," says Jackson Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Valerie Peterson. "Being able to watch as kids who competed here in Jackson move on to District, State, Regional, and then National finals is exciting to say the least."

For the 2016-2017 Hoop Shoot® season, there were a total of 305,131 contestants that started out at local Elks lodges across the country. Eventually, the pool was whittled down to 72 boys and girls who competed for the National title in Chicago. The 2017 National Hoop Shoot® Finals free throw average was 82%, compared to the 2016-2017 NBA league free throw average of 77%.

"This event is a great opportunity for kids to make new friends, learn about the importance of practice and hard work, and get the opportunity to travel to new places," says Jackson Elks Lodge Secretary and Hoop Shoot Director Fernando Escobedo. "It doesn't hurt that it's a real fun time, too."

Those looking for more information on the Elks Hoop Shoot® program can visit www.elks.org/hoopshoot or contact Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 Hoop Shoot Director Fernando Escobedo at elks1713@gmail.com or 307-739-3087.

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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