

# **State Youth Activities**

## **Changing Young Lives for Today and Tomorrow**

Many times, you hear the phrase that the youth are our future. While this phrase has become a bit of a cliché, it is vital not only for our Order but for the Church that we work with the young people in our parishes and communities to build up their faith. But, as Pope Francis reminded those in attendance at the 2013 World Youth Day, young people must go out and change people's lives through the Gospel. In that way, our youth can be an important part our work as Knights today.

The State Council, therefore, supports several programs designed to help your council enhance its relationship with the youth of your parish and community. This fraternal year, why don't you consider undertaking one of these programs for the first time in your council. Run a Coats for Kids Drive, participate in the soccer or free throw competitions, organize an essay or poster contest. Of course, be sure to promote the State Council scholarships to your members and their families. Many of your councils will continue to participate in these endeavors. If that is the case for your council, set a goal to expand your good work in these areas.

## **Building the Domestic Church Youth Requirements**

As part of the Supreme Council Building the Domestic Church initiative, there are mandates for each subordinate council. Supreme is encouraging all councils to work with their parish youth ministry and Catholic schools. Not only should councils avoid duplicating efforts, but everyone should join with their parishes and schools to enhance the local work in whatever way possible. Working with your parish in this way is an excellent way to promote the Knights and show what the order can do. Many potential younger members are involved in activities with their children and the only way to recruit them is by working with youth organizations through our parishes.

Additionally, the Board of Directors has concluded that councils can no longer be the chartered organization for Boy Scout of America troops. By the end of 2016 all councils should have concluded their sponsorship of these scouting units. This change does not mean, however, that Supreme desires that the Knights of Columbus abandon Catholic scouting all together. Individuals are encouraged to continue to volunteer and support the Boy Scouts.

## **Youth Protection Requirements**

The Supreme Council has instituted a program called the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program. This online program, along with a formal background check for council youth directors, is designed to teach all those who are in direct contact with young people in Knights of Columbus sponsored activities/organizations the signs of abuse and what we as Knights should do to provide our youth with a safe and supporting environment. The online program, required for grand knights and youth directors, can be completed in as little as one hour. Likely in July, Supreme will be emailing those who are required to undergo the training and background check with the information you need to log into the system. Furthermore, there is no formal meetings to attend. Those completing the program are

certified for a period of two years. The Safe Environment Training and subsequent background check is in addition to any checks performed by the diocese or outside organizations. There is no cost for these checks to the council or individual. However, one must complete both Knights of Columbus and diocesan youth protection requirements. More information can be found on the Supreme website – you may also request the training by contacting Supreme.

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State Youth Director  
1625 Kathy Dr.  
Columbia, MO 65202  
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youthdirector@mokofc.org

## **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.

John Myers  
Coats for Kids Chairman  
465 Cedar Lane  
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670  
D: 573-883-3838 N-573-483-3189  
coatsforkids@mokofc.org

## 2017 – 2018 State Youth Poster Contest

TOPICS – “Alcohol Awareness & Abuse” or “Drug Awareness & Abuse”

The Knights of Columbus Poster Contest is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools, grade categories of 8-11 years old and 12-14 years old. Each poster must contain a slogan reflecting either of the topics and an original visual image – only one poster per contestant. The contest advances through levels of competition to the Supreme level. Plaques will be awarded to each 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in each category and age group.

### Poster Kit for Materials

All the materials needed by councils to participate in the Knights of Columbus Youth Poster Contest are included in the Poster Contest KIT (SA-Kit). The kit can be ordered from the Supreme Office by your Financial Secretary.

### Internet Sites For Details

[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org), click on Youth Activities / Poster Contest. The complete rules and information for this project are available at this website.

[www.facebook.com/MOKofCYouth](http://www.facebook.com/MOKofCYouth) – Latest updates and images of winning posters.

### Timeline

August/September: Councils and assemblies contact schools to secure cooperation. At this time the date, place and means of recognizing winners should be determined.

September/November: Students complete their posters per the guidelines and rules. Posters should be submitted to your council chairman by November 30, 2017.

December/January: District Judging if necessary.

