

## 18-Year-Old Squires Ready for Knighthood

Each year, many of the young men in the Squires celebrate their 18th birthday and face the end of their time as a Squire. Since joining the Squires, these members have actively progressed through the levels of the Squire Advancement Program, from "Page" towards "Squire of the Body of Christ," by organizing and participating in activities in the four activity categories: Home and Family; Squires and Knights; Community and Country; and Church. These activities, as well as their activities as Squires, have prepared them for the next step in their experience: eligibility for membership in the Knights of Columbus.

By the end of this fraternal year, approximately 5,700 Squires will meet the age requirement to become a Knight. If you are among these young men, why not continue the good times and meritorious work you've enjoyed as a Squire by joining the Knights of Columbus?

### What happens now?

In June 18-year-old Squires will receive a letter from the Supreme Council office that includes information on the Order and the benefits of membership, including "The Next Step" flyer (#482) that details the steps on becoming a Knight. Look through these materials and ask the grand knight of the council you wish to join for a Membership Document (#100) for you to complete. If you have any questions about which council to join, ask your chief counselor, the grand knight or faithful navigator of your



sponsoring council or assembly, or contact the Supreme Council office.

Remember, your name will be removed from your circle's roster on June 30, if you are an 18-year-old Squire. Before leaving your circle, try to recruit a new member to take your place.

### Become a Knight

Did you know that in addition to your circle's sponsoring council, there are more than 13,500 councils Orderwide? This means that wherever you live, work or attend school, you will most likely be able to find a council nearby.

There are many benefits to becoming a Knight. Working with your local council gives you the opportunity to make a difference in the community and parish while meeting new friends. Also, becoming a Knight continues your eligibility for the various scholarships offered by the Knights of Columbus and also makes you eligible for the Order's insurance program and fraternal benefits.

### Going to a college

Did you know that there are currently more than 17,000 college students active in college councils? If you're going to college, you should know that the Order has 236 college councils throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. On each of these

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## A Privilege to Serve — Recruiting and Organizing Volunteers

Whether your circle is conducting food drives, working with veterans with disabilities, collecting clothing for needy families, or any other charitable activities, mobilizing volunteers, both among members of your circle and their families and other groups and people in the community, is the key to success.

Here are some things to consider when recruiting volunteers and strategies to use when asking people to give their time.

- ❖ Appoint a circle volunteer coordinator to maintain a list of people willing to volunteer for activities and to work with the committee chairmen in making sure each activity is sufficiently staffed with volunteers.
- ❖ Start with your circle members and their families when building a list of potential volunteers. Contact each member on the circle's roster (even those who



might not have attended a meeting or an event for some time) and ask if he is interested in helping out at Circle activities throughout the year. Be sure to mention that this is not a commitment to volunteer at every event, but rather it is an opportunity to be included in the circle's pool of volunteers. It is up to the individual which events he chooses to participate in. Also, if the member is interested in being included in the database, ask him if any of his family members would also be interested in acting as volunteers and include their names on your list also.

- ❖ Once you have a good foundation of Squires and their families for your volunteer pool, start looking at other groups of potential volunteers to add volume to your numbers. Remember, the most important aspect of recruiting volunteers is to ask them to become

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campuses, the Knights of Columbus will be there to meet you. These college councils offer all the opportunities of a K of C council, but offer the unique environment that only a college or university can provide. A complete listing of college councils will be included with the letter you will receive in June.

Going to an university that doesn't already have a college council? Consider starting your own. If there is no council on your campus, contact the Supreme Council College Council Program at [college@kofc.org](mailto:college@kofc.org) for information about starting one.

## Forms Due

The following forms, found online at [www.kofc.org/squires](http://www.kofc.org/squires) in the "Circle Forms" section, and in the Circle Report Forms Booklet (#401), must be received at the Supreme Council office before June 30, 2009:

**Refund Support Vocations Program Refund/Plaque (RSVP) Application (#2863)** This application must be submitted to qualify for refunds and/or plaque awards.

**Corps d'Elite Award Application (#278)** This award honors overall circle achievement in activity programming, membership recruitment and reporting. The application must include a listing of at least 16 circle activities and be signed by the circle's notary, chief squire and chief counselor. Membership documents (#280) for member additions must be received and processed at the Supreme Council office by June 30.

**Brother Barnabas Award Application (#279)** This award is presented for the top 25 circle-sponsored activities throughout the Order. Circles may submit applications for more than one activity. Each activity must be submitted on a separate application form and have been conducted between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

## 'Adopt' a Family

In almost every community there are families in need. Your circle can assist these impoverished people by "adopting" a needy family.

