



LODGE SUCCESS TEAM

Their Emphasis is on Children

Tecumseh Lodge No. 69 has a long history of community connections, with a dedication to helping children. Whether young or young-at-heart, these men know that our future are our children.

For several years now, Tecumseh Lodge has made its premier event location, called The Ashlar, available for public events that benefit children. In particular, the lodge has supported autistic children through Autism Grace of Lenawee. Tecumseh Lodge has been working with Megan VanEtten, the center's Director, for several years and The Ashlar has become a familiar, safe place for the children.

The latest event, held on March 9, was a fun one called "Cops & Cookies." It was designed to introduce autistic children to law enforcement personnel and lessen their reticence to approach a first responder in the event that help is needed. The message: "Police are here to help you." Participants in the Cops & Cookies event also received free shirts that were a popular bonus for attending.

Tecumseh Lodge decided to add an element familiar to some other lodges in the State: **Child ID kits**. They were an instant hit with parents. Nick Martin, Junior Warden, said that "Parents were overjoyed that a program exists to help collect information and photos, all in one place, for use in an unlikely (yet horrifying) event that a child would go missing."

Tecumseh Lodge also actively participates each year in Autism Grace's fundraising walk. This year's event is on **June 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** and the lodge will be there with a tent and table, distributing more Child ID kits and information about the lodge. Participants can walk as little or as much as they wish over the prescribed route and can even make a custom tie-dyed t-shirt. First responders from the local police and fire departments will participate as well. You can get more information by visiting the group's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AutismGRACEofLenawee/>.



While not the purpose that they help, Tecumseh Lodge also reported that they secured a petition for membership! It is a bonus the lodge brothers didn't expect.

Worshipful Master William Schlueter or Junior Warden Nick Martin are more than willing to give advice and help to other lodges wanting to reach out to community organizations. They'll happily answer questions and tell you some lessons learned with distribution of Child ID Kits. Just send an e-mail to Worshipful Brother William at wschlueter@comcast.net or Brother Nick at sonarm1980@gmail.com.

We all benefit when we help kids. That's a lesson that the officers and members of Tecumseh Lodge No. 69 learned long ago.

Well done, Brothers!



Would you like to discuss how your lodge can be even better? Would you like to learn about best practices and successful ideas from other lodges? We have lots of ideas and would love to help. Please contact me at fkaiser@michiganmasons.org. Or give me a call at (248) 544-2222. Let's have a conversation!