

Circles and Schools, a Perfect Combination

Catholic schools, or interested public schools, are excellent locations for establishing Squires circles. The main advantage to having a circle in a school is the ability to reach a large number of potential Squires.

Squires interested in forming a circle in a school — perhaps one where a Knight serves as an administrator or faculty member — should first contact the school's administration to present the idea. Consider showing school officials the production, *Something More*, which outlines the Squires program. This production is available online for free download at www.kofc.org/films or from the Department of Fraternal Services, free of charge, except for \$3 for shipping and handling. Allow at least four weeks for delivery.

Also, give administrators materials about the Columbian Squires, such as the "Twenty Questions About the Columbian Squires" leaflet (#480), the "You In?" booklet (#4557), and the "Believe in Fun" flyer (#4556). Both items are available from the Supreme Council Supply Department at no cost. Please use a Requisition Form (#1) when ordering. Once the circle is established it will operate in the same manner as other circles under the guidance of a council or assembly. Circle meetings can be held before or after school. Also, a circle can be beneficial to a school in the support it can give to school activities. For more information on starting a circle, contact the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4402.

Recruiting in Schools

The first month of the school year is a prime opportunity for membership recruiting activities. Students will be looking for new extracurricular groups to join, and holding an open house is a great way to introduce them to your circle. Invite the students and their parents.

Ask your school's guidance counselor or principal if Squires could speak at an assembly or in front of their respective classes to encourage eligible Catholics to join. Your membership activities committee should prepare a recruiting plan and promotional materials in advance.

Holding a school-wide fundraiser or activity is another good way to spread the word about your circle. Make sure it benefits a cause that is important to your classmates.

Don't forget to talk to prospective members in religion classes and at your parish. Meet each prospect personally and invite him to a circle activity.

Use your programs as a stepping stone to get potential members interested and keep current Squires active. Highlight the good work your circle does while having fun.

Always get the principal's permission before beginning any recruitment activities in the school.



Whichever method of recruiting is used in the school, always put up posters in common areas, such as the lobby, cafeteria and hallways.

Tell the principal that Squire prospects must be Catholic young men 10 to 18 years old.

Information Booths

- ❖ In the school lobby, cafeteria or during a service day, set up a display table with table cloth, circle banner, circle photo album and Squires promotional literature (available from the Supply Department). Schedule two to three Squires to man the booth to answer questions, distribute flyers and have prospects complete prospect cards.

Public Address Announcements

- ❖ Use the school's public address system during homeroom period or daily announcements to tell all the students at once about joining the Squires.
- ❖ Prepare a brief written speech to present over the PA following morning announcements.
- ❖ One to two days before your presentation, leave packets of prospect cards (#1566) and a cover letter in each teacher's mailbox in the main or departmental offices. The cover letter should ask the teacher to: pass the prospect cards and flyers out to all male students at the beginning of your PA announcement; collect all prospect cards, completed or blank, at the end of the presentation; and return them all to the office.
- ❖ Arrive on time for your scheduled presentation. Let the principal know you are there. Check to be certain the prospect cards and flyers were distributed to the teachers.
- ❖ Make your presentation with enthusiasm. Be certain to leave enough time for students to complete their

Continued on page 2

MEMBERSHIP, continued from page 1

prospect cards and to hand them in before they must move to their first period class. Ask teachers to return the cards to the office immediately.

School Assemblies

- ❖ Arrange with the principal for you to make a presentation at a voluntary — or, better yet — a mandatory assembly, for all students who are eligible Squire prospects, to explain the Squires program, show a promotional Squires video, and to sign up prospective members.
- ❖ If the assembly is voluntary, great effort must be made to announce the assembly ahead of time and to create interest in attending. PA announcements, posters stating the time and place of the assembly, and a gimmick, such as a door prize or a raffle for attendees, might help draw an audience. For obvious reasons, a mandatory assembly for eligible Squire prospects is much preferred. In either case, both types of assemblies follow the same format.
- ❖ Ask teachers to direct students to sit as close to the speaker as possible. After introduction by the principal or teacher, the chief counselor should explain the Squires program while Squires pass out the flyers and prospect cards to attendees. A Squires promotional video may be shown, followed by the Squires describing activities the circle has conducted or is planning, and the benefits they have received or are eligible for as Squires.
- ❖ A short question-and-answer session should be followed by the chief counselor asking everyone, whether they are sure they want to join or not, to complete a prospect

card in order to get more information about how to join. If girls or non-Catholics are present, ask them for referrals of eligible Catholic young men, 10 to 18 years old. All cards, completed or blank, should be collected before the bell sounds ending the period.

