ELKS HOOP SHOOT FREE THROW CONTEST



UNLEASH GRIT AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT YOUR NAME IN THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

CONTEST LOCATION: Hutchinson High School - East Gymnasium

HOSTED BY: Hutchinson Elks Lodge **LODGE NO.** #2427

DATE: SUNDAY, December 6, 2026 **TIME:** 1pm; practice at 12:30pm

DIRECTOR: Traci M Atkinson **CONTACT:** 320-260-0328

The Elks Hoop Shoot, funded by the Elks National Foundation, is a free throw contest for children ages 8 to 13. Age group is determined by contestant's age as of April 1, 2027. For more information, contact the Lodge Elks Hoop Shoot Director listed above or visit **elks.org/hoopshoot.**

Elks National Foundation, Inc.

2750 N. Lakeview Ave. | Chicago, IL 60614 | 773/755-4758 | hoopshoot@elks.org | elks.org/hoopshoot



ELKS HOOP SHOOT

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a national free throw contest that has been unleashing gritty kids for more than 50 years. Here's what every Hoop Shoot Director needs to know.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Youth ages 8-13 advance through local contests (starting with preliminary contests or a Lodge contest), Districts, States, and Regionals to the National Finals at Wintrust Arena in Chicago.
- Six National Champions will have their names and photos displayed at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

WHY HOOP SHOOT?

- Gritty kids are determined hard workers. Gritty kids become gritty adults with strong work ethics and goal-setting skills.
- It's free! The Elks cover travel costs through each level.
- The Hoop Shoot can offer similar life lessons as other sports programs. But what other program offers kids the chance to be in the Hall of Fame?



"The Hoop Shoot taught me that any goal can be reached with hard work and perseverance. These lessons apply to academics, other sports, and all aspects of life."
—Jacobi Lafferty, 2015 and 2017 National Finalist, 2023 Legacy Awards scholar and 2026 BackBoard Member

HOOP SHOOT ON THE SMALL SCREEN

- The Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals is streamed live from Chicago. You can watch last year's contest and see a highlight reel from the weekend on the ENF's YouTube at **enf.elks.org/YouTube**.
- Stay tuned for #TrueGritTuesdays and the Griteos from the 2026 National Finals, showcasing what Finalists have learned through the program. See past years and keep your eyes out for new ones at **enf.elks.org/Griteos**.

UNLEASHING GRITTY KIDS

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THE NATIONAL FINALS: LIVE FROM THE COURT

- Curious about the Hoop Shoot National Finals? Watch the Finalists compete at the contest's largest stage on the livestreams. Get a taste for the action and see how a contest runs at **enf.elks.org/HSNFLive**.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Youth ages 8-13 compete in three age groups, 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13, with girls and boys competing separately. Participants can only compete at **ONE** Lodge contest per year. Beginning at the Lodge contest they must win at each level along the way before stamping a ticket to the National Finals.

PRELIMINARY	At the Lodge Director's discretion, in some communities, the season kicks off with a community-hosted contest. Winners advance to the Lodge contest.
LODGE	The official entry in the contest. Competitors are allowed to participate in ONE Lodge contest a season.
DISTRICT*	Six Lodge winners advance to compete with other participants from nearby Lodge communities. *Several states do not hold District contests.
STATE	District* winners travel and meet other participants from their home state. *Several states do not hold District contests.
REGIONAL	State winners hit the road again as Regional Semi-Finalists—competing against winners from multiple states.
FINALS	The 72 National Finalists compete on the national stage in April in Chicago. Six Finalists are crowned National Champions and are displayed in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame!

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