

Coats for Kids

People in need are not nameless faces, they are people in our own communities. Much of the charitable work done by Knights of Columbus councils is done in our own backyards to benefit those who are our neighbors. An excellent way to put the prime virtue of the Order, charity, into action is through participation in the Coats for Kids initiative.

Per the Supreme Council, over 1600 councils across North America purchase new winter coats for children in need each year as part of the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program. Since the program began in 2009, more than 400,000 coats have been distributed.

Your council can order cases of coats online through Supreme via Knights Gear. The coats cost \$220 per case, with each case containing a dozen coats. You can specify either boys or girls for the coats, which will arrive in a variety of sizes. The council will then be billed on its monthly statement from Supreme if it does not pay in advance. More details are available on the Supreme website.

Like all activities, the Coats for Kids program works best if you plan it in advance and set a distribution date and location. Consult with church, school and community officials as you prepare your drive and be sure to publicize everything. Finally, hold a thank you for all the volunteers and contributors.

As a feature program, if your council meets the minimum guidelines set forth by Supreme, your drive will be eligible to fulfill all four Youth Activity requirements for the Columbian Award (SP-7). To meet this requirement, your council must order and distribute a minimum of eight cases of coats while filling out the order through Supreme.

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