

State Youth Director report
For Organizational meeting – midterm – 2011 – December – Moose Jaw
Greeting Brother Knights.

It has been a busy year for me so far. And I look forward to the challenges ahead.

I believe the Youth is still the best future for the Knights of Columbus. We need to get them to notice us, we need to fascinate them. We need to fascinate the families in our parishes and community. I hope this fascination will help attract new members.

We need to fascinate our youth, get their attention by promoting the activities we have to offer. Give them good & positive memories that will hopefully encourage them to want to join and be active with the Knights when they are adults.

I want to review some basic items for the next year. The Knight's of Columbus Organization offers 7 basic activities (and one new trial) that the councils are asked to promote and support:

Columbian Squires.	Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest
College Councils	Essay Contest
Basket Ball Free Throw	Scholarships
The Soccer Challenge	Hockey Challenge – NEW – interested????

Now is always a good time to order kits if you have not done so.

Essay Contest → The theme of the essay contest is "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society."

www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/essay/index.html

Participants: is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 during the current school year.

December/January- District Judging

January 30- Essay Contest Council participation form (4216) due to Supreme

February/March- State Judging

↳ Entries due to State Youth Director March 10th.

April 15- Essays due to Supreme

May/June-International Essay Contest winners announced

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest → Each poster must include a slogan reflecting either of the topics and an original visual image. Posters may only be entered under one topic.

www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/poster/index.html

Participants: 4 posters groups total, each age/category

(8-11 Drugs, 8-11 Alcohol, 12-14 Drugs, 12-14 Alcohol).

January-Council Judging

↳ Immediately following council contest, send participation form to Supreme

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February- Regional/State Judging

↳ Submissions due to State Youth Director February 28th.

March 31- Deadline for Submissions to Supreme

Hockey Shoot out Challenge

I had some interest in the project, but no replies if the group, council, etc... decided to take it on. Please let me know either way as I need to file a report at the end of the project. Goods & bads, issues, and areas tweaked to make the project work for the group.

Basketball Free Throw

www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/freethrow/index.html

Participants: Boys & girls, ages 10 – 14. (10 classifications)

January-Council Championship

↳ Immediately following council contest, send participation form to Supreme

February-District Championship

February- Regional Championship

March- State Championship

↳ Results due to State Youth Director March 15th.

April- Submit state winners to Supreme for International Judging

Soccer Challenge:

We had a poor participation this year. Consider running it in the spring and save results for next fall. Schools may be more open to it that way. Something to consider.

Here are the new Regional zones:

Zone #1 - Districts 1, 2, 3 & 7

Zone #3 - Districts 4, 5 & 6

Zone #5 - Districts 13, 14 & 29

Zone #7 - Districts 15 & 19

Zone #9 - Districts 18, 22 & 23

Zone #2 - Districts 8, 9 & 10

Zone #4 - Districts 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28

Zone #6 - Districts 11, 12 & 21

Zone #8 - Districts 16, 17 & 20

*Regional Zones established under the guidance of our Worthy State Deputy July, 2011.

I need to ask for a few details to be added to the winner's sheets **before** they are sent to me. Please ensure the Council # and District # appear on the sheet. I find it easier to track down the winning group. Plus it would be nice to see the "Parents names printed on the sheets. It is needed on the forms submitted to Supreme. And we prefer to leave the names of each winner a surprise for the convention.

Please remember to fill in, or have the school fill in, then submit the participation #'s report for each activity (all have 1) to the places indicated on the bottom of the sheet.

Some councils are promoting many of the previously mentioned activities, others are not or have a community not interested in the programs. So I would encourage these councils to try something new. Consider:

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1. Curling. I believe a council or two in recent times did a Hot shots challenge.
2. Saskatchewan Youth Parliament. (Email sent out Beginning of November.)
3. Church based programs: appreciation nights for: alter servers, youth groups, etc...
4. Show support for the Scouts & Guides, Big Brothers / Big Sisters
5. Supreme offers programs like: Coats for Kids and Food for Families.
6. Community athletics (hockey, soccer, football, lacrosse, etc...)
7. Camps (Black Strap Youth Camp, St Volodymyr Camp, Camp Monahan, etc...)
8. CCO – Catholic Christian Outreach.
9. College scholarships. Something our Chapters in Regina & Saskatoon could consider.
10. And the list continues.....

If you try something different & it works, consider submitting it as a State Single Project Youth award. Take many pictures, take good notes and submit them right away. Don't wait for the deadline at the end of February.

Columbian Squires: We continue to struggle to get a circle going in the province for the past few years. In the past, we have had 10 circles through out the province at one time or another. So I know we have the ability, experience and knowledge to share out there. If you have a group considering starting up a Circle, please let me know as soon as possible. I will help get you in contact with people who have personal experience with the Squires and are willing to help you get started in the right direction.

I have a complete package of information on the State website under "Programs", then under the Youth tab, you will see a couple of my last emails or reports on: my Convention report, Zones for the State for Supreme Sport activities and the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament. There are lots of details for anyone wanting information of all the projects we can support and promote. I will forward a nice copy of this report there too once able.

Any Questions?

I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Joseph Riffel
State Youth & Columbian Squires Director