

Build-a-Bed

Program Overview

What is Build-a-Bed?

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a nonprofit organization, to build beds for children who would otherwise sleep on the floor or in other suboptimal conditions. Volunteers construct and assemble the beds which are delivered directly to the homes of children in need.

How Can I Participate?

Your council must decide whether to volunteer at an existing SHP build site or organize its own separate build with SHP at a council or parish location. Contact your local SHP chapter president for information on upcoming bed builds or to set up a date for your council's own build. You can find your local chapter by going to www.shpbeds.org/chapters in the United States and www.shpbeds.ca/chapters in Canada. If there isn't a local chapter in your area, contact the national headquarters using the contact information on shpbeds.org or shpbeds.ca.

What Does a Bed Build Involve?

After providing SHP with a head count of how many people will attend, council members, parishioners and other volunteers will show up to a build site, sign in, and receive safety gear and a brief training by SHP team members. After this they will volunteer at the various build stations. There are stations for sawing, sanding, drilling, assembling, staining, and branding the wood. What starts as a pile of raw lumber from the hardware store becomes new bunks for kids in need. If there is no chapter in your area, contact the SHP headquarters and inquire about opportunities. Council members can also help with delivery if their local SHP chapter needs help delivering the beds to the families who need them.

Councils provide the funding, manpower, and build site (although some SHP chapters have their own build site), and SHP provides the tools, training, and materials. SHP will also identify the children in need of beds and coordinate the bed delivery.

How Much Does it Cost?

A typical build costs about \$5,000 for 20 beds, but may vary depending on the chapter. This figure includes the bedding, pillows and mattress for the beds. Make sure to check with your chapter president before beginning fundraising. Your council may also raise funds to contribute to an existing build. If your council is joining an already existing build, your council may want to make a donation to the local chapter to help support the build.

Where Can I Find Resources?

Promotional materials such as a news release, a brochure, bulletin and pulpit announcements, and a flyer are available at kofc.org/buildabed. Grand Knights or financial secretaries can order Build-a-Bed resources through [Supplies Online](#) via Officers Online.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Councils should procure liability insurance before participating in a Build-a-Bed event with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Coverage is provided by Lockton Affinity in the USA. Councils in Canada can request coverage from Jones Deslaurier (davidg@jdimi.com), be added as an additional insured by Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and obtain a certificate of insurance for the event.

