



Tallahassee Elks Lodge to Hold Lunch and Silent Auction to Send GES Students to FL Elks Youth Camp

Tallahassee, FL ([PRBuzz](#)) August 18, 2010 -- The Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 is having a Lunch and Silent Auction fund raiser August 28, 2010 from 12:00 to 6:00 PM to raise money to send Gretchen Everhart School (GES) students to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in September, a major project of the Florida State Elks Association.

When the Tallahassee Elks Lodge first started sending Gretchen Everhart students to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in 2006 there were only ten kids; last year there were 25 students, 50 family members and 14 Elk volunteers. Past photos can be seen at www.tallahasseeelks.org/Camp2008.htm.

The families unanimously report how happy and pleased they are to be able to have such a wonderful opportunity to socialize in such a comfortable setting with other families who understand and appreciate the challenges and joys of having a child with disabilities. From the time the students and their families get off the buses, the camp staff and Elk volunteers assist in getting everyone to and from their cabins and quickly involved in swimming activities, paddle boating on a gorgeous lake, tie dying tee shirts, swinging from an obstacle course, participating in a campfire sing-along and many other fun camp activities that families enjoy together. One of the most enjoyable activities is the Camp-Read-A-Lot Program that emphasizes the love of books and literacy during this weekend.

The Tallahassee Elks Lodge is seeking donations to fund increasing transportation and camp costs.

Lou Langnehs, Florida Elks Youth Camp Coordinator at the Tallahassee Elks Lodge, said, "For the past five years the Tallahassee Elks Lodge has paid for the buses that carry the students and families to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. This year the trip is scheduled for September 23 - 26. Due to the bad economy, we are struggling to raise the money and are working with the GES Principal Jane Floyd to contact GES supporters, our Partners in Excellence, for assistance this year. The total camp experience exceeds \$28,000. We are seeking NEW Partners as well to help send these special kids to camp." He also said of the volunteer experience, "This trip changes your heart and increases your understanding of what it means to help others."

Michael Fugler, Co-Chair of Publicity and PR for the North District of the Florida State Elks Association, said, "Life is hard enough for children these days but even harder for those with disabilities. Summer Camp is an opportunity to make a positive memorable event in a child's life that they can carry with them from year to year knowing that this experience was a gift from adults in their community who care about them and the struggles they encounter each day."

Gretchen Everhart School

Gretchen Everhart School is part of the Leon County School system and serves students with intellectual disabilities, ages 3-22. The school accommodates approximately 250 students with severe to moderate mental handicaps.

GES Mission Statement: We believe that each individual is unique, differing from all others in types of attributes and degree of endowment. Each individual should be allowed to grow and develop to his/her greatest potential intellectually physically, socially and emotionally.

Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 www.tallahasseeelks.org

The Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 takes the principles of the National BPOE of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity together with the recognition of a belief in God, the promotion of the welfare and happiness of its Members, the encouragement of the spirit of American patriotism, cultivating good fellowship and utilizing it's structure as a fraternal organization to serve its local government, the people and community of Tallahassee, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

Florida State Elks Association www.flelks.org

The Florida State Elks support its two charities, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services. The Florida Elks Youth Camp is located on 385 acres of rolling hills, forests, lakes and open space in Marion County, Florida. The camp has a ratio of one counselor and one counselor in training for every seven campers and is accredited by The American Camping Association as a safe camping environment for children. Each therapist sees an average of fifteen patients per week.

The Florida Elks Children Therapy Services provides physical therapy and occupational therapy to Florida children with 20 mobile units consisting of both Physical and Occupation Therapists. They treat children all over the state of Florida who do not have easy access to therapy as a result of financial consideration without regard to the ability to pay for such services.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks www.elks.org

Mission statement: To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the

people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

The Elks National Foundation, established in 1928, has distributed over \$3 billion in cash, goods and services to the nations youth, its veterans, the disadvantaged and handicapped and in support of patriotic and civic programs. The Elks National Foundation mission is "helping Elks build stronger communities." We do this by providing tomorrow's leaders, our youth, with a healthy beginning, by providing more scholarships than any organization besides the U.S. Government.

Michael Fugler www.michaelfugler.com

Mr. Fugler is Co-Chair of the Publicity & Public Relations Committee for the North District of the Florida State Elks Association. He has been a member of the Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 since 2006 where he has been extremely active behind the scenes supporting Lodge leadership and Lodge Committees and has spent a tremendous amount of time consulting with and advising members of the Lodge and volunteering at the Lodge, District and State levels.

Carl Ledig

Carl Ledig is the Florida State Elks Association, North District, Vice President. He has been a member of the Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 since 2001 and has held the following offices: Inner Guard, Chaplain, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, ER. Mr. Ledig won Lodge Officer of the Year twice, Lodge Elk of the Year and the Jolly Cork Award as Loyal Knight. He has been State Inter Lodge Visitation Vice Chairman, State Government Relations Chairman, State Ritual Vice Chairman and Chairman.

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