

# The "Roaming Elk" Program



# Purpose

The purpose of the Roaming Elk Program is to encourage members to travel to other Lodges within their district; thus enjoying fraternal ties with members of other Lodges at either meetings or events.

The program was designed to allow members from one Lodge to visit another Lodge as a group, attending one of their functions or meetings, thus allowing the members to enjoy their visit to the Lodge. By doing this, there would be the additional benefit to the Lodge that holds the trophy, as there could be an increase in attendance at events, increase in revenue for the Lodge, or increase in attendance at Lodge meetings.

This program is intended to be a friendly competition between Lodges within a district. It is not intended for a Lodge to simply acquire the trophy, and hold it for an extended period of time. Lodges that hold the trophy are encouraged to make their events known to other Lodges in the District, and to challenge others to come to their Lodge to capture the trophy.

The program was first established by Maine Elks Association State President Wayne Cotterly during the 2011-2012 Lodge year.

# The Program

There are three trophies. One for each of Maine's three districts; Northern, Central, and Coastal.

The Roaming Elk Award will initially be delivered at the MEA State Convention by lottery to one Lodge in each District each year. The following year, at the Convention, the Lodge that currently holds the award must return it to the State Association to be redistributed the following year.

## Capturing the Trophy

The following rules apply for a Lodge to capture the trophy:

- a Lodge must send a minimum of 5 of their members to the Lodge that has the Roaming Elk in its possession to capture the trophy.
- The five (5) members must be in good standing, and must provide proof of membership by displaying their current membership card (in good standing) to the Lodge that has possession of the trophy. The members must also sign into the Visitors Register. The time of arrival should be noted at time of arrival by making a notation in the Visitors Register.
- The trophy may be captured by members attending either a regular meeting of the Lodge or a social event offered by the Lodge to outside members. (e.g. Dance, Karaoke Night, Charity Fundraiser, Community Service Program, State Function, etc.)
- A minimum of five (5) members must all be present at the same time during the event, and the same five (5) or more members must remain at the event or Lodge for a minimum of 1 hour.
- A District Deputy suite, consisting of at least (5) five members and who attend either a Lodge meeting or Social Event during their visitation are eligible to capture the trophy for their home Lodge. (inspection alone is not considered a social function)

It is at the discretion of the District Deputy and their suite as to whether they wish to capture the trophy during their visitation. Lodges should not impose upon the District Deputy and their suite, and make it an expectation that they should not capture the trophy.

- If two or more Lodges are attempting to capture the trophy at the same event, the Lodge with the most number of members in attendance will capture the award.
- If there is a tie based on the number of members attending from different Lodges, then the Lodge that traveled the longest distance from Lodge to Lodge will capture the award. (See Official Lodge Distance Chart)
- The Award Winner shall be determined at the approximate midpoint of the event.

At an appropriate time following the midpoint of the event, the Lodge holding the trophy will present the award to the capturing Lodge. However, only Lodges that have met the minimum requirement of at least five (5) members who have been in attendance for at least one hour will be considered eligible.

At a Lodge meeting, the winner will be determined under "Good of the Order."

Note: The 1 Hour minimum rule may be waived if a Lodge is attempting to capture the trophy at a Lodge meeting, and the meeting has not run long enough for that time to elapse upon reaching "Good of the Order." Also, Lodges have the option under the Statutes to rearrange their meeting so that "Good of the Order" comes at an earlier point in the meeting.

- Only members from Lodges within the district are eligible to capture the trophy.  
**No cross district capturing of trophies.**

(e.g. Members from the York Lodge cannot go to Presque Isle and capture their trophy)

- If a Lodge captures the trophy, and does not notify the Website Coordinator and Roaming Elk Coordinator, either by e-mail, telephone, or other means that they have captured the trophy within 3 days of having captured it, they will lose the 30 capture points, and will only accrue the possession points (1 per day) starting only when they are notified.
- A Lodge that intentionally hides the trophy, tries to deceive other Lodges who are trying to capture it, or denies a Lodge the trophy after it has followed the rules and is eligible to capture it, will be penalized 60 points for the first infraction, or will become ineligible to capture or possess the trophy for the remainder of the year upon any further infractions. This includes excluding members from attending a regular Lodge meeting.

- Any questions or situations that require interpretation of the rules shall be forwarded to the Roaming Elk Coordinator. Any disputes will be determined by the State President, whose decision will be final.

# Point System

Points will be accrued throughout the Maine Elks Association Year, and the annual winner will be announced at the MEA State Convention.

Points are accumulated as follows:

- A Lodge will receive **30 points** for capturing the trophy from another Lodge or be the recipient as drawn by lottery at each State Convention
- **1 point** is awarded for each full day the Lodge holds the award in its possession. (the day that it is captured or lost is not counted for points, as it is not a full day)

The Lodge with the most points as of April 1st of each year will become the winner for their district. A state-wide winner will also be declared. The winning Lodge for each district will have their Lodge's name and year inscribed on the trophy.

