

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Vincent Grauso
Director

INTRODUCTION

Families are the cornerstones of every council. Your chance of having a successful term as a Grand Knight, in part, depends upon the level of family participation in council activities. Below are a few programs, which if implemented, will help you to recognize and celebrate the successes of your council's families, as well as help to encourage their increased participation in other council activities.

Today's society makes it hard to be a family. Television takes up a lot of our time together. The hustle and bustle of business, rushed meals, school, work, committee meetings, sports and shopping are cramming our days and weeks. The family is under heavy attack today. The battle is largely over values and commitments. To survive, the family needs support. Its primary source of strength must be found in a growing religious and parish life; but it also can be helped substantially by an organization such as ours.

Conduct programs and activities which aid in rebuilding the family spirit from within, making it vital and strong enough to resist society's ills. Encourage members and their families to choose as their model the Holy Family, copying their attitude of interdependence, sharing and respect for authority. Work to strengthen family life. Nourish wholesome home life through the sponsorship of activities involving entire families on a scheduled and continuing basis. Encourage communications and routines which involve family members within their own homes as well as bringing families together in social and recreational events in the community.

Family Activities include the Marygold Program, Employment Assistance/Human Needs, Orioles Baseball, Navy Football, Bowling Tournament, Family Picnic, Family of the Month, Family of the Year, Widows Program and Ladies Auxiliary Programs.

The goals of your family program should be as follows:

- Work to strengthen family life and values
- Stimulate togetherness in the family
- Provide support to all widows of Knights
- Provide employment support to Knights
- Recognize family contribution in the church, council and the community
- Have fun

Fraternally,

Vince Grauso

Vince Grauso
Family Activities Director

FAMILY ACTIVITIES TEAM

Director	Vincent Grauso (11898) 14771 Betula Way Dayton, MD 21036	Mary Jane 410-531-3463 vgrauso@yahoo.com
MaryGold Program	John J. McCuen, Jr. (7612) 4100 London Bridge Road Sykesville, MD 21784	Carol 410-549-2418 John_mccuen@yahoo.com
Employment Assistance Chairman	Bill Elliott (11372) 1045 Wingate Court Bel Air, MD 21014	Chrissie 410-838-9893 KofCSanta@yahoo.com
Family of the Month/Year Chairman	Roger Donnelly (2203) 1558 Star Stella Drive Odenton, MD 21113	Rose 410-672-6478 RnRdonnelly54@comcast.net
Family Picnic Chairman	Mike Little (10966) 680 209 th Street Pasadena, MD 21122	Maria 410-360-7237 MSMA43@gmail.com
Ladies Auxiliary Program Co-Chairwoman	Pat Padgett 12850 Owens Drive Waldorf, MD 20602	Ed (2293) 301-645-6655 ejp-pjp@att.net
Ladies Auxiliary Program Co-Chairwoman	Vicki Cohen 226 Hopkins Road Baltimore, MD 21212	Steve (2521) 410-377-7228 Vaz2vac@aol.com
Baseball, Navy Football & Bowling Chairman	E. Jere Danaher, Jr. (370) 2824 Roselawn Avenue Baltimore, MD 21214	Chris 410-426-8236 Danaher2@verizon.net
Widows Program	John Zielinski (11715) 1528 Clover Hill Lane Knoxville, MD 21758	Joanne 301-834-6713 johnwz@hughes.net

CALENDAR OF FAMILY ACTIVITIES

June 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Grand Knight Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
July 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
August 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold a council Family picnic <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Family Activity Program (1 st quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend State Council Program Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
September 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the State Council Picnic <input type="checkbox"/> Attend State Council Navy Football Game <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
October 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Activity report for 1 st Quarter due by the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Invite widows to the State Memorial Mass in November <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
November 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the State Memorial Mass <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Council Activity Program (2 nd quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
December 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Family Christmas Party <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
January 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Activity report for 2 nd Quarter due by the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
February 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Family Activity Program (3 rd quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
March 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Day Mass, Reception & Awards Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
April 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Activity report for 3 rd Quarter due by the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Attend State Council Bowling Tournament <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
May 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the State Council Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day – Participate in MaryGold Program <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
June 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Chapter of Grand Knights meeting

	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend State Council Orioles Baseball Game <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Family of the Month Program
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EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program provides information regarding state employment services, writing resumes and provides information regarding job leads. The program provides a **free** employment service to our members. When a member is unemployed, he needs our collective help through a critical stage in his life. Records are maintained on jobs throughout the state and surrounding vicinities. With more than 26,000 members in Maryland this is a great fraternal network.

