



# ARCADIA ELKS LODGE 1524

<>May 2022 Newsletter <>

## FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP 2022

Arcadia Elks Lodge has four (4) camperships available for summer camp at the Florida State Elks Youth Camp for children ages 9 to 13. If you have questions, contact the lodge secretary for assistance.



### 7 Day Schedule (Ages 9 through 13)

- Session 1: June 12th-June 18th
- Session 2: June 19th-June 25th
- Session 3: June 26th – July 2nd
- Session 4: July 3rd – July 9th
- Session 5: July 10th – July 16th
- Session 6: July 17th – July 23rd
- Session 7: July 24th – July 30<sup>th</sup>

Information is available at the Florida Elks Youth Camp website and the application must be completed online:

<https://floridaelks.org/camp/>

### MAY EVENTS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM
- 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> –Elks Youth Week
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM
- 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> –Florida Elks State Convention (Orlando)

## LODGE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY & THURSDAY –  
CLOSED

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-  
FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
Open 4:00 pm

TUESDAY-Closed (except for  
Lodge Meetings)

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY  
7:00 pm Lodge Meeting

### MONDAY

Hunting Season/Burgers 6:00

### TUESDAY

Lodge Meeting 7:00  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays

### WEDNESDAY

Bar Poker 6:00; Wings 6:30

### THURSDAY

Closed

### FRIDAY

Steak & Seafood 6:30  
Karaoke 7:00  
Queen of Hearts 7:00

### SATURDAY

Bar Poker 5:00

**1028 West Oak Street, Arcadia FL 34266**  
**\*863-993-0011\* [www.ElksArcadia1524.com](http://www.ElksArcadia1524.com)**

**EXALTED RULER**

Members All,

During the month of May, the Grand Lodge declares a National Youth Week. I will be receiving a Proclamation from the Arcadia City Council declaring the second week of the month (**May 8 – May 14, 2022**) as **National Youth Week** for DeSoto County.

The second month into our new lodge year is going well. Our volunteers continue to give their time, allowing the lodge to run smoothly. As always, I ask that if you have a few hours monthly, volunteer at the lodge. Just step up and do it!!

As I talked about in last month's bulletin, we are planning our first take-out BBQ and need everyone to purchase a couple of tickets or at least pre-sell to others. Drivers will be needed to deliver to businesses, etc.

Elk National Foundation grants are open for applications and the funds are used to provide service in our community.

We have four (4) camperships available for summer camp at the Florida State Elks Youth Camp for children ages 9 to 13. If you have questions, contact the lodge secretary for assistance. The application must be completed online at the flelks.org website.

The **Florida Elks State Convention** is scheduled for **Thursday, May 26** through **Sunday, May 29, 2022**. The convention is being held at the Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida. We always have a great time, enjoy all the camaraderie, and learn a few things along the way. Make plans for a day trip, if you are unable to stay overnight. Jackie Hughes, PER is, once again, in charge of our SWC District Hospitality Room. She does a fantastic job but needs our support. Come help us sell tickets during our shift to cover the room.

See everyone at OUR LODGE.....

Nancy Higginbotham, PDDGER, Exalted Ruler and Lodge Advisor



*Stay informed!*

*Regularly visit our lodge webpage*

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks



ARCADIA ELKS LODGE 1524

*Elks* Care - *Elks* Share

**[www.ElksArcadia1524.com](http://www.ElksArcadia1524.com)**

*"Like" & follow our Facebook Page: [@Arcadia Elks No 1524 \(@arcadiaelks\)](https://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaElksNo1524)*

## **Harry Anna Investment Fund**

Of everything that the Florida Elks do, perhaps nothing is more important than our work with the state's youth. Sowing the seeds of accomplishment and commitment through our **Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services** and **Florida Elks Youth Camp** programs, children are given the opportunity to grow and learn beyond their wildest imaginations.

The trust fund started in 1951, was named after Harry and Anna Miller who donated land and a building to establish the original Florida Elks Hospital for Crippled Children. Its purpose was, and continues to be, the collection of donations and the acceptance of endowed gifts. Donate at the Lodge or on-line.

The trust fund is restricted, which means that only the income derived from it may be used to support our major projects: the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and Florida Elks Youth Camp programs. **To learn how you can support these great programs and become a sustaining monthly donor (any amount), go to [www.floridaelks.org](http://www.floridaelks.org)**



**UNMASKING AUTISM GALA---April 23, 2022**  
**(Florida State Elks Association report)**



A final highlight of the evening was the guest speaker Blaise Runge, who was introduced by his mother Jackie Hughes. Blaise is a 17-year-old young man who was diagnosed at the age of four with autism/pervasive developmental disorder/hyperacusis. Blaise was born prematurely at 29 weeks and weighed 3 lbs. 15 oz. He spent 43 days on a ventilator and three months in the hospital NICU. Blaise encountered many developmental delays as a child and received

occupational therapy from Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services. His parents and family are members of the Arcadia Elks Lodge. Blaise spoke about his life and helped those in attendance to better understand what it means to live on the autism spectrum. Blaise wowed the crowd when he announced that this coming week he will not only graduate from high school, but he will also graduate with his A.A. degree from his local community college! Blaise hopes to one day attend the Harvard School of Law and earn his Juris Doctorate Law Degree.

Probably the most amazing moment of the evening came when Blaise paid tribute to Brian Burns, a member of the Arcadia Elks Lodge and a Past State President of the Florida State Elks Association. Brian befriended Blaise at a young age and has been a role model and mentor to Blaise. It was most amazing when a standing ovation for Brian was led, not by an Elks member, but by a member of the audience who was moved by Blaise's story and his heartfelt tribute to Brian, an Elk. It brought great pride to all who know Brian and everyone felt the impact Elks have not only through our charitable reach, but also through the humanitarian connections we make with our members and their families. Carl Seibert, COO and State Secretary of the Florida State Elks Association, stated,

"...for me it was perhaps my proudest moment as an Elk!" Another member of the audience was later heard proclaiming, "Wow, I think I am now an Elk!" In closing, Blaise announced that through the encouragement of his mentor, "Mr. Burns," don't be surprised when one day he becomes the State President of the Florida Elks. Blaise ended by answering the question, what is "unmasking autism," by stating that *he* is unmasking autism.

