



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

A Higher Purpose

Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being through. Work with Special Olympics affiliates to determine how best to fund, sponsor or volunteer for events in the local community. Featured program credit is awarded to councils providing at least \$2,000 in donations or 200 service hours in a fraternal year. A featured program, Special Olympics counts for two credits in the toward the Columbian Award.

Overview

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with Special Olympics and has helped disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program from fundraising to feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact your state council's Special Olympics chairman for information and coordinate your council activities with him and local Special Olympics officials.
- Provide manpower in support of Special Olympic activities.
- Consider potential fundraising activities such as a polar plunge, 5K, drive for people with intellectual disabilities (i.e., "Tootsie Roll" drive), etc.
- Publicize and promote awareness of Special Olympics events in the local community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Contact the state Special Olympics chairman and local Special Olympics branch to see how the council might be of assistance.
2. Set council goals for man hours and funds to be donated to Special Olympics.
3. Build public interest of Special Olympics events! Promote in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Plan and conduct the event.
5. Encourage participation of council members.
6. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!

7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.