

**Knights of Columbus
Arkansas State Council**

Vocations Director

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) is the program the Knights of Columbus has successfully used to support religious vocations for over twenty- five years. The program is set up to refund one hundred dollars for each five hundred dollars (\$500.00) the council gives to support a particular seminarian or postulant. In 2000-2001, Knights reported raising and disbursing nearly \$2 million in financial support to 3,400 seminarians and postulants through RSVP. At that time RSVP had funneled nearly \$25 million to candidates for religious life. The Orders goal is to adopt every seminarian in the Untied States and Canada. Each year we come closer to that goal.

Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson said; ***“The promotion of vocations is an urgent responsibility of every Catholic community. Simply put, the Church cannot function without the sacramental priesthood. Without priests, there is no Eucharist, without the Eucharist, there is no Church.”***

In his message for the 39th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope John Paul wrote: ***“It is necessary to adopt all means to ensure that vocations to the priesthood and that vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, essential for the life and holiness of God’s people, are continuously at the center of spirituality, of pastoral action and of prayer of the faithful.”***

Not only must the council support them with money; the council must also support them morally and spiritually. This is done through letters, birthday cards, telephone calls, visits prayers and more prayers.

With every Council supporting a Seminarian imagine the support he would give the Knights of Columbus and the impact on our membership after he was ordained a Priest. Councils may also want to consider entering a partnership with Mexico and supporting their seminarians. In Mexico support as little as \$250.00 can mean the difference of a person entering or staying in the Seminary. What an opportunity to make this a ***“Better World, One Person, One Council at a Time.”*** Remind the Grand Knights to send their monetary support for seminarians to the Vocations Director of the Little Rock Diocese if they support a Seminarian in Mexico.

Encourage our Councils and Assemblies to celebrate Vocation Awareness week each January, World Vocations day in April or May, and regularly pray for vocations. In addition, encourage Councils and Assemblies to meet early in the Fraternal Year and ask their Pastor what they can do to help him.

The State Council Vocation Director is expected to attend the State Council Organizational Meeting, Mid-Year Meeting, State Convention and his Districts Deputy

Meetings and all 2nd & 3rd and 4th Degree Exemplifications in your geographical region. At the Organizational Meeting the State Council Program Chairman through the State Deputy will furnish copies of promotional material including the “*Surge with Service*” booklet and goals and objectives for the fraternal year. .

State Council Vocation Director

Mission

The mission of the State Vocation Director is to coordinate with the Vocation Director of the Little Rock Diocese and determine which seminarians need our financial support. Your goal is to assure every seminarian receives support from our Councils and Assemblies.

Objectives

- Encourage 100% participation of every Council and Assembly in the state in the Order’s RSVP program.
- At the State Council Organizational Meeting provide every District Deputy with guidelines for the Grand Knights that encourage their participation in the RSVP Program.
- Provide information that the Grand Knights can use to fill out the RSVP refund request and when it should be completed and mailed to Supreme.
- Educate our Brother Knights the importance of moral support of our Seminarians through personal letters, Birthday Cards, Cards for Holidays and occasionally to send them cookies or other small gifts.
- Inform the Grand Knights a method for them to assure a refund through the RSVP program if their bank does not return cancelled checks.
- Publicize the RSVP with monthly articles in the State Council Newsletter and quarterly items to be posted on the State Council web site.

Method

To accomplish these objectives the Program Directors in Arkansas must instill in all District Deputies the need to take back to each council the means to conduct all programs as they are designed to operate.

Directors and District Deputies are the lifeline of success for the Order in Arkansas. They must work with all councils to understand that ***strong programs mean strong membership. Remind them that 88% of our members joined the Order to get involved in Church or other activities.***

Program Directors will be required to assist the State Program Director in voting for the Program of the Year for each of the five categories.

At the conclusion of your term furnish the incoming State Vocation Director with an updated copy of your duties and responsibilities.

Take someone on a Journey of a lifetime Recruit him into the Knights of Columbus

The only way to recruit a member is to have a Form #100 in hand

Vocations Director	Time allocation	
Function Performed	Minimum Commitment	
Attend State Organizational Meeting	14	Hrs Once
Attend District Leadership Conference	4	Hrs Once
Attend State Mid Year Meeting	14	Hrs Once
Attend State Convention	20	Hrs Once
Subtotal; State Functions	52	Hrs Once
Prepare/Post Newsletter articles	1.5	Hrs/Mo
Interface w/Other Directors & Chairmen	4	Hrs/Mo
Council Interface	2	Hrs/Mo
Subtotal; Program Functions	90	Hrs/yr
Total Time Commitment	142	Hrs/Yr

All functions listed exclude travel time and no reliable estimate may be made regarding incurred expenses.