



Your Guide to a Stronger Council

NEW MEMBER MENTOR TRAINING

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Hello Brothers! My name is Mike and I am the Grand Knight of my council. I am here to introduce a program to you that every council should consider conducting.



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As a Council, we are often looking for men who will become the Knights we want to develop into solid leaders. The program I am about to introduce to you will help all of us meet that challenge and develop strong, involved council leadership.



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How does this simple yet effective program benefit the council?

- We maintain contact with the new member, particularly within the first critical few months
- We get him to his next meeting
- We get him to our socials
- We get him involved in our council activities



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- We help him understand the purpose of our dues
- It brings new members into the council. By his achieving the Shining Armor award, he has helped grow the council.
- The new member can then mentor his new candidate and thus, we have created a program of perpetual growth and involvement within our council.



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- We help him be involved, feel welcome and with a little TLC in those first few months, make him the “quality Knight” we were looking for, active and engaged.
- An active and engaged Knight helps us increase the volunteer actions and charitable works we can do to serve the poor, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless
- This ensures our future, helps us grow, and keeps more Catholic families within the church.

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- Most members believe that the new member's proposer is his "mentor".
- The truth is, not only does this often not happen, some members don't ask men to join because they don't want to have that responsibility.
- So how do we get "quality Knights"??

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WE TRAIN THEM and
MAKE them the “quality
Knight” we are looking
for!!



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Several years ago, Supreme published a manual entitled:

LEADERSHIP GUIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

In 2002, the Supreme Council instituted the Shining Armor Award. The LEADERSHIP GUIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT combines the Shining Armor Award with the duties of a Mentor.

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Leadership Guide
for
Membership Recruitment



The Mentor Program and the Shining Armor Award criteria can be found on page 17 of The *LEADERSHIP GUIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT*. In the revised copy you will find it on page 29.

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The MENTOR can be any council member but should:

- Volunteer for the role – indicates an interest in helping
- Know the council
- Know the Knights of Columbus
- Have a good attendance record at council meetings
- Be willing to be the new member's first "best friend" within the council

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- Who coordinates this program?
 - The Council *Chancellor* has this honour as he is responsible for making new men feel welcome and getting them involved in council programs. He coordinates the Mentor Program.
- How does this work?
 - Let's move on



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Allow me to introduce you to Brother Dave, our Council Chancellor, who will help you understand how the Mentor program works.



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- As early as possible after the conclusion of the First Degree Ceremony, the Chancellor needs to formally welcome the new member to the council.



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Welcome Brother Tom, I am very pleased that you have decided to belong to the Knights of Columbus . There are a couple of men I want you to meet. First, you indicated that you are interested in working with the Youth, so I want you to meet Brother Pat. Brother Pat is our Youth Director and you will now be a part of his committee.

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For any Youth activities the council engages in, you should expect to be contacted by Brother Pat who will be looking for your help. Before you go home tonight, Brother Pat will ensure the two of you exchange phone numbers so that you can reach one another.

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The Second man I want you to meet is Brother Gary. Our council is fortunate to have several members who have volunteered to be mentors and Brother Gary will be yours. Here is what Brother Gary is going to do for you...

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- Your mentor will:
 - Ensure you both trade phone numbers before leaving tonight
 - Call you within a week to answer any questions you might have had about the First Degree or what you did tonight
 - He will call you a few days prior to our next meeting to remind you of the meeting, and offer you a ride. Travel with him if you can.

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- What else will Gary do for you?
 - He will pick you up for the meeting
 - He will invite you and your wife to our next council social activity
 - He will take you to your Major Degrees if your Proposer is unable to
 - He will help you understand why we pay dues
 - He will answer any questions you have about the Order.
 - He will protect you from being elected as Grand Knight or Deputy Grand Knight until you have first served as Chancellor. This is part of the succession planning that will ensure we get a more effective Grand Knight..

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I am going to give you this form from our LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP GUIDE. Completing this form - that you will monitor and return to Gary within 6 months - will enable you to achieve the Shining Armour award. Gary will give you whatever help you need.

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Completing this form, meeting with your Field Agent and bringing in a new member within 12 months will earn you the SHINING ARMOR AWARD!



New Member Orientation and Mentoring Worksheet

In order for a new member to assimilate into the council, he must become connected to the other council members and become aware of the many programs that are available to them within the council.

The Shining Armor Award program is a great tool for getting a new member active in your council from the moment he takes his First Degree. One other way to ensure that a new member gets started off on the right foot within the council is to assign him a mentor for his first year of membership, this person can be his proposer or a Knight that the new member knows.

Another effective orientation tool is a checklist for a new member to use that outlines the many opportunities for gaining knowledge about the Knights of Columbus and how to become active in council programs. The check list found below should be delivered to the new member by his mentor soon after the First Degree. The mentor Knight should offer assistance to the new member in completing the checklist.

Welcome to the Knights of Columbus

Name: _____

Brother _____ has been assigned to be your mentor; he will answer your questions about council procedures, meeting dates and times and help you to get the most out of your Knights of Columbus membership. Completion of the items listed below within six months will greatly expand your vision about opportunities for service through your membership.

- | | Date Completed |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Read two or more of the following
(Ask your mentor how to obtain copies of each) | |
| Columbia Magazine..... | _____ |
| Parish Priest..... | _____ |
| These Men They Call Knights..... | _____ |
| By Their Works..... | _____ |
| The Surge with . . . Service Manual..... | _____ |
| Did You Know..... | _____ |
| 2. Watch <i>Experience of a Lifetime</i> Video..... | _____ |
| 3. Explore WWW.KOFC.ORG..... | _____ |
| 4. Attend the following: | |
| A council service project of interest to you..... | _____ |
| A service project committee meeting..... | _____ |
| A council social with your family..... | _____ |
| Mass with the council members..... | _____ |
| 5. Complete one or more of the following tasks: | |
| Actively assist in a service project..... | _____ |
| Interact during a council meeting..... | _____ |

Please submit this completed form to your mentor before your six month anniversary

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- This is our commitment to you. By providing you with a Mentor, we are promising to make your membership a rewarding and fulfilling experience within our council.
- It is our commitment to you to ensure you feel welcomed
- It is our commitment to you that we are here for you and will answer whatever questions you may have.
- It is our commitment to you to help you get involved with the church and help make you a better Catholic, husband and dad.

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We want you to know, you are not alone Brother Tom. We are committed to help you get the most out of your experience with the Knights of Columbus. Do you have any questions at this time? Is there anything else you need from us now?

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This is the basis of the Mentor Program.
The council is free to add to it as long as
the intent is preserved. The care and
nurturing of every new member needs
to be important to us. He IS your
BROTHER!



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- Ultimately, an active and engaged Brother Knight ensures that our Church remains strong. And it all begins with making a new member feel welcome.