The Grand Knight should inform the Employment Assistance Chairman in your council area of any brother in need of assistance who will provide him with the necessary forms. **All information is confidential.** On the other hand, if a member of your council knows of a position available, also contact the Employment Assistance Chairman. In either case, both the position wanted and position available forms are available on the State Council website at www.kofc-md.org. Click on “site map” and scroll down to “Employment Assistance Program” to locate the forms.

Only the State Employment Assistance Chairman will process the applications. All applications **must** have a resume attached, **no exceptions.**

ORIOLES BASEBALL, NAVY FOOTBALL & BOWLING

This program provides a family night out to an Orioles baseball game, a Navy football game and a Mixed Duckpin Bowling Tournament.

For the ball games, the Grand Knight should encourage Knights and their families to attend as a group and advertise this as a fun night at the ballpark. Consider the possibility of providing bus transportation for the council to the ballpark. Proceeds from the Navy football game will go to the State Council Scholarship Fund.

The State Council also sponsors a Mixed Duckpin Bowling Tournament. The tournament is reasonably priced and should be well publicized. Details about the event are made available in time to plan for your participation. There are men’s, women’s and mixed teams allowed.

The Grand Knight should appoint a chairman to coordinate his council’s participation in the bowling tournament. Discuss with him ways to promote participation by the council membership. Decide on, and authorize, any council incentives as well as financial or material support, such as team shirts, hats, etc. Pass on all program information to the chairman and council newsletter editor for publicizing to the council membership.

Even if there are only one or two members interested, get the council involved. Combine forces with another council to make a team. Others can come along and enjoy the outing. The tournament always concludes with some type of social activity afterwards. This is a great way to have fun and enjoy comradery among families.

More council teams are needed and all councils are encouraged to participate. Sports competition is an excellent way to keep our young members, both of age and of heart, active and involved. These members can serve as terrific recruiters for attracting younger members. Councils are encouraged to have established teams in established leagues; however, your council can have a pick-up team for the tournament. You need an energetic leader to spark enthusiasm

among the members. Take advantage of the athletic opportunity for the benefit of the entire council, especially the younger members.

Members participate in all kinds of sports in the community. Others have previously done so, and would like to again if they knew where to find others of like mind. What better place for these members than in their council with other Knights and their families? An active council chairman is necessary to make these programs work.

FAMILY PICNIC

The council and the State Council family picnics are a family, youth, and council function all rolled into one. The picnics are a fun-filled day with games and entertainment for both young and old. There will be plenty of food and drink and best of all it is open to all Knights and their families and friends. The Knights traditionally name August as the month of the family, so this is a perfect time to hold a council picnic. The picnic for the State Council is usually held in the month of September.

The Grand Knight should select a chairman for the picnic. This program can be a great opportunity to recruit new members by inviting them and their families.

Communications is the key. Get the word out early so members can plan on attending. Pray for good weather.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

This is a program where you say “**thank you**” to at least one family each month. There are no criteria that a family needs to meet to receive this award. Recognize them for the things they do in your council, the church or their community. The family of the month **need not be a Knight**. This program is also a good way of recruiting new members for your council. It can be used to recognize a council member’s family who doesn’t regularly attend meetings but is active in the parish or the community.

The Grand Knight should select a chairman for Family of the Month program. Pass on to your chairman the Family of Month booklet your council receives from the Supreme Council. To nominate a Family of the Month, you can use the Family of the Month form found on-line on the Supreme Council website or submit a hard copy of the form found in the Council Form Booklet. See that the forms are submitted to the Supreme Council before the 15th of the following month. The write-up need not be extensive, a few comments regarding the family’s achievements within the council, parish or community is appropriate. A certificate honoring the Family of Month is available from the Supreme Council (form no.1843).

