

# Elks Drug Awareness Program

## National Essay Contest

### 2025-2026: Drugs are a Grave Mistake



#### Participation Rules

- **Eligible Participants:** Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Authorship:** Essays must be the original work of the participant. However, brainstorming and discussion with teachers, parents, or peers are encouraged to refine ideas.

#### Essay paper:

- Essay Specifications: Standard U.S. Letter (8 1/2 x 11 inches)

#### Judging will be based on the following:

- Adherence to given theme.
- Overall neatness and presentation.
- Creativity and originality.
- Proper use of grammar and sentence structure
- Maximum length: **250** words. Essays must be typed or neatly handwritten
- Essay must be original student work.

**Each entry must have the following information attached on the back of each essay, please ensure the inclusion of:**

- Student's full name.
- School, location, and grade.
- Name of the sponsoring Elks Lodge.
- National Essay Contest Entry Form
- Parental Consent Form

#### Copyrighted characters are prohibited:

**Entries containing copyrighted material will be disqualified.**

**Due date:**

**January 20, 2026.**

#### Winners:

Each lodge will select a winner, using the criteria listed above. The lodge will notify winners. Winning posters will be forwarded to the District Chairperson for the District Level Competition. District winners will be forwarded to the State Level Competition. All winning entries become the sole property of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and may not be returned.

#### National recognition:

Each State Drug Awareness Chairman will choose one overall winner. This winning poster will be submitted for entry into the annual National Elks contest and for inclusion in the Elks DAP Coloring Book. Winning Posters may also be featured on the [www.elkskidszone.org](http://www.elkskidszone.org) website – online coloring book and/or in ENF or DAP publications.

**Elks Drug Awareness Program**  
**National Essay Contest**  
**2025-2026: Drugs are a Grave Mistake**



**Title of Entry**

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**Entrant Information**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & # \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s) Name(s)**

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Father \_\_\_\_\_

Or Legal Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Individual to appear on certificate and credits:**

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**Please confirm the following:**

- ☐ Entry is age and language appropriate.
  - ☐ Essays should not exceed 250 words; handwritten, typed or printed.
  - ☐ Poster size should be 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper.
  - ☐ Entry is an original; it is not a copycat or previously entered entry.
  - ☐ Entry should contain an anti-abuse message.
  - ☐ No ChatGPT/GPT, LLM, or any other forms of Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning is allowed. The poster or essay produced must be created entirely by the contestant on the entry form.
  - ☐ Entry should be based on the theme. If not, please provide a reason below:
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All minors (anyone under 18 years old) must have permission from their parents. Parents must consent and agree to the use of the individual's name, photo, and entry in all Elks materials such as the Elks Drug Awareness Coloring Book, The Elks Magazine or other Elks' publications, websites or other digital or print mediums.

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Name of Student

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Parent Name & Signature

# Elks Drug Awareness Program

## National Essay, Poster & Video Contest

### Parental Consent Form



My child \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to submit an entry to the Elks Drug Awareness Program's Poster, Essay, and/or Video Contest.

I hereby give consent to the use of his/her name, photo, Video, Poster, and/or Essay in the Elks Drug Awareness Coloring Book, The Elks Magazine, or other Elks' publications, or websites (including all forms of media) in furthering the programs and works of charity for the Order of Elks.

I further consent and agree that the Essay/Poster/Video shall become the property of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

This document is required to be signed and dated by the parent/guardian for any person under the age of 18.