

Lisa Sprague
Exalted Ruler

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



Fernando Escobedo, PER, PDDGER
Secretary

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Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON ELKS LODGE BOYS SWEEP DISTRICT HOOP SHOOT® COMPETITION

Jackson, WY – On January 5th, the Wyoming Elks Southwest District, made up of the Jackson, Lander, Riverton, and Rawlins Elks Lodges, held their annual Hoop Shoot® district competition. This district competition determines which three boys and which three girls will advance from the Wyoming Elks Southwest District to the state competition. Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 sent Crew Lancaster (8 – 9 boys), Cooper Lancaster (10 – 11 boys), and Isaac Larsen (12 – 13 boys) to Riverton for the district competition and is proud to announce that all three boys swept their respective age groups. Each boy will now advance to the state Hoop Shoot® competition in Casper, WY on February 16th. Jackson Elks Lodge also advanced Leah Wilber (10-11 girls) to the district competition who unfortunately was unable to attend due to an injury.

Crew, Cooper, Isaac, and Leah first competed at the local level at the Jackson Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot® on December 8th, 2018 where they each won their age group. Competitors shot a series of 25 free throws at a standard basketball hoop under a strict set of rules to ensure a fair competition for all. These same rules are applied at each step of the competition from local, to district, to state, to regional, then finally the national competition. “We are so proud of all of our athletes, especially these boys,” says Jackson Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot Director Jessica Schiers, “To be able to send any to the state competition is an honor, but to be able to send three from our Lodge is amazing.”

“Everyone at our Lodge has their fingers crossed for Crew, Cooper, and Isaac as they move onto the state competition,” says Lisa Sprague, Jackson Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler. “With determination and grit, we know these boys can go all the way to Chicago!”

Through the Hoop Shoot program, the Elks been developing and reinforcing grit in our nation’s youth for more than 46 years—long before researchers and experts concluded that grit is so important for our children. The 2019 Hoop Shoot National Finals will take place on April 27, 2019 in Chicago. Winners of the Elks National Hoop Shoot® finals will have their names permanently inscribed in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

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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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Wyoming Elks Southwest District Boys Champions L to R: Isaac Larsen, Crew Lancaster, and Cooper Lancaster

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Wyoming Elks Southwest District 12 – 13 Boys Champion Isaac Larsen of Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 takes a shot at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, WY during the district Hoop Shoot® competition

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