If the father of the family you nominate is a Knight, your Family of the Month will be entered into a drawing at Supreme where typically two families from our State win a plaque from the Supreme Council each month. We would like to see 100% participation in the Family of the month program.

FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Specific criteria must be met for a family to be eligible for Family of the Year. **The Family of the Year must be a Knight in good standing in your council.** The entries are to be submitted to the State Council chairman. The nomination form for Family of the Year will be mailed out in December and must be returned by February 1st each year. The submittal must explain, in detail, how the family contributes to the council, the church and the community. The more details provided by the council the better the chance of the family being selected as the State Council Family of the Year. Photographs, etc. are allowed. The submittals are judged by the State Council Family activity chairmen to determine the Maryland State Council Family of the Year.

The Grand Knight should select a chairman for the Family of the Year program. This can be the same chairman as the Family of the Month program. Help your chairman in preparing the forms and selecting your council's Family of the Year. Honor your council's Family of Year in a special way.

The family selected as the Maryland State Council Family of the Year will be honored at the Maryland State Council Founder's Day reception. The State Council Family of the Year entry will be submitted to the Supreme Council as an entry for consideration as the International Family of the Year.

WIDOWS PROGRAM

One of the primary purposes of the Order is to maintain contact with, and provide assistance to, widows and dependent children of members. Assistance should be offered in arranging the funeral or with social security and/or insurance benefits. Your Supreme Benefits Advisor will take the lead on this, but your council must be prepared to assist in any way it can. It is essential that we, as Knights of Columbus, never forget the contributions each of our members has made to the Order.

The Grand Knight should select a chairman for your council's Widows Assistance program. Keep an active list of your council's widows. Invite them to all of your council's functions. Invite the widows to the State Council Memorial Mass and Reception that is held in November. To insure that your widows stay a part of your council family, the State Council has in place a Widow VIP Card program. Submit the names of your widows and their late husbands to the State Council Widows Program Chairman and he will issue a VIP card for the widow. The card states that she is the "beloved widow of Brother _____" and will accord her all the honor and courtesy she has earned as the widow of one of our late members. Keep the widows on your mailing list

Maintaining contact with the families will enrich the council, as well as the deceased member's family. Be certain to determine if she has access to the Internet and if she does, provide that e-mail address to the State Secretary so that the State family can keep in touch with her. (See your State Directory for the State Secretary's current e-mail address.)

LADIES AUXILIARY

No council can be completely successful without the support of the ladies. This program provides the ladies with a vehicle where they can meet, socialize, and run programs in support of the council's mission. The ladies can tailor individual programs that relate to their interests and provide their talents to enhance other family and council activities.

If your council does not have an auxiliary, contact a State Council Chairwoman for the Ladies Auxiliary for aid in organizing, establishing bylaws and creating program activity ideas. If you have an auxiliary, keep them informed of your council's activities and the time and place of State Council program seminars.

All auxiliaries are invited to submit entries to a State Council Chairwoman for the Auxiliaries Awards Contest. The awards will be presented at the State Council Convention in May. Information regarding this contest is mailed out in February.

MARYGOLD PROGRAM

The MaryGold program is a motherhood appreciation activity; recognized as a top ten international "Family Activity" by the Supreme Council and named after MARY, the Mother of Jesus, and her Child more precious than GOLD. It conveys a strong pro-life message by combining the principles of our Order with the goal of every council – to enrich church, community, family and our youth, as well as acting as a subliminal recruitment tool. The MaryGold program involves the distribution of marigold flowers at Mass on Mother's Day, free-of-charge, for children to give to their mothers.

The Grand Knight should select a chairman for the MaryGold program, obtain Pastoral consent, order the flowers and print the labels. A positive approach to saving the unborn is given through a simple message of "Thank you for giving life to me" and "Happy Mother's Day" from The Knights of Columbus which is printed on the labels.

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Below are examples of some successful Family activities held in previous years and the councils where the activities are conducted. Grand Knights should contact the councils directly for more information on these activities. Many more worthwhile activities are listed in the Annual Book of Reports.