To "adopt" a family in need first contact your parish, social service agencies or similar community groups to offer to assist an impoverished family. Once a family is selected work with the parish or social service group to determine the long-term and short-term needs of the family. Areas to take into consideration include employment

and job training, clothing (both winter and summer), food, education for children and adults where necessary and housing.

There are many ways your circle can help the "adopted" family. The parents of members can help find work or job training for unemployed family members. Drives can be held to collect clothing, toys, children's books and food. Circle members and their parents can offer to tutor parents and children.

With a little creativity and effort your Circle can help change the world for a family in need.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Sunday, May 10</b> Mother's Day	<b>Sun., June 14</b> Flag Day
<b>Mon., May 18</b> Victoria Day (Can.)	<b>Sun., June 21</b> Father's Day (U.S.)
<b>Sun., May 24</b> Feast of the Ascension	<b>Tues., June 30</b> Brother Barnabas Award Application Due; Corps d'Elite Award Application Due; RSVP Application (#2863) due.
<b>Mon., May 25</b> Memorial Day (U.S.)	<b>Sat. July 4</b> Independence Day (U.S.)
<b>Sun., May 31</b> Pentecost	
<b>Fri., June 12</b> Independence Day (Phil.)	

## TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009. Jurisdictions with no membership gains or no circles are omitted. Large jurisdictions are represented in a ratio of one entry per every 40 circles.

AB 4759 St. Albert 1	2442 Cuyapo 43	NY 2541 Wantagh 18
AL 4481 Adamsville 8	4358 Paranaque 39	4714 Monroe 11
AZ 5000 Phoenix 5	1030 Concepcion 32	NC 4466 Charlotte 3
BC 2937 Port Coquitlam 5	4216 Pangasinan 30(tie)	OH 5033 West Chester 6
CA 931 Lancaster 12	4617 Natividad 30(tie)	ON 5217 Toronto 12
4332 Valley Ctr. 11	MB 5057 St. Agathe 1	4328 Alliston 11
CO 2798 Colorado Springs 6	MD 4423 Eldersburg 7(tie)	PA 5102 Mechanicsburg 7
CT 4853 East Haven 1	4914 Bryantown 7(tie)	QC 4921 Ste Rose De Lima 3
FL 3877 Miami 20	MI 758 Dearborn Hts 2	RI 5211 Coventry 2
GA 4976 Roswell 8	MO 4893 Chesterfield 2	TN 2655 Knoxville 13(tie)
IA 4930 Sioux City 7	MS 81 Vicksburg 1	5075 Jackson 13(tie)
IL 4284 Lisle 29	MXSO 4852 Ciudad del Carmen 2	TX 3611 San Antonio 21
IN 5205 Lebanon 4	MZ 1875 Tacurong 22	5107 Zapata 15
KS 4217 Conway Spgs 10	4896 Talakag Bukidnon 18	2040 Keller 13(tie)
KY 4884 Hawesville 6	3055 Pigcawayan 15	2722 Spring 13(tie)
LA 4114 Simmesport 6	3946 Mu Panabo 14	VT 4398 Richford 3
LP 5230 Longos Pulilan 328	2130 Iligan 12	VA 5188 Virginia Beach 11
3408 Sariaya 100	NE 4667 Grand Island 9	VP 701 Bacolod City 41
2190 Isabela 62	NF 1803 St. Johns 4	4734 Jagna Bohol 75
3767 Meycauayan 58	NH 3847 Epping 3(tie)	3726 Iloilo 14
2504 Baguio 57	4897 Londonderry 3(tie)	5160 Talisay 13
4613 Calapan 57	NJ 2264 Toms River 9	4662 Tacloban City 11
3655 Valenzuela 49	NL 1803 St. John's 4	WA 3545 Stanwood 3
3039 Benquet 43	NV 4992 Henderson 1	

# SQUIRES IN ACTION



Squires from **Pedro Caunan Circle 4305 in Lindaville Sub Tagbilaran Boho, Visayas**, have been very active helping their community. In June, Squires raised money to purchase a tarpaulin which they used to cover holes in the roof of a school build-

ing of San Isidro High School. Fifteen Squires participated, helping to raise funds or put the tarp in place. In September, 14 Squires planted 1,000 mangrove seedlings to preserve the Tagbilaran City coastal regions.



Last summer, 17 Squires from **St. Patrick Circle 2041 in Brampton, Ontario, Canada**, gathered for socializing and celebrating. Squires played games, including cards and billiards, and enjoyed food from different cultures, such as Poland, the Caribbean, East India and Italy. They also watched the video recorded by their notary at the March for Life in Ottawa. The Squires welcomed a few prospects who would join their circle later, and celebrated their success at the Provincial Board Convention, which included earning the counselor of the year and circle of the year awards, among others.