**It will be the responsibility of the capturing Lodge to notify the Website Coordinator and Roaming Elk Coordinator that they are in possession of the trophy. The points as outlined above will not be awarded until the Lodge makes contact with them.** (In other words, make sure to contact them as soon as possible, or the other Lodge will still accrue points).

**The purpose of this notification is that the information can be posted on the MEA website so that other Lodges may know where the trophy is located at any time. This is a very important responsibility, and is tied directly to the success of the program! If Lodges do not know where the trophy is located they cannot capture it.**

The final point standings will be determined at the end of the year, and Lodges who hold the trophy as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, are requested to forward a copy of the log for the year to the MEA Roaming Elk Coordinator for final determination of the points earned by each Lodge in their district. The Roaming Elk Coordinator will then report to the MEA Public Relations Chairman, Website Administrator, and State President, and an announcement will be made via the website, e-mail newsletter, and at the State Convention .

## **Responsibilities of the Capturing Lodge**

Once a Lodge captures the Roaming Elk, they should proudly display it in their Lodge, but maintain its security so that other Lodges may enjoy it in the future.

**This Logbook must accompany the trophy.** In this Logbook, the capturing Lodge must enter its Lodge Name, Date of Capture, Event attended, Date of Transfer to another Lodge, and the Name of the Lodge that has captured the trophy.

The Exalted Ruler of the capturing Lodge, Lodge Secretary, or other responsible person should then notify the MEA Website Coordinator/Public Relations Director and Roaming Elk Coordinator that their Lodge has captured the trophy.

**The Lodge that has captured the trophy will also be responsible for its safeguard and security.** As we wish to preserve the trophy for the future, please place the award in a suitable location so that it will not become damaged or destroyed.

Normal wear and tear is expected on a traveling trophy. However other damage is not. Lodges that damage the trophy, whether intentional or unintentional are expected to make repairs at their expense.

## **Tracking the Roaming Elk**

Knowing where the trophy is currently residing will one of the more important challenges of the program. This is why it is very important to inform the Website Coordinator that your Lodge currently has the trophy.

The Roaming Elk Award can be tracked on the Maine Elks Association Website at:

<http://www.maineelks.org/tracker.html>

# Official Lodge Distances

Should two or more Lodges attempt to capture the trophy, and have the same number of members in attendance; the Lodge that traveled the farthest will capture the trophy based on the distances below:

## Coastal District

	Portland	Bath	Rockland	Sanford	Biddeford-Saco	Brunswick	Wells	York
Portland	0	37.43	84.81	31.74	14.28	29.24	31.86	36.79
Bath	37.43	0	36.79	68.51	51.05	8.23	68.63	73.56
Rockland	84.81	36.79	0	115.96	98.50	55.69	116.09	121.02
Sanford	31.74	68.51	115.96	0	22.68	60.47	9.84	20.90
Biddeford-Saco	14.28	51.05	98.50	22.68	0	42.74	23.26	28.19
Brunswick	29.24	8.23	55.69	60.47	42.74	0	60.91	65.84
Wells	31.86	68.63	116.09	9.84	23.26	60.91	0	12.93
York	36.79	73.56	121.02	20.90	28.19	65.84	12.93	0

## Central District

	Lewiston	Rumford	Waterville	Augusta	Gardiner	Farmington	Skowhegan-Madison
Lewiston	0	45.54	52.40	34.35	24.83	46.69	70.32
Rumford	45.54	0	62.83	54.23	59.57	29.94	55.36
Waterville	52.40	62.83	0	19.96	31.04	35.85	19.87
Augusta	34.35	54.23	19.96	0	12.43	33.57	38.07
Gardiner	24.83	59.57	31.04	12.43	0	46.24	48.64
Farmington	46.69	29.94	35.85	33.57	46.24	0	28.35
Skowhegan-Madison	70.32	55.36	19.87	38.07	48.64	28.35	0

## Northern District

	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Houlton</b>	<b>Old Town</b>	<b>Millinocket</b>	<b>Presque Isle</b>	<b>Sebasticook Valley</b>	<b>Ellsworth</b>
<b>Bangor</b>	0	120.00	17.22	72.71	159.75	32.70	30.07
<b>Houlton</b>	120.00	0	109.28	69.72	42.00	152.68	150.19
<b>Old Town</b>	17.22	109.28	0	64.64	148.68	49.82	47.40
<b>Millinocket</b>	72.71	69.72	64.64	0	109.48	104.99	102.57
<b>Presque Isle</b>	159.75	42.00	148.68	109.48	0	191.97	61.07
<b>Sebasticook Valley</b>	32.70	152.68	49.82	104.99	191.97	0	189.65
<b>Ellsworth</b>	30.07	150.19	47.40	102.57	189.65	61.07	0

The distance that the members actually traveled to get to the Lodge will not be considered. Only the official distances above will be used to determine which Lodge captures the trophy.