



JOINT PRESS RELEASE
Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKs
Calabash, North Carolina, Lodge ~ 2679
Oak Island, North Carolina, Lodge ~ 2769
Shallotte, North Carolina, Lodge ~ 2854



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Michael Trescak

“BRUNSWICK COUNTY ELKS LODGES RAMP-UP FOR ANNUAL ‘HOOP SHOOT’ EVENT”
“Local Youths Vie For Elks Free Throw Title”

Volunteer coordinators from 3 local Elks lodges located in Calabash, Oak Island, and Shallotte, NC will be conducting their Annual Basketball “Free Throw Contest” known as the “Hoop Shoot.” This year’s local event will be held at the Shallotte Middle School gym in Shallotte, NC on Saturday morning, December 15, 2018. The “Hoop Shoot” is just one of the many youth programs sponsored by the Elks National Organization, headquartered in Chicago, IL.

The Hoop Shoot is free to all participants, and provides youth a supervised, structured opportunity to “Compete, Connect, and Succeed.” Both Girls and Boys in 3 separate flights (8 -9 Years Old, - 10 – 11 Years Old, and – 12 -13 Years Old) compete for the ultimate Prize of having their Name(s) permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

At this time, possibly as many as 3,000 students in the Brunswick County School System are practicing their Free Throw Shots, as each participant is afforded the opportunity to take a total of 10 Shots from the Free Throw Line (Modified for the Younger Ages), and – a select group of students who score the most Baskets in this Preliminary Event will move on to the local Shoot-Off in Shallotte, NC on December 15, 2018, where they will replicate the process, but will have the opportunity to score with 25 Free Throw Shots.

Each of 3 Girls & 3 Boys who are finalist at the December 9th event, move on the Regional Competition, and if successful there, move on to a State competition, and eventually the Final National competition.

For the many thousands of participants not making it to the Next Level or Finals, they too are rewarded. Parents have told us that the competition is a character building experience where their Daughters and Sons learn the Values of Respect and Good Sportsmanship. The kids also learn about Setting Goals and working to achieve those goals. Parents and participants love the opportunity to meet new friends afforded through the program.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) is a national, fraternal organization dedicated to service to the community and charitable works. The Elks have been around since 1867, - they have more than 850,000 members and nearly 2,000 lodges nationwide. The emphasis of the B.P.O.E. is on conducting Youth Programs, Serving our Veterans, and doing charitable work in the community in which they live and work. The motto of the Organization is, - “Elks Care ~ Elks Share.” To learn more about the Hoop Shoot Program, visit the Web Site for this Elks program at <http://www.elks.org/hoopshoot/> , or Contact Mr. Hank Gerdes, our local Coordinator at 910-575-0403.

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Point of Contact: Michael Trescak, ELKs ~ 2679, Communications, Communications@CalabashElks.Org (910-386-7759)

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Pictured above, Boys & Girls hone their Basketball and Free Throw Skills with their "Eye on the Prize" of being a "Hoop Shoot" Finalist and getting their name permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.