

Arizona Knights of Columbus Charity Raffle



**Knights of
Columbus®**
**Arizona
State Council**

2026 Charity Raffle Guide

Information for your successful
Charity Raffle

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Executive Summary 2026

1. Grand Knight to identify Charity Raffle Chairman and create raffle committee to help him.
2. Set a sales goal, for example: At least 10% above last year's results to earn bonus
3. Grand Knight or Charity Raffle Chairman please make sure that tickets are in the hands of your council members as soon as possible. If you did not receive them from your District Deputy by mid January, 2026, contact State Charity Raffle Director Joe Rostowsky (jrostowsky@gmail.com or Phone: 480-241-0406).
4. Council Charity Raffle Chairman and committee to determine "Council Marketing" effort. Note - Make sure to discuss your council's plan with council leadership and your Pastor.
5. Grand Knight and Charity Raffle Chairman to determine charity(s) to receive council share (**MUST BE A 501c3**) organization. This MUST be done before the 2026 State Convention as **NO CHANGES** will be allowed after the State Convention. NOTE: Your council is not considered an eligible 501c3 charity by default. Councils are 501c8 – Fraternal Benefit Societies.
6. Recommendation is to distribute books to all members. **Tickets cannot be sent through the US Mail**. Books must be distributed at a council meeting, outside church or through other creative face to face interactions.
7. **The name on the ticket stub is considered the winner, not the person who purchased the ticket.**
8. **Winner must be a living person and able to claim their prize.**
9. **Winner must have a Tax ID number for tax purposes.**
10. **Winners must be 21 years of age or older by May 2, 2026.** Please take note of the wording on the 2026 ticket example on the next page.
11. Charity Raffle Chairman oversees distribution of tickets to all members, promotes the raffle, sales records and turns in all raffle monies and checks to the Financial Secretary. Charity Raffle committee prepares ticket stubs by marking council number on reverse side of ticket stubs, removing staple and separating tickets.
12. Fill out the 2026 AZ State Charity Raffle Sales Report which MUST be turned in at the 2026 State Convention along with tickets stubs with a single **council check** for the total amount collected through the campaign. **The council check must be written to the "AZ Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc."** or mailed (to be received no later than April 25th), to:
Joe Rostowsky – State Raffle Chairman 2217 W. Calle Marita Phoenix, AZ 85085

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13. Council receives 50% of their sales returned for their charity(s). State will issue a check(s) that will be sent to Financial Secretary following the convention in the name of the charity(s) and the \$ amount.
14. Charity Raffle Chairman should collect ticket stubs and monies often and maintain a running log of sales \$\$ to update council on progress toward goal. Promote raffle at EVERY meeting and council event – esp. Fish Fries and Pancake Breakfasts.
15. **2026 Incentive bonus plan** – The bonus is calculated from the **State's half** of the total sales. Same as we did in 2024 and 2025, incentive bonuses will only be able to go to a designated charity. Incentive bonuses will no longer be given to a council to put into their general fund. The bonus check will be made out to charity the is getting the largest donation or the charity designated on the report form. The incentive bonus will be awarded using the same formula as the past. See example below.

Councils with 2025 sales:

*\$1,000 to \$5,000 must increase ticket sales by 10% to earn a 10% bonus.
of \$5,001 to \$10,000 must increase sales by 7.5% to earn a 10% bonus.
of \$10,001 to \$15,000 must increase sales by 5% to earn a 10% bonus.
of \$15,001 to \$20,000 must increase sales by 2.5% to earn a 10% bonus.
over \$20,000 need to exceed their 2024 sales to earn a 10% bonus.*

16. As in the past several years, the program remains 5 tickets for \$20, and 6 books for \$100, which gives the ticket buyer an extra book of tickets.
17. CHECK OUT THE STATE WEBSITE FOR PRINTABLE COPIES OF THE POSTERS at www.KofC-AZ.org.



Knights of
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ANNUAL
CHARITY
DRAWING

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____
Sold By: _____

Individual named here must be 21 years or older.



