



How Will Your Council Celebrate Columbus Day, 2019?

There continues to be pressure to replace Columbus Day in many communities and states. Much of the public has become indifferent on the celebration of the day. It is up to us as Knights of Columbus to publically display our support for Columbus Day and to proclaim that reasons for which the holiday was established are still relevant today. So, how will your council commemorate the day? Here are some ideas and opportunities:

Baltimore's 130th Columbus Day Commemoration– *Sunday, October 6, 2019*- Although no parade this year, still plenty of reasons to bring the family and enjoy the day in Little Italy. Events begin with 9:30 am Mass at St. Leo's, followed by the wreath laying ceremony at Christopher Columbus Piazza at 11:00 am. You will see many Knights participating in both events with a wreath presented by the Maryland State Council. Then prepare for fun. No one holds a festival like Little Italy. This year's Italian Heritage Festival will include entertainment, food, drink and activities for the entire family. Vendors! Bocce tournament! Maryland Craft Beer! European Wine! 5K Race!

Columbus Day Ball – *Saturday, October 12, 2019– 7:30 PM, BWI Marriott* - All councils are encouraged to purchase and sell ads for the program book to show your support for Columbus Day. Then, don't miss Maryland State Council's premier social event of the year. Come join us for an evening of great food, music, dancing, and fellowship that celebrates Columbus Day and the accomplishments of the Knights in Maryland as well. There is limited space available, so don't delay in making your reservations.

National Columbus Day Ceremony – *Monday, October 14, 2019 – 11:00 am, Columbus Memorial Fountain, Washington, DC* - This ceremony is the official commemoration of Columbus Day jointly sponsored by the National Christopher Columbus Assn and the National Park Service. The KofC 4th Degree Color Corps contributes to the pageantry of the ceremony that includes the Joint Armed Forces Honor Guard, United States Marine Band, and Presidential and Mayoral Proclamations. The program is not only patriotic, but educational. Come as a council and bring the families.

Other ideas? – Here are a few that your council can do.

1. Hold a Christopher Columbus/Columbus Day trivia contest.
2. *Good of the Order* presentation on Columbus/Columbus Day. You can make it a series.
3. A council Columbus Day ball/dinner.
4. Insert a church bulletin announcement or page with Columbus Day facts.
5. Have a Columbus Day display with information available at your parish
6. Hold a membership drive in honor of Columbus Day – Admissions Degree
7. Invite a speaker on Columbus and Columbus Day to a meeting – Open it to families.

Do not let Columbus Day go by without your council commemorating this important holiday!

**For More Ideas and Information:
Steve Upton, Columbus Day General Chairman
steve.upton@christophercolumbus.org**