

Lodge Achievement Report

Are the hours Campers attend Sons of Norway camps included on the Lodge Achievement Report?

YES, IF the local lodge provided a scholarship for the Camper.

Here is the formula:

Every day spent at camp is counted as a separate event. One day of camp is 1 event. Hence, you have to use the hours per day attending camp or if you stay at camp, count 24 hours; ie. number of campers receiving a local lodge scholarship x hours attending per day = number to report for that event. Example: 2 campers for two weeks --- 2 x 14 days (events) = 28 events x 24 (hrs) = 672 hrs.

Community Events and Fraternal Activities

Formerly known as Lodge of the Year, the Lodge Achievement forms are mailed out to Lodge secretaries in January. They are also available for download from the members' area of www.sonsofnorway.com as an editable PDF (see "Forms"). By completing this questionnaire, your Lodge can qualify for a Gold, Silver or Bronze Merit Award. The top scoring Lodges will be considered for District and International Lodge of the Year. These certificates and plaques will be announced and awarded at the district and international conventions in 2014.

Lodges also have the distinction of District Family Lodge of the Year by filling out the appropriate form included in the same mailing as the Lodge Achievement form.

Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms are due to the Zone Director by March 1 (note: in convention year, this deadline may be moved to February 15th).

Encourage each of your Lodge committee leaders to download from the Sons of Norway website, the **Community Events and Fraternal Activities worksheets** and keep them up to date during the year. At the end of the year, it will be so much easier for the secretary to tabulate the numbers for the Lodge Achievement form.

What is needed and why?

Sons of Norway is a member of the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA). This society helps us in many different areas, but especially in the area of maintaining our status as a non-profit organization. It is valuable for the AFA to be able to demonstrate to state leaders the good works done by our Lodges and positive impact fraternal benefit societies have on their communities. To help AFA demonstrate this impact, they have requested the following information from us on an annual basis:

- What our Lodges are doing in the community (Lodge Community Support)

- What activities are done within the Lodge (Lodge Fraternal Support)

What about individual volunteer hours?

While individual volunteer efforts are important and valued, this is not what the AFA has requested. This reporting process is not meant to showcase the efforts of individual members, but to provide information on how are Lodges making their communities better places to live.

What qualifies as “Community Support Events”?

Only events which need to be tracked are those that meet these two requirements:

- Event has to be officially organized by the Lodge. For example, a Community Support Event would be when the Lodge “adopts” a stretch of highway and members go out there to pick up trash for two hours. This would be an event that should be recorded (number of members x 2 hours). However, let’s say a member knits blankets for orphans as part of her church group. This is commendable, but because her activity is not organized by the Lodge, it is not something that should be included in the Community Support Events count.
- Event must involve two or more members. For example, shoveling an elderly neighbor’s driveway is a kind act, but not something that would count as an ‘event’. However, if the Lodge organized a group of members to go together to shovel sidewalks and driveways for the elderly, then that would be an ‘event’ that should be counted.

What qualifies as “Fraternal Activity”?

A Fraternal Activity would be an event organized by the Lodge with the primary goal of serving its members. Lodge meetings are the main type of Fraternal Activity that would count in this category. Lodge board meetings would also be counted as a Fraternal Event. However, a single Lodge officer going to the post office to buy stamps for the newsletter would not be considered an event.

How exact does a Lodge need to be in its reporting?

Please try to be as exact as possible; however, using estimates is totally acceptable if exact details regarding how many members attended a specific event or how many hours were spent in not known. Please don’t worry if an event is skipped or the number participating is not exact. While it is good to have precise information, the busy schedule of a Sons of Norway Lodge may make precise reporting very difficult. Do the best job you can!

Please Note:

- A larger number of community service hours will not get your Lodge more points towards Lodge of the Year; nor will a smaller number hurt your chances in any way. The only factor taken into consideration is whether or not information is provided.
- The AFA is only interested in what our Lodges are doing in the community (Lodge sponsored activities) and what activities are done within the Lodges (fraternal support), not what individual members are doing.
- Using estimates is acceptable if exact details are not known.

Questions? Please contact Sherry Gorse, Membership Services, 800 945 8851 ext 643 or fraternal@sofn.com