



CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL
2016-2017 SERVICE PROGRAM HANDBOOK



YOUTH ESSAY PROGRAM/COMPETITION

Claire Tryon

YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

There will be two essay competitions this year. One is the Supreme Competition and another is at the Council/Chapter and state level.

The purpose of the essays is to promote an awareness of responsibility and accountability of the students in their Catholic education. Involvement is quite easy and helps develop a relationship between your Council and the youth of the community. The students and their parents become aware of the Knights and their role and involvement in today's society.

Start by contacting all the Catholic schools in your area and the Youth ministries in your parishes. They will be more aware of the ideals on which our Order was founded, and they should be willing to participate.

Eligibility: Open to all Catholic students in public, private or parochial schools.

Essay Submissions will fall into two groups.

Group A: Grades 4 thru 7 (Optional for Council, Chapter and State Levels Only – Does Not Advance to Supreme)

Group B: Grades 8 thru 12 (Qualifies for submission to State and Supreme)

Topics for Group A

4th Grade Topic:

“Ways I share My Time, Talents and Treasures at Home, School, and in My Church Community”

5th Grade Topic:

“In my life, who have been my Spiritual Role Models and Why?”

6th Grade Topic:

“How do I live Jesus’ Teaching, to Love Thy Neighbor?”

7th Grade Topic:

“How My Catholic / Christian School Education has influenced My Personal Values”

Topic for Group B

8th grade thru 12th grades

“The Importance of Religious Freedom”



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The Supreme Competition Kit can be ordered thru <http://www.californiaknights.org> found on the State website under Resources, Forms, and Council Forms. It also contains the Council/Chapter/State Entry sheets.

Awards

Awards are strongly encouraged and recommended at the Council/Chapter levels for Group A. Presenting the awards at a regular school assembly or at a Mass (with the pastor's permission) enhances our reputation as a Catholic family organization and provides a special recruitment opportunity.

Group A (4th through 7th Grade)

1st Place Plaque for each level Plus: \$50.00

Group B (8th through 12th Grade)

1st Place plaque for each Grade Level Plus \$100

2nd Place plaque for each Grade Level Plus \$50

Essay Rules Group A

1. The essay must be **250-500 words**, typed and double-spaced. Hand written essays will be accepted but may result in a lower score if illegible.
2. All Council submissions must have the new Council/Chapter/State essay form and include **the signature of the student and the parent(s) or guardian is a must. Teacher may be the Witness.**
3. The top essay from each grade will be scored by the Council Chairman and submitted to the Chapter Chairman for Group A.
4. Chapter Chairman will score top essay in each grade group and submit to State Chairman.
5. State Chairman will judge the top essay in each grade group (4th thru 7th) submitted to State.
6. State Plaques will be awarded for each winner.
7. Entry sheets must be signed by the Grand Knights and the Council number on the Entry sheet
8. Students are not to have their signature on the Essay.

Group B

1. The essay will be **500-700 words**, typed and double-spaced.
2. The top essay from each grade will be scored by the Council Chairman and submitted to the Chapter Chairman for Group B
3. All Council submissions must have the Supreme essay form attached and include the **signature of the student and parent(s) or guardian. Teachers may be the witness**
4. The Chapter will submit the best essay from each grade to the State Chairman. The State Council will advance the top essay in each grade level to Supreme for Group B
5. Entry sheets must be signed by the Grand Knights and the Council number on the entry sheet
6. Students are not to have their signature on the Essay.



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Judging Criteria

Group A Essays 4th thru 7th grades will be judged on a 100 point system as follows

1. Overall impression: How well does the essay describe the topic Up to 20 points
2. Content: Clear and logical presentation of theme Up to 30 points
3. Grammar: Organization, sentence construction,
Punctuation and correct spelling Up to 20 points
4. Style: Creativity and imagination in the development
of the topic and use of proper vocabulary Up to 30 points.

Judging Criteria

Group B Essays 8th thru 12th grades will be judged on a 100 point system

- 1 Content: Clear and logical presentation of theme Up to 35 points
- 2 Grammar: Organization, sentence construction,
Punctuation and correct spelling Up to 30 points
- 3 Style: Creativity and imagination in the development
of the topic and use of proper vocabulary Up to 35 points.

Schedule

July/August 2016	Order Kits
Sept - Jan. 15, 2017	Council competition among schools
Jan. 31, 2017	Council level judging for Group A and B
Feb. 25, 2017	Chapter level judging for Group A and B
March 15, 2017	State level judging for Group A and B
March 31, 2017	Group B Winners Only sent to Supreme by April 15 th

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YOUTH POSTER PROGRAM/SUBSTANCE ABUSE POSTER COMPETITION

Robert Pineschi

Young people have been tempted by alcohol and drug abuse for decades now. The Knights of Columbus continues to fight against alcohol abuse and drug usage as part of the family, religious and fraternal mission. The false glamour attached to these twin evils has ruined far too many lives. The Poster Contest, which is sponsored by the Supreme Council, is part of an effort to shatter the allure of substance abuse and let young people communicate directly to one another regarding this serious topic.

