

Bright Futures

Overview

The Bright Futures program invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities. Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need. Popular ways to provide support include establishing parish libraries, running supply drives and fundraisers, participating in school beautification projects and supporting other volunteer programs offered by schools. Catholic schools are in particular need of council support.

Featured Program Requirements

For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Host an event to support students or schools in your area that incorporates your parish community and council.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, develop a plan to serve students or schools in your area that incorporates the parish community and the council. You can share the *Bright Futures Brochure* (#11795) with your pastor and council to give them an idea of what the program might entail.
2. Consider the following projects:
 - Create a parish library or organize a youth book drive.
 - Selected books can feature authors, saints, and stories representative of the demographics in your community. For example, biographies of St. Rose of Lima, St. Martin de Porres, and the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe would be especially relevant to Hispanic communities.
 - Organize a school supply drive for students or teachers.
 - Run a fundraiser to support tuition for students.
 - Conduct landscaping and maintenance projects for the school.
 - Participate in programs offered by schools, such as mentorship and tutoring.
 - Consider integrating other youth-serving [Faith in Action Community Programs](#).
3. Contact local schools to see how the council can best provide support.
4. Agree on a date to run the program. A popular time to start planning for the program is before the academic year begins. You can also ask your diocese when Catholic Schools Week takes place in your area.
5. Ensure those participating in the program meet the Safe Environment requirements of the Knights of Columbus and school.
6. Build public interest for the program! Promote the Bright Futures program in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters at the high-traffic areas of the parish.
 - If running a volunteer event, post a signup sheet in the parish hall or create a poster with a QR code for registration.
 - Make bulletin and pulpit announcements.
 - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.



- Share the event in all digital council communications.
- Ask school officials to promote the event.

7. Promote the scholarships that the Knights of Columbus offer to help students and families achieve their educational goals. Scholarships can be found [here](#).

8. Invite Catholic men attending the event to join the Order:

- 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).
- Encourage men to join at the event using the [kofc.org/join](#) website on their phone.
- A Knight should open or close the event and share information about the Order.

9. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event with the permission of the school.

10. At the end of the fraternal year, report on this program as part of your *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

Resources

1. #11795 - *Bright Futures Brochure*
2. #11796 - *Bright Futures Poster 1*
3. #11797 - *Bright Futures Poster 2*