February: State judging. Submit your District Winners to the Chairman listed below, by February 28, 2018. DO NOT SEND TO SUPREME.

### Participation Form

The council form (#4016) for use at the council level must be filled out and sent to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services by January 30th.

### General Rules, Summary

Posters must be 11” x 17” to be considered for judging at the state level.

Students may enter either or both topics they are qualified in by age.

The student’s name must appear only on the official Knights of Columbus Poster Contest entry form which must be stapled to the back of the poster.

All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

David Govero  
Poster Contest Chairman  
4057 West Harrison  
Springfield, MO 65802  
D/N: 417-260-5580  
[essay@mokofc.org](mailto:essay@mokofc.org)

## 2017 – 2018 Missouri State Essay Contest

### TOPIC – “Building the Domestic Church”

This year the State Council will be overseeing its own essay competition with the plan to rotate topics year to year. **Note, this contest is separate from the Supreme Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest.** The State Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students and those attending Catholic institutions in grades 8-12. The essays will be judged for each individual grade level.

Like the families found in the Bible, modern families are called to welcome the presence of God into their homes through common prayer and increased family devotion. In this manner families become the domestic churches they are meant to be. Families are where parents pass on the faith to their children within centers of living and radiant faith. Families in turn strengthen parishes in their evangelization efforts. With this essay competition, the entries should focus on how this domestic church can be constructed.

#### Internet Sites For Details

Information will be placed on the Missouri State Council Website, [www.mokofc.org](http://www.mokofc.org), including an essay entry form to be included with each submission.

[www.facebook.com/MOKofCYouth](http://www.facebook.com/MOKofCYouth) – Latest updates and essay winners.

#### Timeline

- July/August/September: Councils and assemblies contact schools to secure cooperation. The date, place and means of recognizing winners should be determined.
- September/October: Students write essays. Essays should be submitted to judges by October 15th.
- October/November: Judges review essays for council level.
- December/January: District Judging (if necessary).
- February/March: State judging. Submit your District Winners to the Chairman listed below, by April 15th. DO NOT SEND TO SUPREME.

#### General Rules, Summary

- Essays must reflect the assigned theme and topic, and be submitted by the published deadline.
- They must be the student’s original work.
- Typed on 8 1/2” X 11” paper, one sided, double spaced, with one-inch margins.
- Between 500 and 750 words long.
- The student’s name should appear only on the official State Essay Contest entry form which must be stapled to the essay.
- All entries become the property of the Missouri Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

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Poster Contest Chairman  
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Springfield, MO 65802  
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[essay@mokofc.org](mailto:essay@mokofc.org)

## Scholarships Awarded by the Missouri State Council

The Missouri State council awards a total of eleven (11) scholarships each year. Each scholarship has an annual award of \$1500, Payable in installments of \$750 per semester. The scholarships are designated in the following categories:

**Four (4) LUKE E. HART MEMORIAL Scholarships.** The recipients MUST attend one of the branches of the University of Missouri in Columbia, St. Louis, Rolla, or Kansas City. If fewer than four qualified applicants apply, then these scholarships may be awarded as specified for Missouri State Scholarships.

**Three (3) MISSOURI STATE Scholarships.** The recipients may attend any accredited university, college, or technical school; beyond high school level.

**Three (3) VOCATION Scholarships.** The recipients may attend any accredited seminary or college of their choice to study for a vocation to the religious life. If no applications are received from applicants desiring to study for a vocation to the priesthood or to serve in a religious community, then these scholarships may be awarded to other applicants with preference given to those attending Catholic institutions.

**One (1) TECH SCHOOL Scholarship.** The recipient may attend any accredited technical school. These are normally two-year programs.

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible for the **Hart, Missouri State, or Tech School scholarships**, the applicant MUST be: A member of the Knights of Columbus; **OR** The son, daughter, or wife of a member of the Knights of Columbus; **OR** The son, daughter, or non-remarried wife of a deceased member of the Knights of Columbus; **OR** a member of a Ladies Auxiliary of a Missouri Knights Council **OR** A Squire or Columbus Girl in good standing, attested to by the Chief Counselor and GK; **OR** A minor child whose LEGAL GUARDIAN is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

The applicant must obtain the certification of the Grand Knight **OR** the Financial Secretary of the local Council to verify membership. Member is defined as a member in good standing of a Council within Missouri. Applicants for the **Vocations** scholarships must be approved by one of the Missouri Dioceses or by a religious order located in Missouri. The membership requirements do NOT apply to Vocation Applicants.