Cardinal Gibbons Council #2521

In addition to normal Family Activities programs (i.e., the Halloween Party, the Christmas Party, the Easter Party, and the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest), this council made a special effort in their Widow's Program. The Program was revitalized and expanded. From making Pall Bearer's available at the funeral, to a Rosary call, to a visit for the purpose of a specially Inscribed Bible, to an annual luncheon, they reminded these ladies of the council's continued interest in their well-being and the fact that they are not forgotten.

Father Rosensteel Council #2169

This council holds a family picnic every year at the U.S. Army Walter Reed Annex in the Forest Glen area of Silver Spring, Md. There are approximately 350 members and families who attend. A moon bounce is provided for the children and there is a traditional egg toss and volley ball game held plus several baseball diamonds are available for those that are more energetic.

Every Friday evening, except for Degree nights and holidays, eight kitchen members prepare an evening meal in rotation for the benefit of the membership where they can socialize and the children can enjoy games. Our "Ice Cream Lady" comes about once a month and tells Bible stories and makes ice cream sundaes for the children.

To support their widows, last March, this council issued and presented 87 Widow VIP Cards to the widows of departed Brothers of Fr. Rosensteel Council.

St. Mary Of The Assumption Council # 9302

This council, at the suggestion of our Reverend Monsignor Richard Hughes, held a picnic for the entire Parish—the first one in ten years. The Parish provided food cooked on outdoor grills, games for the children and adults, music, clowns and other entertainment. Hundreds of parishioners attended. In October, we held our Knight at the movies. After a tasty Octoberfest meal of knockwurst, sauerkraut and German potatoes, kids and adults enjoyed several films.

Fr. Maurice J. Wolfe Council # 11372

This council started off the year with a Family bowling tournament at Forest Hill Lanes. A great time was had by all that attended.

Long Green Valley Council # 8736

This council held a "What Family Means to Me" contest for St. John's School and CCD students in December/January. They solicited essays, poems, or posters that conveyed their understanding of "family"; 65 entries were received and prizes totaling \$270 were awarded.

Our Lady Of Guadalupe Council #12127

This council played a major role in planning, organizing and conducting the St. John Neumann's 25th Anniversary picnic. The committee put together a pilgrimage to the Grotto in the fall led by Associate Chaplain and Associate Pastor Fr. Scott Woods. The picnic had over 400 in attendance and was a huge success.

Other Suggested Family Activities

Mother's Day breakfast
Halloween party
Campaign to promote child safety on the Internet
Family sock-hop dance
Old-time county fair
Camping trip
Family rosary program
Multicultural family picnic
Mother's Day Flowers

FAMILY ACTIVITY AWARD CONTEST FORM

SEND TO STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dan Ward
9713 Dixie Ridge Terrace
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Date received by State Program Director _____

From GRAND KNIGHT _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

COUNCIL NAME _____ NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

LOCATION _____
(CITY) (ZIP CODE)

THE INFORMATION THAT FOLLOWS DESCRIBES OUR COUNCIL'S PROJECT AND SERVES AS OUR ENTRY IN THE STATE COUNCIL'S SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS CONTEST.

DATE PROJECT CONDUCTED _____

TITLE OR NATURE OF PROJECT _____

WHO BENEFITED MOST FROM THIS PROJECT? _____

CHAIRMAN _____
(NAME-ADDRESS-TELEPHONE NO.)

NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT _____

DESCRIBE PROJECT IN DETAIL. (PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWS CLIPPINGS, ETC. MAY BE INCLUDED WITH THIS REPORTING FORM. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY)

SIGNED _____
(GRAND KNIGHT)

ATTEST _____
(DISTRICT DEPUTY) (DATE)

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN. COMPLETED ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AS FOLLOWS:

- () BEST FIRST REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (APR THRU SEPT) DUE BY OCTOBER 15TH
- () BEST SECOND REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (OCT, NOV, DEC) DUE BY JANUARY 15TH
- () BEST THIRD REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (JAN, FEB, MAR) DUE BY APRIL 1ST

PLEASE INDICATE REPORT BEING SUBMITTED