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ANNUAL DRAWING TO
SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES
Saturday, May 2, 2026

1st Prize: \$10,000;

2nd Prize: \$7,000 3rd Prize: \$5,000 4th Prize: \$3,000

5th Prize - \$2,000 7th Prize - \$500 9th Prize - \$500

6th Prize - \$1,000 8th Prize - \$500 10th Prize - \$500

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

DONATION: \$5 per ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets, \$100 for 30 tickets

Must be 21 years or older to participate. Any person winning \$600 or more will be required to provide a completed IRS W-9 Form within 30 days of being notified to receive the prize.

See Charity Raffle Guide for complete rules at: <https://kofc-az.org/home>

We can't rest on our laurels – Time to regroup a bit

Welcome to another year of the Arizona Knights of Columbus State Council Charity Raffle!

As usual we start with a look back to the previous year. Looking back at 2025 we had a pretty good year. We sold \$326,872. Good for #8 on the All-Time sales list. Congratulations!

The issue is that we keep setting the bar so high year after year that the total for last year seems like such a “down” number. It wasn’t.

So why didn’t we do quite as well as 2024? Can we attribute this to anything that we can fix in 2026? I think so

#1 – Last year we had 4-5 less weeks to sell tickets. We moved the Mid-Year meeting to January and then the Convention was moved up two weeks to the beginning of May. To help combat that we are getting the raffle tickets into the DD’s hands early in the month of December. Hopefully they will then get them to the councils ASAP.

#2 In 2025 I stated I wanted to achieve two goals. Anyone remember them?

Goal 1 - Aim to have 100% participation from all active councils in the State. In 2024 we had 45 councils that didn’t participate in the State Raffle.

Goal 2 - For the councils that are selling a lot of tickets = encourage them to keep on doing what they have been doing for the last 3 years. For the councils that don’t sell as much – DD’s see what you can do to pair them up with the councils in your district (or in Tucson within the Chapter) that sell a lot of tickets so they can learn what makes them successful.

Unfortunately, last year we got worse instead of better when it came to council participation. We had 7 less councils selling. On top of that, the missing councils were sellers that contributed to big sales numbers in 2024. If we can get them back in 2026 our bigger sales total should return

Last point. Our wrap up to the 2025 Raffle was the BEST EVER!! We had no problem with any of the winners! I think I only had to call 2 councils to correct their charity information. I think we only had two council checks that needed to be rewritten/corrected. As a result, we got the checks out to the winners AND to the councils before the end of June. That was an awesome feeling for us to have that done so quickly. Let’s do that again this year!

In closing I would like to wish you all the very best of luck selling this year. Remember why we do this – It’s for our Charities!

As usual, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Vivat Jesus!

Joe Rostowsky
AZ State Charity Raffle Director
jrostowsky@gmail.com
480-241-0406

Timeline at a Glance

December/January – Tickets, posters and sales guides delivered to District Deputies. He should deliver to assigned councils as soon as possible – no later than January 24, 2026.

As soon as possible! – Give members their tickets and **START SELLING!** Promote the State Raffle at every meeting and at every event – especially Fish Fries, Pancake Breakfasts and after every Mass (with Pastor's permission). Remember, tickets MUST be sold to persons 21 years or older AND the name on the ticket stub needs to be of a person 21 years or older. **Tickets with stubs having names of persons under age 21 or sold to anyone under 21 will be disqualified and not paid to any other member of the family.** Make sure all sellers have a copy of the 2026 State Raffle Sales Sheet (download off the State website).

January 2026 – Select Charity Raffle Chairman and create a Charity Raffle Committee. This committee can help plan the sales campaign, stuff envelopes for each council member, select the charity or charities who will benefit. The committee can also give you support with sales and promoting Charity Raffle at the council meetings and events.

Important: Name on ticket must be a living person that is able to claim their prize AND provide a tax ID number.

