

March for Life

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 Marches for Life or rallies 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. For March for Life resources, visit www.kofc.org/march.

Featured Program Requirements

- For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Coordinate a minimum of 25 participants for a national, state or local March for Life or rally; charter a bus; or organize a local march or rally. Report activity using the [Fraternal Programs Report Form](#) (#10784).

Please Note: A **march** is a public demonstration with signs and banners, in the form of a parade, in the street or along sidewalks. A **rally** is held in one location, indoors or outdoors, usually with speakers, music, cheers, and prayers. It is a separate event, before or after a march.

Action Steps

National or Other Out-of-Town March for Life

- Identify a program chairman to oversee all action steps and delegate tasks, as needed. If coordinating with the parish, confirm pastor approval with grand knight, and then set up subsequent parish ministry collaboration meetings.
- Check the websites for March for Life (US) (www.marchforlife.org), Campaign Life Coalition (Canada) (www.campaignlifecoalition.com), diocesan pro-life offices, 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.
- Contact your grand knight, financial secretary, or program director to order [Choose Life Signs](#) (#9341) on Supplies Online via [Officers Online](#).
- 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.
 - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the *Fraternal Programs Report Form* (#10784).
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

Organizing a Local Rally/March

- Identify a program chairman to oversee all action steps and delegate tasks, as needed. If coordinating with the parish, confirm pastor approval with grand knight, and then set up subsequent parish ministry collaboration meetings.
- Contact other local councils, churches, and pro-life organizations to form a coordinating committee.
- Determine a date, time, rally location, and/or parade route.
- 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.
- 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
- Contact your grand knight, financial secretary, or program director to order *Choose Life Signs* (#9341) on Supplies Online via [Officers Online](#).
- 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.
 - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the *Fraternal Programs Report Form* (#10784)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

Resources

1. #10694- *Brochure*
2. #10696- *Vertical Poster*
3. #10695- *Horizontal Poster*
4. #9341- *Choose Life Signs*

Program resources can be ordered by your grand knight, financial secretary and/or program director on Supplies Online via [Officers Online](#).

Link

www.kofc.org/march