



Welcome!

Dear Kentucky Colonel,

Congratulations on receiving one of the Commonwealth's highest honors, the Kentucky Colonel Commission. This lifelong distinction—bestowed by the Governor of Kentucky—recognizes your accomplishments, integrity, leadership, and service to your community.

Your commission is permanently recorded in the historic archives of the Commonwealth, joining a legacy of distinguished Kentuckians dating back to the early 1800s. It stands as a testament to the positive impact you have made, and the confidence placed in your character and commitment to serving others.

There are now thirteen chartered chapters of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels across the Commonwealth, including the Thoroughbred Chapter here in Lexington. These chapters provide opportunities for fellowship, volunteerism, philanthropy, and community leadership, continuing the proud traditions of the Kentucky Colonel Commission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Thoroughbred Chapter, we extend our warm welcome. As the local chapter serving Lexington and Central Kentucky, we are dedicated to bringing Colonels together in Service, leadership, and fellowship. Regardless of whether your commission reflects contributions in military service, public safety, education, healthcare, business, government, philanthropy, or community leadership, all Kentucky Colonels share a common calling—to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

This membership packet introduces you to the Thoroughbred Chapter of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

The meaning and tradition of the Kentucky Colonel
The charitable mission of the Honorable Order
The purpose and mission of the Thoroughbred Chapter
Member expectations and chapter values
Membership and engagement opportunities
Volunteer and community service initiatives

We hope you will consider becoming an active member of the Thoroughbred Chapter and join us in carrying forward the proud traditions of Service, generosity, and leadership. It would be our privilege to serve alongside you.

Thoroughbred Chapter of HOKC, INC
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
A Kentucky 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

P.O. Box 55363
Lexington, KY 40505
859-577-5701



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What Is a Kentucky Colonel?

The Kentucky Colonel Commission is the highest honor awarded by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

It recognizes individuals whose leadership, volunteerism, generosity, and service have made a positive impact on their communities, the Commonwealth, or our nation.

The commission is an honorary recognition—not a military rank, elected office, or government position. It symbolizes integrity, compassion, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to serving others.

Receiving this commission is both an honor and an invitation to continue making a difference.

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

After receiving a Kentucky Colonel Commission, recipients are invited to become members of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels (HOKC), an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



The Honorable Order provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations throughout Kentucky.

These grants support:

- Arts, Culture, and Recreation
- Community Support
- Disabled Support Services
- Education
- Health, Rehabilitation, and Mental Illness
- Historic Preservation
- Military and Veterans Support
- Support for the Poor and Needy
- Youth Services

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels does not charge mandatory dues. Instead, Colonels are encouraged to support the organization through voluntary charitable contributions. These donations fund statewide grants and make the Good Works Program possible.

You are considered active within the HOKC when you make a donation of any amount each year to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program (National Headquarters.)

If it has been a year or more since your last gift, simply make a new contribution to reactivate your status. Once your donation is received, the National Headquarters will send you an updated membership card with your name and membership number.

To donate to the Good Works Program, visit **www.kycolonels.org**.



About the Thoroughbred Chapter

The Thoroughbred Chapter of the HOKC, INC, is an independent Kentucky nonprofit corporation serving Lexington and the Central Kentucky area having obtained their charter on May 6, 2024.

Our mission is to unite Kentucky Colonels through:

1. Fellowship
2. Volunteerism
3. Leadership
4. Community service
5. Charitable outreach

Our chapter partners with local nonprofit organizations, coordinates volunteer opportunities, conducts service projects, and encourages members to actively improve their communities.

Membership Information

Membership is open to individuals who have received a Kentucky Colonel Commission.

Annual Membership Contribution

The chapter encourages an annual membership contribution of **\$50.00**.

Membership contributions help offset administrative expenses such as:

1. Meeting facilities
2. Insurance
3. Website hosting
4. Communications
5. Banking services
6. Office supplies
7. Educational materials
8. Other necessary operating expenses



First-Year Prorated Membership

New members joining for the first time pay a prorated membership contribution based upon the calendar quarter in which they join.

Quarter Joined	Membership Contribution
January – March	\$50.00
April – June	\$37.50
July – September	\$25.00
October – December	\$12.50

Beginning on January 1 of the following calendar year, the standard annual membership contribution is \$50.00.

Charitable Donations

Membership contributions support chapter operations.

Additional voluntary donations directly support local nonprofit organizations, community service projects, and charitable initiatives approved by the volunteer Board of Directors.

Member Benefits

As a member of the Thoroughbred Chapter, you will have opportunities to:

1. Volunteer with local nonprofits
 2. Participate in chapter meetings and events
 3. Build friendships with fellow Kentucky Colonels
 4. Serve your community
 5. Receive chapter newsletters and updates
 6. Participate in fundraising events
 7. Help identify worthy local charitable causes
 8. Represent the chapter at civic events
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Volunteer Opportunities

Members may participate in:

1. Food drives
 2. Toy drives
 3. Veteran appreciation events
 4. Community clean-up projects
 5. Disaster relief efforts
 6. Senior assistance projects
 7. Holiday outreach
 8. Local nonprofit partnerships
 9. Special chapter initiatives
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Donations & Financial Transparency

The Thoroughbred Chapter is committed to transparency and responsible stewardship.

Membership Contributions help operate the chapter.

Charitable Donations support local nonprofit organizations and community service projects.

All charitable expenditures are reviewed and approved by the Chapter's Volunteer Board of Directors. *Please note that any funds received goes to the chapter and not to HOKC National Headquarters*.

