

What does it mean to be an Elk?

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, B.P.O.E., founded in 1868 by men who wanted to promote family values, maintain a common desire to not only preserve Americas institutions, but to love our fellow man, promote his well being and to give to others the joys of life while endeavoring to contribute to mankind. The B.P.O.E. questions no man's religion, bars no one on account of his creed, and is not concerned with one's political or sectarian biases to permeate its proceedings or affect its fraternal deliberations on a National, State, District or Local level. We really do mind our own business.

The B.P.O.E.'s simple premise: It is nobler to serve than to be served; laughter is far better than tears; a kind word is more potent than a frown; and life is sweeter for a song. Very effective words, for it has been 126 years since Charles Vivian and fourteen other gentlemen chose them for the "Jolly Corks", and the B.P.O.E. still adheres to them faithfully.

Thus, "To be an Elk" means caring for others, respecting family values, and giving of yourself freely to safeguard these values.