

## Frequently Asked Questions

***Can I attend a Knights of Columbus meeting before I join so I can see if I want to belong?***

Unfortunately not. All Knights of Columbus meetings are open only to those who hold membership in at least the First Degree.

***Council meetings are held twice a month. How many would I be required to attend?***

Although every member of every Council is strongly encouraged to attend every meeting so that they can be active in the Council and be kept informed of the Council's activities, there is no requirement to attend every meeting. Knights have families, jobs, and alternate commitments, and it is understood that they cannot always attend all meetings. And during the Summer months, there is usually only one meeting per month. However, it is to your advantage to attend as many meetings as possible, not only to have a voice in what is going on, but to take advantage of our meeting Attendance Prize. You could win money just for showing up at a meeting!

***What would I have to do or accomplish in order to attain each of the four degrees?***

Believe it or not, all you have to do is participate in the respective Degree Ceremonials, in order (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>.) There is no amount of work to do, no amount of money to raise, or any other criteria.

***Is there a membership fee?***

Yes. Each Council charges a respective annual membership fee. The 2010-2011 membership fee for Council 11615 (Annunciation) is \$35.00.

***Do I have to belong to Annunciation parish to be a member of Council 11615?***

No. Any practicing Catholic male over the age of 18 can join any Council, no matter where it is located.

***If I have a membership card from Council 11615, can I attend Knights of Columbus meetings held by other Councils as well?***

Yes, your Knights of Columbus membership card is respected and welcome at all Knights of Columbus meetings, provide you have attained the degree-level of that particular meeting. For instance, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight is welcome at any meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree or below, but cannot attend a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting.

***If I join the Knights of Columbus, do I have to participate in the Insurance program?***

There is no requirement for Knights to participate in the Insurance program, but it is highly recommended that all Knights at least become aware of the opportunities offered by the Insurance program.

***I've been told that if I join the Knights of Columbus, I have to buy a Tuxedo. Is that true?***

The tuxedo is sort of the “uniform” of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. If you choose to take the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, you will at least need to rent a tuxedo to take the degree. If you decide to become active in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree and join the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Color Corps, you are highly encouraged buy a tuxedo.

Knights of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree do not have any requirements that call for a tuxedo.

***If I join the Knights of Columbus, am I expected to perform a particular number of hours of community service?***

No. There is no such requirement. However, the Knights’ motto is “In Service to One; In Service to All,” so performing some sort of community service is an ongoing tradition of the Knights.

***I've heard that the Knights of Columbus is one of those “secret” organizations. Is that true?***

No. The Knights of Columbus is a very visible organization. The only thing “secret” are our Degree Ceremonials. Knights take a pledge not to reveal the nature of the respective Degree Ceremonials. And while you must have a membership card to be admitted to the organization’s meetings, that holds true for most organizations.

***When and where are the Degree Ceremonials held?***

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Ceremonials are held on various evenings and at various locations throughout the year and throughout the State. Local Councils take turns hosting 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree ceremonials. The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification is held twice annually by the Maryland District of the Calvert Province, which covers the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Western Maryland as far west as Garrett County. The site is determined yearly.

***Where can I read more about the Knights of Columbus?***

Try our National and State Web Sites at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) (National) and [www.kofc-md.org](http://www.kofc-md.org) (State) or our Council Web Site at [www.kofc11615.com](http://www.kofc11615.com), and read until you’re exhausted.