

# Special Olympics

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## Overview

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with Special Olympics and has helped athletes with disabilities compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program including fundraising, feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love. Work with Special Olympics affiliates to determine how best to fund, sponsor or volunteer for events in the local community. For Special Olympics resources, visit [www.kofc.org/olympics](http://www.kofc.org/olympics).

## Featured Program Requirements

- *For two program credits toward the Columbian Award* – Contribute a minimum of 200 volunteer hours or \$2,000 in support of Special Olympics activities. Report activity using the [Fraternal Programs Report Form](#) (#10784).

## Action Steps

1. 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.
2. Contact the state Special Olympics chairman and local Special Olympics branch to see how the council might be of assistance. You can find your local Special Olympics organization by visiting [www.specialolympics.org/programs](http://www.specialolympics.org/programs).
3. Set council goals for man hours and funds to be donated to Special Olympics.
4. Build public interest of Special Olympics events! 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
5. Plan and conduct the event. Consider supporting an athlete in your council, volunteering, coaching, officiating, or hosting a Law Enforcement Torch Run. Potential fundraising activities include a polar plunge, 5K, drive for people with intellectual disabilities (i.e., “Tootsie Roll” drive), etc.
6. Encourage participation of council members.
7. 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). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
8. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.



9. 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. #10702- [Vertical Poster](#)
2. #10703- [Horizontal Poster](#)

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/olympics](http://www.kofc.org/olympics)