



BIKES FOR BOOKS 2008



This program is made available by the Montana Masonic Foundation as a public charity and awareness program promoting public education. The aim of this program is to encourage grade school children to learn to enjoy reading.

For the 2007-2008 Masonic year the Montana Masonic Foundation will award a matching grant not to exceed \$750.00 per lodge. Matching grant funds must be spent on eligible expenses i.e., Bikes and Safety Helmets.

In order to receive the matching grant from the Montana Masonic Foundation receipts must be received by the Grand Secretary prior to 1 June 2008. The receipts need to show clearly the number of bikes and safety helmets and the cost.

This is a matching grant. We will only fund amounts that you can show you have matched with lodge money. For example, if your total budget is \$200, the maximum we will fund is \$100. You will have matched that with \$100 of your lodge money, bringing total budget to \$200. We will supply no more than 50% of your budget, not to exceed \$750.00. You cannot match the Montana Masonic Foundation funds with money from other grants, e.g. Wal-Mart Community Grant.

Example:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Your budget for the program | \$2,000.00 |
| Community grant received from Wal-Mart | <u>-1,000.00</u> |
| Net cost to the Lodge | <u>\$1,000.00</u> |
| | |
| Amount paid from Lodge funds | \$ 500.00 |
| Amount from Montana Masonic Foundation | <u>500.00</u> |
| Total | <u>\$1,000.00</u> |

The Montana Masonic Foundation will provide Posters, bookmarkers, and a Masonic decal with a Serialized Number to be placed on the winner's bike. In order to receive the Posters, bookmarkers and serialized tags, the lodge must provide the number of schools, grade levels, number of classes, number of bikes to be awarded by each individual lodge prior to starting the program.

If your Lodge is interested in participating please make plans now and advise the Grand Secretary before the optimum start date of 1 February 2008.

The preliminary design of this program is to approach a local school, usually elementary, and have the school library run a reading promotion program; the Masons will make bikes available as an incentive to the reading program. For each book a student reads they are allowed to put an entry slip in the drawing. Thus the more books a student reads the more entries that student will have.

Over the last three years the trend has been that both boys and girls prefer the boy's style bikes and the 24 and 26 inch bikes have been the most popular. In the last three years of the program the average cost per bike and helmet has been \$75.00.

A drawing is then held at the end of the term. The term is designated by the Lodge after discussion with the school representative, which is usually at least one quarter or semester. The bikes should be awarded with as much public attention to the program as possible, such as a school assembly that has parent attendance, and with media coverage. This brings awareness to the program and to the Lodge that sponsors it. The Masonic participation comes from donating the bikes, attending the drawing and award ceremony, and when possible by assisting in the reading of books to students in the lower grades.

The Lodge can also add more to the program to the extent the school system will allow. Your Lodge can enrich the program in many ways such as offering treats or prizes to all participants. The program particulars are up to your Lodge and the school. Some lodges have expanded the program's effectiveness and touched more students by getting some bikes donated or by buying them in off-season at a lesser price so more bikes could be purchased.

Example of how to calculate the Matching Grant:

| Matching Grant Eligibility | |
|--|---|
| Total Lodge budget for Bikes for Books (Bikes + Helmets = \$) | = |
| Less amount received from community grants | - |
| Matching Grant Fund Eligibility (from table to right) | = |



| Lodge Budget (Dollars Spent) | Montana Masonic Foundation Match |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| \$100.00 | \$50.00 |
| \$250.00 | \$125.00 |
| \$500.00 | \$250.00 |
| \$750.00 | \$375.00 |
| \$1000.00 | \$500.00 |
| \$1500.00 | \$750.00 |
| \$2500.00 | \$750.00 |