Class-to-Class Recruiting

- ❖ Arrange with the principal for Squires and/or counselors to recruit class-to-class for new members, giving a 10- to 15-minute presentation in each classroom.
- ❖ Ask the principal to use the morning announcements to remind teachers to expect you during the school day.
- ❖ Obtain a school map and course schedule to help plan which classes to visit and where. Each Squire and counselor should be able to make two or three presentations per each 45-minute period.
- ❖ Bring prospect cards and flyers to each room and ask students to help pass them out right after the teacher introduces you. Make your presentation about five to 10 minutes, ask for and answer questions, then ask eligible Squire prospects to fill out a prospect card. If girls or non-Catholics are present, ask them for referrals of eligible Catholic young men, 10 to 18 years old, who might be interested in joining the Squires. Collect all cards, completed or blank, in time to move to the next presentation during that period, or, if the period is about to end, before the bell rings. Follow up by contacting each prospect by e-mail or phone, inviting him to join your circle. Use similar recruiting methods in religious education classes, after getting approval from the parish's director of religious education.

For more information on the Squires and ideas on recruiting visit www.kofc.org/squires

TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Jurisdictions with no membership gains or no circles are omitted. Large jurisdictions are represented in a ratio of one entry per every 40 circles.

AB	4759	St Albert	1	4863	Calumpit	44	NY	2541	Wantagh	20	
AL	4481	Adamsville	9	2442	Cuyapo Nueva	43		2259	Ronkonkoma	16	
AZ	5000	Phoenix	5	3039	Benguet	43	NC	4466	Charlotte	5	
BC	2937	Port Coquitlam	8	4358	Paranaque	39(tie)	OH	5033	West Chester	11	
CA	931	Lancaster	23	4617	Natividad	39(tie)	OK	5275	Broken Arrow	6	
	4332	Valley Center	15	MB	5263	Winnipeg	4	ON	5217	Toronto	18
CO	1042	Brighton	10	MD	4423	Eldersburg	7(tie)		5038	Toronto	13
CT	1512	East Bridgeport	6		4914	Bryantown	7(tie)	PA	4654	York	10
DE	5248	Smyrna	3	MI	758	Dearborn Heights	6	QC	4921	Ste Rose De Lima	3
FL	3877	Miami	20	MN	4100	Pine City	5	RI	5211	Coventry	3
GA	4976	Roswell	15	MS	81	Vicksburg	3	TN	2655	Knoxville	13(tie)
GU	4856	Mangilao	8	MO	4893	Chesterfield	4		5075	Jackson	13(tie)
IL	4284	Lisle	33	MXSO	4852	Ciudad del Carmen	2	TX	2040	Keller	26
IN	5205	Lebanon	5	MZ	1875	Tacurong	22		5022	Harker Heights	22
IA	4930	Sioux City	7		4896	Talagag Bukidnon	18	VT	3611	San Antonio	21
KS	4217	Conway Springs	10		4144	Zamboanga City	16	VA	4590	Milton	5
KY	4884	Hawesville	6		3055	Pigcawayan	15		5188	Virginia Beach	11(tie)
LA	4114	Simmesport	11		3946	Mu Panabo Davao	14(tie)		5207	Fredericksburg	11(tie)
LP	5230	Longos Pulilan	329		3371	Bo Taft Surigao	14(tie)	VP	4734	Jagna Bohol	75
	3408	Sariaya	100	NE	5253	Omaha	12		705	Bacolod	41
	2504	Baguio	79	NV	4992	Henderson	2		4662	Tacloban	24
	2190	Isabela	62	NH	3847	Epping	3(tie)		4322	Loay Bohol	15(tie)
	3767	Meycauayan	59		4273	Plaistow	3(tie)		4838	Bacolod Neg	15(tie)
	4613	Calapan Oriental	57		4897	Londonderry	3(tie)	WA	2353	Everett	10
	2504	Baguio	57	NJ	5070	Arlington	12	WV	535	Clarksburg	4
	3655	Valenzuela	49	NL	1803	St Johns	6				

SQUIRES IN ACTION



As part of their parish's Good Shepherd casserole program, Squires from **St. Patrick Circle 2041**, in **Brampton, Ontario**, helped cook four casseroles for the parish's donation to the Good Shepherd Refuge Centre.