End of April 2026 – Wrap up your sales, collect ticket stubs, and money. This is a good time to hold a committee meeting so that members can help write or stamp your council number on the back of the ticket stubs. **The ticket stubs need to be separated.** You will need to bring a Council Check to the convention. If your Treasurer is scheduling a fishing trip to Alaska in May, make sure he gives you a check before he leaves. Remember – **Bring only council checks.** Do not send or bring personal checks or cash to the convention. If someone other than you turns in your tickets make sure they understand the program. Better yet, assign the Raffle Chairman as an alternate delegate and have him deliver the raffle material to the convention.

May 1-2, 2026 - You can turn in your raffle ticket stubs, council check, and Raffle Sales Report, at the State Council Convention.

May 2, 2026 at 12:00 noon – is the **deadline** for turning in raffle materials. This gives us time to prepare a Raffle Report for the convention delegates.

After the State Council convention [2 - 4 weeks] – Check(s) are made out to your council's designated 501c3 charity(s) and are mailed to your Financial Secretary for councils who turned in tickets, council check, and State Report listing eligible charities. **No changes can be made to your selection of charities after the 2026 State Convention. Remind your Financial Secretary to watch for the check(s) from the State Council.**

Information about the Prizes and distribution

1. At the State Convention, ten raffle tickets are drawn beginning with the 1st prize thru the 10th prize. Two alternate tickets are drawn to be used if a winner is disqualified or cannot be contacted. If a winner is disqualified or cannot be contacted, winners below them will move up one place and the 1st alternate will be added to the 10th place position. If needed, the process is repeated using the 2nd alternate name. The State Raffle Chairman will use all reasonable means to contact a winner with the information provided on the winning ticket. If no contact is made within 30 days, that winner will be removed.
2. Prizes are payable only to the name on the raffle ticket stub.
3. If the winner cannot claim the prize the ticket is declared void and all winners move up one place.
4. Winners must be 21 years or older to purchase tickets and collect prize.
5. Any person winning \$600 or more is required to provide a completed IRS W-9 Form with a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) prior to receiving the prize. This must occur within 30 days of being notified. Failure to do so will result in the person being disqualified. The only exception to providing a completed IRS W-9 Form is that if a TIN is not available, the winner may be allowed to provide Backup Withholding of 24% of the winning amount to the Arizona Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. This 24% will be withheld from the payment to the winner and paid to the IRS to cover the required federal tax on the winnings. Additional information on backup withholding can be found at: Backup withholding | Internal Revenue Service or: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/backup-withholding>.
6. No ticket books or ticket stubs are to be sent through the US Mail, Fedex or UPS. This is Federal gaming violation.
7. If you sell someone tickets and they send you a check to pay for the tickets that is considered acceptable.
8. If they want copy of the stubs scan them and email them or send them photos.
9. If tickets are offered for sale online, make sure that only your council website is used, purchases are limited to individuals located in Arizona, and the website is operated by members of your council. Sites such as Facebook Marketplace are not permissible.
10. The winners list will be posted to the State website after all winners are confirmed AND their tax documents returned. This may take up to six [6] weeks.

SAMPLE LETTER TO COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY

<Date>

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Brother <First Name>,

It is again time for the Annual Knights of Columbus Arizona State Charity Raffle. All prizes are cash again this year. They are 1st prize - \$10,000, 2nd prize - \$7,000, 3rd prize - \$5,000, 4th Prize – \$3,000, 5th prize - \$2,000, 6th prize - \$1,000, 7th prize - \$500, 8th prize - \$500, 9th prize - \$500, and 10th prize - \$500. **The total is \$30,000!**

Our Council goal for 2026 is _____. Our charity is <Name charities> will receive half the proceeds from the sale of the raffle tickets. Last year our council gave <name charity> a check for <amount of check>.

