



Knights of Columbus / Chevaliers de Colomb

Nova Scotia State Council

Building the Domestic Church

Making a Difference for Life

“Convinced of God’s Love & Power”

Safe Environment Policy Quick General Reference Guide

- A *Knights of Columbus* “youth activity” is an activity whose principal subjects are minor children (under the age of 18). Basketball Free Throw, Soccer Challenge, etc are such examples.
- All youth activities sponsored by the Knights of Columbus require at least one member who has been background checked and trained through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program.
- Typically, this would normally be the council Youth Director.
- The Supreme Knights of Columbus Office of Youth Protection has been endeavoring to have all 75 Jurisdictions become compliant with the *Safe Environment Program* since July of 2016. The original target date for compliance was set for the end of this present Columbian Year- June 2018.
- COMPLIANCE means that specific officers and appointees of the Jurisdiction be trained through the *Supreme Safe Environment Program Praesidium Armatus training course*. In addition some of these officers and appointees are required to submit to the *Safe Environment Background Check*.
- At the council level, it is required to have the council Youth Director trained and background checked. It is also required that the Grand Knight be trained. If the council does not have a Youth Director, then and only then does the Grand Knight need to submit to the Safe Environment Program Background Check. Therefore, it is to the Grand Knights benefit to ensure that a council Youth Director be appointed.
- Nova Scotia is slowly but steadily progressing to meet the compliance target date. State Program Director Sean Kelly is collecting the names of the council Grand Knights and Youth Directors who are becoming compliant. Grand Knights are to report to Brother Sean as they and the Youth Directors become trained and background checked.
- If a council has not yet met with compliance but wants to run a youth activity, the council can use a compliant member (trained and background checked) from another council to stand in while the activity takes place. This would be only a temporary solution of course until the non-compliant council becomes compliant.
- To be eligible for Star Council Awards, councils must be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements.
- PLEASE NOTE that being or becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus does not constitute volunteer activity and therefore has no direct relationship to the Safe Environment Status of a council. A non-compliant council does not preclude or prevent a new member from joining that council. This comes directly from the Safe Environment Policy.
- Any further reference on the Safe Environment Program can be made through the Supreme Office of Youth Protection: ovp@kofc.org 203-752-4558 * State Deputy’s Office : cfjreidsdkofc@gmail.com 902-440-2583