Squires of **Edwin Hobbs Circle 8041 in Broken Arrow, Ok.**, provided assistance to their sponsoring Council 6606 with their major fundraiser, the meat cook. The Squires gave 24 total hours of service to the project.

## Send Us Your Squires News

Use the "Squires Newsletter/Major Activity Report" (#363) in the *Circle Report Forms Booklet* (#401), or use the on-line form at [www.kofc.org/squires](http://www.kofc.org/squires) to submit your news.

Squires from **Christ the King Circle 4114 in Simmesport, La.**, sponsored a special Mass for veterans and servicemen and women of their parish on Veterans' Day, Nov. 9, 2008. Fifteen Squires and their counselors organized the event for veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the First Persian Gulf War, and the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The wives of deceased veterans also were included. To advertise, Squires put announcements in the parish bulletin, on the local radio stations, spoke at the local VFW Chapter, and the American Legion Chapter. The event was ecumenical, and after Mass the Chief Squire thanked the veterans for their sacrifice and service. During a reception held afterwards, several veterans spoke a few words to the Squires, including two former Squires of Circle 4114 who are currently on duty, but were home at the time.



The Squires of **St. Francis of Assisi Circle 3767 in Meycauayan, Philippines**, conducted an "On the Spot Poster Making Contest" last October in celebration of the Feast of the St Francis of Assisi and 430 years of the town of Meycauayan with the theme: "Meycauayan on its 430 years and St. Francis of Assisi Patron of Ecology." This was participated in by all high schools in their parish and the out of school youth. The prizes were donated by Rev. Fr. Nap Baltazar, the circle's Father Prior.

Also, Squires from Circle 3767 collected used books (*pictured above*) to distribute to the indigent children in one of the far villages in Meycauayan, which required two hours of travel in a small boat to get there. The books were donated by church parishioners.

**St. Nicholas Circle 5118 in College Station, Texas**, sold Keep Christ in Christmas magnets after Masses on a weekend prior to Christmas. The Squires used the proceeds to sponsor a seminarian, donate \$350 to the Coalition for Life in Bryan, Texas, and donate \$350 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America. During this Christmas season the circle also assisted with decorating the St. Thomas Aquinas Church campus in College Station with outdoor lights and decorations.



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involved in a welcoming way.

Some groups to consider are:

- Parish members
- Circle member friends and relatives
- Members of other groups in the parish (various guilds and other service groups)
- The parents of children attending the parish school or nearby parochial school.
- Members of other churches, synagogues and mosques in the community.
- Students at both public and parochial high schools.
- College/University students (especially on campuses that have a Knights of Columbus college council) are also viable prospects.

- ❖ To supplement your volunteer pool when needed, place a "Call for Volunteers" in your council, parish, and community publications at least a month prior to an event. Keep this announcement simple including the type of event (i.e. a food drive, a collection of used clothing, helping to paint a senior citizen's house), the date, time, type of work that will be done, and any tools or materials that volunteers would need to bring. Also include a name and contact information (phone and/or e-mail) for your volunteer coordinator or committee chairman

## Remember to Thank Your Volunteers

Always take time to say thanks to your dedicated volunteers. One way to do this is through having a frequent volunteer points system. Like frequent flyer mileage points, your circle could offer volunteer points to volunteers for every hour (five hours, ten hours, whatever works for your circle) of volunteer time given to the circle. These points can be redeemable for select items.

Along with frequent volunteer points, be sure to recognize your best volunteers by listing their names in the circle newsletter and awarding them with certificates obtainable from the Supreme Council office. See the Squires Certificates flyer (#2755) for a listing of available certificates.

- ❖ Set up a schedule of events your council will sponsor throughout the year, and begin recruiting people from your volunteer pool to work at these events. Set up an Excel file to list the event, date, time, and the people scheduled to work at it. e-mail this file to your volunteer pool so they can keep track of their commitments. The week prior to an event, phone or e-mail the volunteers who will be working at it to confirm they will be able to attend.

**For more ideas on volunteering and programs for your Circle go to [www.kofc.org/service](http://www.kofc.org/service)**

## National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

The 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference will be held Nov. 19-21 in Kansas City. Squires are encouraged to attend this faith-filled event with thousands of other Catholic youths from throughout the United States. The conference is a great opportunity to better connect with your faith, hear outstanding speakers and musicians, and meet other youths with similar devotion to our faith and the desire to serve others. If your circle is interested in attending this event start planning your fundraising efforts now and contact your designated diocesan NCYC group leader for more details on how to register. For more information on the conference, to view a NCYC video, and to see a listing of diocesan contacts go to [www.nfcym.org](http://www.nfcym.org).