St. Patrick Circle 2041 also participated in **St. Paul Adoration** in commemoration of the year of **St. Paul** as designated by **Pope Benedict XVI**. The Squires acted as servers during the Masses, Stations of the Cross, and adoration.



St. Dominic Savio Circle 5078 in **Parrish, Fla.**, recently presented a talent show at **St. Frances Cabrini church**. The show consisted of 10 acts by the Squires, Knights from **Mother Cabrini Council 12155**, and a number of parishioners. It ended with an all-hands version of *Macarena*. Proceeds of the talent show were contributed to the parish to help build a community center.

Squires from **Blessed Trinity Circle 5146** in **Greer, S.C.**, assisted Knights from their **Blessed Trinity Council 12274** with an annual pig roast. The proceeds from the event go to **Catholic Charities** to help the needy in the community.



Members of **St. Francis of Assisi Council 13456** in **Henderson, Nev.**, **St. Francis of Assisi Ladies Auxiliary**, together with **St. Padre Pio Circle 4992** and their families volunteered to sell programs at the **Las Vegas Motor Speedway** for the **NASCAR** event. The Group raised **\$10,000** for their charitable fund.



Brother Vincent Council 7517 in **Smyrna, Del.**, the **Saint Polycarp Circle 5248**, and the local **Smyrna Firemen's Band** held a **Super Bowl Party** at the **Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill** in **Smyrna**. The Knights and the Squires prepared and served the residents a lunch of pizza, hot dogs, snacks and soda after the band played for one hour. Pictured from left: **Bursar Colin Pyle**, **Chief Squire Thomas Gaylord**, **Notary Eli Krause**, **Service Chairman Nicholas DeZao**, **Grand Knight Richard DeZao**.

Send Us Your Squires News

Use the "Squires Newsletter/Major Activity Report" (#363) located in the *Circle Report Forms Booklet* (#401), or use the online form at www.kofc.org/squires. Be sure to include the circle name and number, a description of the event, the number of hours given on the project, funds raised and/or donated, number of participants and other specifics. Also, list the project chairman's name with a phone number and/or e-mail address. Please include a photo, especially an "action" shot. If your photo is printed, the circle will receive a \$25 credit on its account.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPREME COUNCIL

1 Columbus Plaza • New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • 203-752-4000 • www.kofc.org/squires • william.obrien@kofc.org



Squires Can Make Youth Programs Successful

Squires can be active participants or volunteers in some of the Order's most successful and fun youth programs. With Knights and Squires working together, these youth programs will see increased involvement and growth in 2009.

Since 1972, the Knights of Columbus has sponsored the Free Throw Championship. Planning for this event usually starts in November and it's held in January, but it is never too early to encourage your sponsoring council to begin preparations.



To hold the competition, your sponsoring council needs the Free Throw Championship Kit (#FT-KIT), a couple of basketballs, a hoop and a group of kids. It is a great way to get out into the public and introduce the Order to your community — while providing youths with a rewarding activity that yields a chance for local, state or provincial, and international recognition.

If possible, help your council get approval from the superintendent of schools to promote the program. Make a presentation to the physical education teachers to gain their support, and ask local businesses to donate food, soda, paper plates, napkins, etc., in exchange for publicity at the event and in related press releases. Squires can drum up enthusiasm about the event with their non-Squire friends as well as potential new circle members.



Another sports activity is the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Open to all boys and girls in your commu-

nity, ages 10 to 14, each player is allowed 15 shots at the goal from the penalty line (12 yards from the goal). Points are awarded depending upon the area of the scoring zones through which the ball passes.

Spread the word about the competition among your friends and be sure to talk up the benefits of joining the Squires to those who are eligible.

The Order's Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is a great way to reinforce a positive anti-drug message and get an entire school community involved. If your sponsoring council isn't currently participating in this program with your school (it's open to students ages 8 through 14), ask them to consider contacting the principal or guidance department regarding starting it.

In each of these programs, winners at the council level can move on to higher levels of competition and earn prizes.

Find details on all of these programs at www.kofc.org/service under "Youth" activities.

Report Deadlines and Upcoming Activities

Aug. 1

Officers, Chairmen and Counselors Report (#468)
Youth Leader applications (#4348)

Aug. 8-16

K of C Family Week

Aug. 12

Father McGivney's birth

Aug. 14

Father McGivney's death

Sept. 1

Semiannual Circle Status and Audit Report (#247)

Sept. 11

K of C Day of Prayer for Peace