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Official Communication for May 6, 2015

2015-16 Supreme Council Lodge Grant Program Open

The Supreme Council Lodge Grant Program is now open for submission for the 2015-2016 year.

The Supreme Council has moved the application dates for the 2015-16 Lodge Grant Program to the spring in order to allow lodges to start projects prior to the winter months. Last year, financial awards were not announced until late December, which delayed many outdoor projects in the north due to weather restrictions. This year, the projected time frame for the next \$1,000,000 grant award announcements is early September.

Please read the following information in order to improve your lodge's chances for securing a Supreme Council Lodge Grant:

1. While attendance at the International Moose Convention will still be required, the application start and completion dates will be moved up in order to allow lodges the opportunity to start 2015 projects prior to the onset of winter. Lodges can begin applying on May 1st, with the final date for submitting an application being June 30th. No extensions will be granted. The process will be the same as last year, with access to the application appearing within the Moose Admin section on the website starting May 1st.
2. All lodges will have access to the application; however, those lodges not represented at the 2015 International Moose Convention in Nashville will be eliminated following the meeting.
3. Grants will be dispersed in quantities between \$500 and \$25,000.
4. Funds are to be used to repair, replace or upgrade current equipment and facilities which will make the Lodge more appealing/functional to current and future members. (i.e. - replacement of a water heater; roof repairs; new seating for the social quarters; replacement of worn carpeting; new signage; installation of a POS system; parking lot repair, etc.) Funds will not be granted to pay taxes, loans, past bills, or other financial obligations of the Lodge. Repairs and upgrades cannot be retroactive.
5. These are not loans - there is no monetary payback required. The Lodge will be required to sign a statement if a grant is awarded, however, pledging to become more Fraternal by following the tenets set forth by Moose International regarding Lodge activities, fraternal giving and Heart of the Community activities.
6. Whenever possible, always submit specific bids for each of the projects listed on your application. Attach the bid to your proposal if possible, but if you cannot, you must still list specific costs within the application. If selected, you will be required to supply the bid upon which the application was based. It is highly unlikely that you will be funded if you submit estimated costs with no justification.
7. Have some skin in the game. Very few lodges will receive the capped amount of \$25,000 as the Supreme Council seeks to help as many lodges as possible throughout the fraternity. If you do submit a request for \$25,000, or for any amount for that matter, please note how your lodge has - or is going

to - contribute to the project either financially or through volunteer labor. If your project costs exceed the \$25,000 cap, you are more likely to be considered if you indicate whether partial funding of the project through a grant will allow you to move forward, with additional funding coming from the lodge or other sources.

8. If you list several projects on your application, always identify specific costs for each project and the order of importance to which you attribute each project on your list. Many of the awards in 2014 were for one or more specific projects listed within a single grant request.
9. If you are requesting funds for the "Smoke No More" incentive (lodges voluntarily going non-smoking in an area where smoking is allowed) please note that funds for the construction of any type of smoking structure (i.e. outdoor gazebo or room) will not be granted. Only the costs of cleaning or replacing smoke-damaged materials - such as ceiling tiles, carpeting, etc. - will be considered.
10. Size of the lodge makes little difference as long as you can show that you operate as a true fraternal unit. Grants were approved in 2014 for lodges ranging from 50 members to 2,000 members, but not for any that currently operate as little more than a bar.
11. Your fraternal record is taken into account when considering grants, including membership trends; contributions through Moose Charities; MI accounts receivable trends; Heart of the Community activity, etc.
12. Applications will be reviewed by the Territory Manager, the Regional Manager, Moose International staff, and the Supreme Council. Applications may be denied at any time during this process based on the request or fraternal history of the Lodge.
13. Make sure your Territory Manager or Regional Manager thoroughly understands the projects for which you are requesting funds and how completion of the projects will enhance the lodge.
14. All proceeds granted by the Supreme Council will be forwarded directly to the vendor. The lodge must approve the work that was done and forward the invoice to Moose International.
15. A follow-up report, including before and after photographs, is required for all projects.
16. Finally, don't wait until the last minute to submit your application. While it has no bearing on whether you are approved for a grant or not, issues in regards to completing the application caused much distress among those who waited.
17. Questions may be directed to Kurt Wiebe - kwiebe@mooseintl.org or 630-966-2228.

2015-2016 Moose of the Year Selection

This program recognizes each Lodge's selection of its most outstanding member as their **Moose of the Year**. Since ALL active members of the Order may be considered as a Lodge's Moose of the Year nominee, it is our belief that **no Lodge has an excuse to not participate in this recognition program**. Submitting a timely Moose of the Year is one of the criteria for a Lodge to earn the Premier Lodge Award.

The Moose of the Year is selected by the Lodge's Junior Past Governor, serving as Chairman, and at least three other Past Governors of the Lodge. If three (3) active Past Governors are not available, the Governor may appoint other Lodge Officers to the selection committee. Additionally, if the Junior Past Governor is not available to serve as Chairman, the Governor may appoint any Past Governor of the Lodge to serve in this capacity. The Moose of the Year

selection should be based upon the member's overall record as a Moose during the past year, with particular attention paid to his membership efforts, his support of Moose Charities and his contributions to his Lodge and community.

Electronic Submission. Beginning this year, the Lodge's Moose of the Year selection will be submitted to Moose International electronically. **Submissions will begin being accepted on Monday, June 1, 2015 and end on Friday, July 10, 2015.**

The Junior Past Governor may convene this committee and identify their Lodge's Moose of the Year selection any time after May 1, 2015, so their selection is ready to be submitted between June 1, 2015 and July 10, 2015.