Scholarship winners are selected based on Catholic citizenship, community service, scholarship, and financial need. The recipients are selected by a Committee of the Knights of Columbus as appointed by the State Deputy. All scholarships are for Missouri residents. Payments are made directly to the institution AFTER proof of successful enrollment in good standing is provided to the Scholarship Committee.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Completed applications using only the 2017-2018 application form, and required certification forms must be postmarked no later than **FEBRUARY 17, 2018** to be considered. Applications will be available on the State Council's [www.mokofc.org](http://www.mokofc.org) web page. Applications should be mailed to:

John "Rocky" Gambon  
Scholarship Chairman  
3645 E. Kirkwood  
Springfield, MO 65809  
D: 417-830-6389 N: 471-889-4086  
[scholarships@mokofc.org](mailto:scholarships@mokofc.org)

### Scholarships and Graduate Fellowships Awarded by the Supreme Council

#### PRO DEO AND PRO PATRIA Scholarships

Sixty-two (62) scholarships for undergraduate studies in the amount of \$1500 are awarded in this program to members and the sons and daughters of a member or deceased member. Ten (10) of these scholarships are awarded for studies at the Catholic University of America and forty-eight (48) are awarded for studies at any Catholic college of the student's choice in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico, or the Philippines. Four (4) additional scholarships are awarded annually to members of the Columbian Squires.

#### GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

These fellowships are established for work in the fields offered in the graduate school of the Catholic University of America. The fellowships cover tuition, room and board and may be renewed annually up to three years. Detailed information on these programs is available in the Financial Aid To Education pamphlet #951 or by writing directly to: Director of Scholarship Aid, P.O. Box 1670, New Haven, CT 06507.

## Soccer Challenge

**Levels of Competition: Council, District, Regional and State**  
**State Winners Are Forwarded to Supreme for International Consideration**

**Six age groups:** Boys ages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (Age as of September 1, 2017)  
Girls ages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (Age as of September 1, 2017)

**Tournament Schedule:** **Council** – Month of September      **District** – October 1 thru 15  
**Regional** – October 16 thru 31      **State** – November

Times, dates, and places will be posted on the state website ([www.mokofc.org](http://www.mokofc.org)).  
Competition Kit order forms are in the COUNCIL REPORTS FORM BOOKLET or can be ordered online at the Supreme Council Website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). Please refer to SC-KIT.

### Completion Rules

Score sheets are not to be returned to the participants. Winner's sheets will be forwarded to the Chairman of the next level of competition. An estimated number of participants should be kept by the council and forwarded to the State Chairman.

**Awards:** **Council Level** – Trophies, Plaques, etc. of the Council's choice (no savings bonds/cash)  
**District Level** – Medallions      **Regional Level** – Plaques  
**State Level** – Trophies      **International Level** – Trophies

## Free Throw Championship

**Levels of Competition: Council, District, Regional and State**  
**State Winners Are Forwarded to Supreme for International Consideration**

**Six age groups:** Boys ages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (Age as of January 1, 2018)  
Girls ages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (Age as of January 1, 2018)

**Tournament Schedule:** **Council** – Month of January      **District** – February 1 thru 15  
**Regional** – February 16 thru 28      **State** – March

Times, dates, and places will be posted on the state website ([mokofc.org](http://mokofc.org)).  
Competition Kit order forms are in the COUNCIL REPORTS FORM BOOKLET or can be ordered online at the Supreme Council Website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). Please refer to SC-KIT.

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**Awards:** **Council Level** – Trophies, Plaques, etc. of the Council's choice (no savings bonds/cash)  
**District Level** – Medallions      **Regional Level** – Plaques  
**State Level** – Trophies      **International Level** – Trophies

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