Chapter Leadership and Board of Directors

President & Board Chair

Colonel Kevin Bullock

Vice President & Parliamentarian

Colonel Alex "Cash" Olszowy

Secretary & Events Committee Co-Chair

Colonel Lezlei Kelly

Treasurer

Colonel Vince Barber

Directors At-Large:

Colonel Wade Abbott, Colonel Barbara Ellerbrook, Colonel John Kiebler



Community Impact

Kentucky Colonels Serving Central Kentucky Through Good Works

Mission

During our first two years, the Thoroughbred Chapter of HOKC, Inc. has worked to strengthen the lives of Kentuckians through continued service and charitable contributions. We recognize the need for greater resources for people of all ages experiencing homelessness, hunger, and hardship. By partnering with local nonprofits and mobilizing chapter volunteers, we help meet immediate needs while fostering civic engagement and community pride. On July 1, 2026, the Thoroughbred Chapter was honored to receive a mayoral proclamation from the Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, declaring that day Thoroughbred Chapter Day in the City of Lexington. We are deeply honored and humbled by this recognition.

Impact at a Glance

**180+ Volunteer Service Hours • 200 + Pounds of Food Donated
Toy Drive Conducted • Toys for Tots Support • Hygiene Products Donated
10-Cubic-Foot Upright Freezer Donated • Multiple Nonprofits Supported**

Community Assistance

Members have donated food, hygiene products, volunteer labor, equipment, and other practical assistance to nonprofit organizations and families throughout Central Kentucky. These contributions help ensure that vulnerable individuals have access to food, clothing, safe spaces, and other basic needs.

Volunteerism in Action

Chapter members contributed more than 180 hours supporting food pantries, outreach efforts, community events, and nonprofit projects. Their hands-on service has included landscaping, food and clothing drives, painting, cleaning, facility organization, and other work that helps essential programs continue serving our most vulnerable neighbors.

Holiday Giving

The Chapter conducted a toy drive and supported Toys for Tots, helping local children and families during the holiday season.

Partnerships

Our work is made possible through Kentucky Colonels, volunteers, donors, businesses, civic leaders, and nonprofit partners.

Looking Ahead

We will continue expanding volunteer opportunities, strengthening nonprofit partnerships, increasing community impact, and serving Lexington and Central Kentucky through Good Works.

Because a Colonel Once Gave, We Continue to Give.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Kentucky Colonel Commission a government office?

No. It is an honorary commission awarded by the Governor.

Are there required dues for the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels?

No. The Honorable Order encourages voluntary charitable contributions that support statewide grantmaking.

Is the Thoroughbred Chapter separate from the Honorable Order?

Yes. The Thoroughbred Chapter is an independent local nonprofit organization and chapter, serving the Lexington - Central Kentucky area, while supporting the same ideals of service, leadership, and generosity.

How are membership contributions used?

To offset chapter administrative and operating expenses.

How are charitable donations used?

To support local nonprofit organizations and charitable projects approved by the Board.

Member Code of Conduct

Members of the Thoroughbred Chapter pledge to:

1. Serve with integrity.
 2. Treat others with dignity and respect.
 3. Support the chapter's charitable mission.
 4. Be good stewards of donated funds.
 5. Represent the Kentucky Colonel tradition with honor.
 6. Promote fellowship and goodwill.
 7. Encourage volunteerism and community service.
 8. Uphold the values of compassion, generosity, leadership, and civic responsibility.
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Our Mission

Supporting worthy nonprofits by engaging Kentucky Colonels, fostering meaningful relationships, stewarding resources with integrity, and strengthening our communities through volunteer service, charitable giving, and compassionate leadership.

"Honor the Commission. Embrace the Tradition. Serve the Community."

**** The following (TWO) pages contain our chapter membership application****

Please note: You may complete this form online through our chapter website listed below and return it electronically by email. If you prefer, you may print the following pages, fill them out legibly, then scan or photograph them and return the images by email.

If you have recently received your commission, you will soon receive a welcome letter from the national headquarters. This letter will include your membership number. You will need to provide a copy of **the card only** when submitting your application materials.

To ensure you receive this welcome letter and membership card, you may wish to update your personal information on the HOKC national website. After logging in, go to the top toolbar, select **Members**, then choose **Update Profile**. Your information may have been submitted to the Governor's office anonymously, so your residential address and other important details may not currently be accurate.

Thoroughbred chapter website: www.kycolonelslexky.org or www.thoroughbredhokc.org

Thoroughbred chapter email: kycolonelslexky@outlook.com

National Headquarters website: www.kycolonels.org





THOROUGHBRED CHAPTER OF HOKC, INC.

Applicant Information

Full Name

Date of Birth

Street Address

City

State

ZIP

Cell Phone

Home Phone

Email Address

Date Commissioned

Commissioning Governor

Chapter Participation

Are you a member of any other Kentucky Colonels Chapter?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, which chapter(s)?

Are you interested in serving on the Board?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Are you interested in serving on a committee?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Do you have specific talents, skills, or abilities that may help the Chapter?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please describe:



Return completed form with a copy of your current HOKC membership card.

Email: kycolonelslexky@outlook.com | Mail: Thoroughbred Chapter of HOKC, Inc., P.O. Box 55363, Lexington, KY 40505



THOROUGHBRED CHAPTER OF HOKC, INC.

Additional Information

Organizations and Service

Do you belong to other organizations, clubs, or fraternal groups?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which organization(s)?

Military Service

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Veteran ☐ Active ☐ Reserves ☐ Combat

Branch

What information are you willing to share with other Colonels in this chapter? Name, email, other?

Is there any additional information you wish to add?

Might you know other Colonels who may be interested in hearing about or from this Chapter?

Applicant Signature

Date



Return completed form with a copy of your current HOKC membership card.

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