

MARCH FOR LIFE

A Higher Purpose

Show public support for the right to life. Councils are encouraged to participate in or sponsor local, state/province, regional or national March for Life. Councils that coordinate at least 50 participants or who organize a local March for Life will receive credit for this program. A featured program, March for Life counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

Overview

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause. Knights can organize and participate in local/state/province/regional March for Life and/or organize participation of Knights/parishioners/students/etc., in bus trips to the national Marches in Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Mexico City, throughout the Philippines, or in other countries.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Publicize a national, state/province, or regional march.
- Recruit participants to attend or join with other local pro-life organizations to organize, publicize and carry out a local March for Life or rally in your city, town, or nearby regional center.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

National or Other Out-of-Town March for Life

- Check the websites for March for Life (US) (www.marchforlife.org), Campaign Life Coalition (Canada) (www.campaignlifecoalition.com), or Philippine jurisdictions for trip planning information, including: headquarters hotels, associated events, bus drop-off/pick-up/parking locations, etc.
- Determine the dates, times and departure points for your trip to and return from Washington, D.C., Ottawa, or other March for Life destination.
- Determine per person bus/lodging/meal costs to be covered by council/marchers.
- Contact bus companies for price quotes and reserve buses. If lodging is needed, negotiate with hotels for room rates and space for meetings, Mass, meals, etc.
- Order *Choose Life Signs* (#9341) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. There is no charge for the signs when ordered in reasonable quantities, according to the size of your group.
- Build public interest for the event! Promote the March for Life 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
 - Diocesan newspapers and other media



- Invite schools, seminaries and other religious organizations to send delegates at reduced rates or at council expense; take reservations and collect funds.
- Plan meal stops, provide refreshments for the trip and contact information/maps for marchers.
- Bring pro-life videos to show on bus monitors and council banner to carry in the march.
- On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director provide brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
- Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the march.
- 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.
 - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the *March for Life Report Form* (#10697)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

Organizing a Local Rally/March

- Contact other local councils, churches, and pro-life organizations to form a coordinating committee.
- Determine a date, time, rally location, and/or parade route.
- Build public interest for the event! 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
 - Press releases
- Order *Choose Life Signs* (#9341) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. There is no charge for the signs when ordered in reasonable quantities, according to the size of your group.
- Coordinate with local authorities for a permit for a parade in the street, sound systems to be used for the rally, and general security guidelines.
- Appoint Knights of Columbus members as marshals to organize the marchers at the rally and to assure safety as they march in the street or cross intersections from sidewalks.
- Appoint Knights of Columbus members to distribute signs before the march or rally and to clean up the grounds after the event.
- Obtain radios for communications or share cell phone numbers among marshals to help with coordination of the event.
- On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel.
- **Rally:** If a rally is involved, invite and schedule rally speakers, such as religious/church leaders, pro-life organization leaders, and pro-life government officials (Refer to Officers Online for “*Guidelines for Political Activity*” and “*Catholic Citizenship and Public Policy*”)
- **Rally:** If a rally is to be held, order necessary sound system equipment.
- **Rally:** Set up a Knights of Columbus membership table and vendor booths for pro-life organizations around the rally site. Have the council membership director provide brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!

- Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
- Schedule a special pro-life themed Mass before or after the march/rally at a nearby church.
- If organizations (such as Fourth Degree Knights) wish to march as units with their banners, create a list of units in the order they will be called to line up for the march.
- After the march, invite participants back to the church, council hall or rally site for refreshments.
- 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.
 - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the *March for Life Report Form* (#10697)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

Definitions

Rally: Held in one location, indoors or outdoors, usually with speakers, music, cheers, and prayers. It is a separate event, before or after a march.

March: A public demonstration with signs and banners, in the form of a parade, in the street or along sidewalks.

Featured Program Requirements

Councils are required to organize a minimum of 50 marchers to participate in a national, state or local March for Life or councils must themselves organize a March for Life. Report activity using the *March for Life Report Form* (#10697).

Resources

1. #10694- *March for Life - Brochure*
2. #10697- *March for Life - Report Form*
3. #10696- *March for Life - Vertical Poster*
4. #10695- *March for Life - Horizontal Poster*
5. #9341- *Choose Life Signs*

Link

www.kofc.org/march