



Fraternal Recipient Eligibility Policy

Updated January 2026

Modern Woodmen's Commitment

Modern Woodmen is a membership organization dedicated to helping members serve others and make a lasting difference in their communities. Our members come from all walks of life, united by our common bonds.

This policy explains who can receive support through Modern Woodmen's Matching Fund and Service Project programs. Chapter and club leaders, along with boards of trustees, should follow these guidelines when allocating funds and resources.

Who Can Receive Support

Modern Woodmen supports efforts that directly benefit local communities where members live. Eligible recipients include:

- **Local nonprofit organizations** that meet community needs. These groups should generally have a 501(c)(3) or similar IRS designation and provide programs for the public good. Leaders may need to provide a tax ID for verification.
- **Local municipalities.**
- **Individuals or families** facing unexpected hardships such as medical emergencies, displacement, or loss.

Who Cannot Receive Support

The following are generally not eligible:

- Colleges and universities
- Endowment funds
- For-profit businesses
- National organizations (local affiliates may qualify)
- Groups that re-grant funds to other entities, unless the program directly serves individuals in the local community
- Political organizations, campaigns, or partisan groups
- Organizations focused on influencing legislation or policy

- Places of worship (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.).
 - Note: Faith-based organizations with separate tax IDs that provide public benefit (e.g., food banks, shelters) are typically eligible.
- Religious mission trips
- Scholarship programs

Additional Guidelines

- Donations must support a specific program or need—not general operating funds.
- Sometimes, hosting locations may not fully align with these guidelines. That’s okay if the recipient meets the requirements. Examples:
 - Stocking a food pantry located at a church.
 - A for-profit business hosting a nonprofit toy drive.

Modern Woodmen may deny support for any organization, individual, or project that:

- Reflects negatively on Modern Woodmen.
- Breaks the law.
- Is controversial or conflicts with our mission and values.

Conflict of Interest & Fairness

We trust leaders to act in the best interest of their chapters and communities. Your goal is impact—and the Fraternal Department is here to help. To keep things fair and transparent:

- Leaders, employees, and board members should not personally benefit from chapter or club funds.
- Immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings, or anyone living in the same household) generally cannot receive support from their affiliated chapter or club. Nearby chapters may be able to help in some cases.
- We encourage leaders to support a variety of causes and use good judgment to keep the focus on service, fairness, and impact.