We are asking each brother knight to take six books of five [5] tickets to ***sell or purchase themselves***. Ticket books can be picked up at Council meetings or at the Knights donut table after Masses. The tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for each book—or a total of \$100.00. Each book sold is \$20 toward our goal and \$10 for <name charity>. You can return all ticket stubs and money through the church office, collection basket, or directly after Mass to the Knight's table. Make all checks payable to the Knights of Columbus Council <number>. Please return the ticket stubs, money or check in an envelope with your name on it to identify you as the seller. **Please do not separate the tickets stubs and do not mail cash.**

The deadline for returning tickets money is [pick a date near the end of April close to the convention time].

This is your opportunity to support a council project and help raise money for <charity>. **If you do not believe in selling or buying Charity Raffle tickets to support charity, then please make a donation in any amount.** Additional tickets are available.

Thank you for your help with this very important charity project.

<*Your name*>

2026 Council Charity Raffle Chairman

Note: send the letter using mail merge and window envelops for this project. If you do not know how to use mail merge, recruit a member who does and have him do the letters for you. Use electronic signature or fancy type for the name and provide contact information in the footer of the letter. Consider printing Sale Tips on the back of this letter.

_____, Raffle Chairman, Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Raffle Check List:

Planning phase [January]

1. Grand Knight selects Council Raffle Chairman. (**Date _____**)
2. Send Council Chairman's name and e-mail address to Raffle Director Joe Rostowsky at jrostowsky@gmail.com or Phone: 480-241-0406. (**Date _____**)
3. Name a 501(c)3 eligible charity[s] as recipients for the council share of the ticket sales so everyone knows who will receive the proceeds of the ticket sales. Name of charity[s] _____ (**Date _____**)
4. Set a council goal for the sales campaign of at least a 10% increase over 2025 council sales. [We will sell as many tickets as possible is not a goal]. A goal is a dollar figures based on a percent over last year's sales] our goal is \$_____. (**Date _____**)

Sales phase [January, February, March, April]

1. Distribute tickets to council members including a letter describing why you are selling raffle tickets. (**Date _____**)
2. Suggest/develop new/other ways for the council to sell tickets. (**Date _____**)
3. Communicate progress to the council and parish. (**Date _____**)

Wrap-up [End of April]

1. Collect money and ticket stubs. (**Date _____**)
2. Review tickets for complete details, remove the end tab to separate tickets and stamp or write the council number on the back of each ticket stub. (**Date _____**)
3. Deposit all money and checks in your council account. (**Date _____**)
4. Write a Council check to the Arizona Knights of Columbus Charity, Inc. (**Date _____**)
5. Fill out the 2026 Arizona State Council Charity Raffle Sales Report, Bring all the report with ticket stubs, and **Council check** to the 2026 Arizona State Convention before 12:00 noon, May 2, 2026. (**Date _____**)

Final report must include:

- 2026 State Council Charity Raffle Sales Report completed with charity(s) listed.
- Council check for the total amount of ticket sales. [Council # on the check in the address area or on the memo line]
- Ticket stubs separated, and council number printed or written on the back.



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2026 Arizona State Council Charity Raffle Report

Council # _____

Date Rec: _____

Time Rec: _____

Rec By: _____

Total Ticket Sales \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

50% of Sales: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

(Total Disbursement must equal 50% of Gross Sales)

Approved Charities - [501(c) (3) documentation not required]:

Arizona Right to Life \$ _____

Arizona Special Olympics \$ _____

Parish [Name] \$ _____

Ministry _____ \$ _____

St Joseph Youth Camp \$ _____

Parish St. Vincent de Paul
(Name) \$ _____

All Other Charities: [Must attach current 501(c) (3) IRS letter] Attached IRS Letter

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

YES Used Previous

STOP: did you name your charity?

NOTE: IRS Laws and State Knights of Council Bylaws require the charity recipients of the raffle proceeds be a 501(c) (3) organization.

Council Information: (Print Clearly)

Raffle Chairman: _____ Council # _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Tickets turned in by: _____ Phone: _____

Signatures: GK _____ Raffle Chair _____

Make check payable to: AZ Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc

**WRITE OR STAMP YOUR COUNCIL NUMBER ON BACK OF TICKETS
SEPARATE STUBS**

DO NOT BRING CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS!