

Service Programs

Council #11815 of the Knights of Columbus aligns its Service Programs with the guidance provided by the SUPREME COUNCIL, as described below.

The Knights of Columbus is a "Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization." This theme permeates the entire Service Program; all Church, community, council, family and youth activities. The Service Program is designed to establish each council as an influential and important force within the community, elevate the status of the programming personnel, provide more meaningful and relevant programs of action, establish direct areas of responsibility, build leadership, and ensure the success of council programs.

Church Activities

Catholics are searching for ways to further develop the ministry of our Church.

If these good intentions are going to bear fruit, if the Church is going to not only exist, but thrive in today's society, men and women throughout our communities must come forward and take an active part.

Far more action of an ecumenical nature is needed. As Knights of Columbus, our prime responsibility is to encourage and promote that action.

The lay apostolate must respond to the constant call for active involvement in the work of the Church. Your council has the numbers, the organization, and the communication ability to get involved and spread the word throughout the Christian community.

Appeal for greater unity, understanding and ecumenism among all religions. Initiate those programs through which members can practice their Catholic duties in the fields of charity, devotion and education.

Strive to sponsor activities which enable the individual Knight to set a constant and worthy example as an ideal Catholic to his family, his community and his fellow members.

Community Activities

Wherever we live, whether New York or British Columbia, we all have our own perceptions of "community."

Usually, these perceptions are formed by the concrete reality of the world immediately around us. It may be a bustling metropolis, a town, a tiny village, a large county, a broad rural area.

It is the place we call home – with all its good and bad features, its beauty and ugliness, its strengths and weaknesses. Every individual has a voice in shaping the world around him, and every individual can make that voice heard.

Make your voice heard in your community.

Do more than throw up your hands in despair over what's wrong with the world.

Your community offers limitless opportunity for action that can be seen, felt and judged for its true worth.

Look for something that's needed and workable in your community – fight poverty, aid individuals with intellectual disabilities, plant a tree, sponsor a blood pressure screening, support law enforcement, campaign for every baby's right to life, help the aged – whatever your community's needs, your members' interests and your council's resources allow.

No matter what you choose ... get involved!

Council Activities

Many of the activities of the Knights of Columbus sound demanding, and certainly many are, but that does not mean that others can't be just for fun.

Members of your council are your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, who are just as interested in athletic, cultural and social events as you are.

Programs and activities that come under the council activities section are unlimited – golfing, softball, soccer, hockey, curling, tennis, bowling, art exhibits, movies, lectures or demonstrations, holiday dances, picnics, open houses, council anniversary or birthday parties – all the events that are an important part of fraternal life.

Public relations activities are also included under the council activities section of the Service Program. Serving under the director of council activities, public relations personnel are charged with the responsibility of keeping the council's membership accurately and constantly informed of current and future events.

Additionally, the image of the council must be maintained within the community through the use of newspapers, radio and television. People deserve to know the good work your council does.

To fulfill these obligations, the public relations chairman and his committee members must work closely with all Service Program directors and council officers.

Family Activities

Take a look at what's happening to our family life. Do we communicate? Do we share? Do we take time to get involved with each other? Are there opportunities for improvement? What is God's plan for us?

Today's society makes it hard to be a family. Television takes up a lot of our time together. The hustle and bustle of business, rushed meals, school, work, committee meetings, sports and shopping are cramming our days and weeks.

The family is under heavy attack today. The battle is largely over values and commitments. To survive, the family needs support. Its primary source of strength must be found in a growing religious and parish life. But it also can be helped substantially by an organization such as ours.

Help prevent the death of the family by administering preventive medicine.

Conduct those programs and activities which aid in rebuilding the family spirit from within, making it vital and strong enough to resist society's ills. Encourage members and their families to choose as their model the Holy Family, copying their attitude of interdependence, sharing and respect for authority.

Work to strengthen family life. Nourish wholesome home life through the sponsorship of activities involving entire families on a scheduled and continuing basis. Encourage communications and routines which involve family members within their own homes as well as bringing families together in social and recreational events in the community.

Stimulate togetherness within family units. There are many ways in which families can enjoy time together in a scheduled, organized way, even when the age range of members of the family varies widely.

Youth Activities

Today's youth, the leaders of tomorrow, are looking for a challenge, for responsibility, for faith and trust.

Yet, despite their commitments and dedication, the youth of the world are often condemned because of the uncontrolled actions of a minority of young people. As Knights of Columbus, it is our responsibility to provide youth with the means and the opportunities to become personally committed and involved in meeting the challenges of our times.

There is a great deal more all of us can do to improve our youth programs. Recruit more men from the council level to work with young people. These adult leaders will help to mold the youth of today into the influential citizens of tomorrow.

Exert more positive and constructive influence on your young people by becoming involved with them. Pay more attention to what they are saying. Demonstrate your support by sponsoring a Columbian Squires circle, aiding the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, promoting the Boy Scouts or helping to combat drug and alcohol abuse.

Numerous other avenues are always open in helping to build leaders for the future.