

State Service Program Director's Message – August 2026

Worthy Brother Knights,

July has come and gone, and we are now entering the month of August. I hope everyone had a successful start to the new fraternal year. Our District Deputies have completed their workshops, and I trust they are now holding district meetings to review the new Columbian Award (SP-7) requirements and the path to earning the Star Council Award. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to ensure every council understands the changes and is prepared for a successful year of service.

By now, every council should have submitted Form 365 (Program Personnel Report) and Form 185 (Report of Officers Chosen for the Term). These forms are essential because they allow Supreme to communicate directly with your council leadership and ensure that Safe Environment training is sent to the appropriate officers, including the Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director. If your council has not yet submitted these forms, please do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance, contact Larry Dietz at larry.dietz@californiaknights.org.

As we begin planning our fall activities, now is the time to prepare for several of our signature youth and community programs. Councils planning to participate in the Soccer Challenge should order their kits through Supreme Supplies Online. Council competitions should be held in September, followed by district competitions in late September or early October, and chapter competitions during October. The California State Soccer Challenge is tentatively scheduled for November 14 or November 21 on the Central Coast.

Councils should also begin preparing for the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest by ordering kits through Supreme Supplies Online. Information regarding the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is available on the California State Knights of Columbus website. If you have questions regarding either program, please contact Brother Bob Pineschi. Beginning these programs early will help ensure a successful event later this year.

October will once again bring our annual Intellectual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) Drive, so now is the time to order your Tootsie Rolls and complete the required participation form available on the California State website. This program continues to make a tremendous impact by supporting children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout our communities. Councils may also choose to designate a portion of their proceeds to support Feed the Athletes for Special Olympics.

Silver Rose Program

The Silver Rose will arrive in California on August 15 and will travel through several chapters during August and early September.

Silver Rose Schedule

- August 16–22: Northern California Chapter
- August 22–25: Redwood Chapter
- August 25–30: Oakland Diocese Chapter
- August 30–September 3: St. Francis Chapter
- September 3–8: San Jose Chapter

If your council would like to host the Silver Rose, please contact your Chapter President to schedule a visit. During its time at your parish, the Silver Rose should always be displayed in a place of honor and accompanied by a Rosary, Novena, Eucharistic Adoration, or another Marian devotion. Because the schedule is limited, please be mindful of the allotted time so every council has the opportunity to participate. Whenever possible, invite your Fourth Degree Honor Guard to stand watch as a visible sign of our Order's respect and devotion. The Silver Rose Program is a beautiful opportunity to bring your parish community together in prayer for the sanctity of human life, and the protection of our Blessed Mother.

This month's featured programs are RSVP (Refund Support Vocations Program) and W.R.A.P. (Women Religious Assistance Program). Through RSVP, councils are encouraged to sponsor a seminarian with a minimum annual contribution of \$500 while supporting him throughout his formation with prayers, letters, emails, and messages of encouragement. Supreme will reimburse participating councils \$100 upon submission of the required form. This program satisfies either Requirement 1 or Requirement 2 of the Columbian Award (SP-7).

The Women Religious Assistance Program encourages councils to support the sisters serving throughout our dioceses. Whether through financial assistance or volunteer service around their convents, every act of support demonstrates our gratitude for their faithful service to the Church.

Finally, remember that every program is a membership opportunity. Have membership information and a QR code available at every event. Sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation:

“Would you like to make a difference in someone's life—or even your own? Join the Knights of Columbus.”

Please remember to complete Form 10784 after every program. The form is automatically submitted to Supreme, but be sure to email your copy to programs@californiaknights.org. We also encourage you to share photos of your events on Facebook using #KofCCalifornia2026 so we can continue showcasing how California Knights are making a difference in our communities.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving your parishes and communities. Together, let's continue building stronger councils and making this a successful fraternal year.

Faternally,

Joseph Hill
California State Service Program Director