This contest is open to all youth from 8 – 14 years old from your community. They are asked to design and create posters that communicate a message of sobriety and the dangers of substance abuse. Their efforts are submitted to local councils for judging. After that, the winner from each council will go up to the Chapter level. The Chapter winner will progress to the State Council's Youth Activities Program. Finally, the State winner will go on for International judging at the Supreme Council. The International level winners will serve as the basis for substance abuse awareness materials to be produced and distributed by the Supreme Council. Prizes are awarded along the way to winning entries. Winning posters become the property of the Knights of Columbus.

Eligibility Requirements:

Contestants will compete in two age groups for purposes of judging: (**Age as of January 1st**)

Age 8 through 11

Age 12 through 14

Poster Topics:

Entries in the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest fall under only one of two topics:

- Alcohol Awareness and Abuse
- Drug Awareness and Abuse

Entrant can only enter in **one of the categories**.

Judging Criteria:

Teams of young people, Knights, teachers, administrators, students, substance abuse counselors and law enforcement officials should be involved in judging the posters. In keeping with the theme of giving young people the opportunity to develop their own solutions to the challenges they face, it is particularly important to involve young people in the process. **The criteria for scoring posters are listed below and must be written on the Poster Entry form:**

Criteria	Description	Point Range
Slogan	How clearly is the theme presented?	1 to 30
Visuals	How well do the visuals convey the message?	1 to 30
Overall Impact	How effective is the poster in capturing your attention and causing you to reflect on the topic?	1 to 40



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Awards:

The local Council, Chapter, State and Supreme Councils determine monetary or other prizes for participation. Winner and participant certificates should be awarded. These certificates are included in the Poster Contest Kit available for the Council to order from the Supreme website.

Timeline:

Contest can start as early as September and run to late January. Kits need to be ordered by October 31st

Questions about this program may be answered by looking in the Surge with Service kits provided to local councils by the Supreme Council. Additional questions should be directed to the Chapter or State Chairman. Local competition for the Poster Contest is under the authority of the Council Program Chairman or Council Youth Chairman. Subsequent competition will be under the authority of the State Poster Chairman and State Youth Activities Chairman

Competition Kit Order Form:

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/forms/council/SA-KITOnline.pdf> found on the State website under Resources or by calling Supreme (203) 752-4016.

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Sample Letter to Schools/CCD programs
(Send on Council Letterhead)

<Date>

< Name>

<School>

<Address>

< City, State, Zip>

Dear <Salutation><Name>:

<Council Name><Council Number> of the Knights of Columbus together with the California State Council is again sponsoring a **Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest** open to all boys and girls ages 8 through 14. We would like to encourage your school to participate. The rules are as follows:

1. Contestants will compete in two age groups for purposes of judging:
Ages 8 through 11
Ages 12 through 14
2. Posters must reflect either the theme of Alcohol Awareness and Abuse **OR** Drug Awareness and Abuse.
3. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of a single person.
4. Posters must be 11 x 17 inches in size. If pastels, chalk, or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic. Posters may be in color or black and white.
5. Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Entry Form. The name and age of the person entering the poster should be included on the back of the poster.
6. All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus.

The top three posters in each group from your school should be sent to <Poster Contest Chairman> of Council <Council Number> at the above address. All entries must be postmarked by <date>. Judging will be based on Slogan, Visuals, and Overall Impact. The first place winner within each group will win a monetary or other prize. The top ranked poster will then be entered into the <Chapter Name> poster contest for further consideration and prizes.

We hope that you will encourage your students to participate. If you have any questions regarding this contest, feel free to contact me at <Chairman's Phone Number>.

[Best of luck to your students!](#)



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**Knights of Columbus
Substance Abuse Poster Contest
Check List for January through March**

<u>Deadlines for each Level</u>	<u>Judging</u>
Council Level January 25 District Level (optional) February 14 Chapter Level March 15 State April 15	Slogan 1-30 points Visuals 1-30 points Overall Impact 1-40 points
<u>Important Information on Poster Entry Forms</u>	<u>Judging Deductions</u>
1. Needs 3 Signatures- Contestant, Parent or Guardian and Witness (Knight) 2. Check age as of January 1, 2017 3. Home address and phone (only) NO School address and phone 4. Council # is needed 5. Age Group 8-11 OR 12-14 6. One Theme 7. Contestant can only compete in ONE Category. Alcohol OR Drug Awareness 8. Send a copy of your Participation form to Supreme and State Chairman at the end of your competition.	1. Poster NOT 11 x 17 inches 2. More than one Theme 3. Computer generated pictures Must be entrants own work/pictures 4. In wrong age group 5. NO entry form attached 6. If charcoal or pastels, needs to be laminated 7. Posters NOT received by due date 8. Multiple students creating one poster

Check out the Posters at the 2017 State Convention.

Any questions, please contact:

Bob Pineschi, K of C California State Poster Chairman

pineschibob@yahoo.com or (916) 645-8366