

Knights of Columbus
Ohio State Council

Measure Up Campaign 2026



April 1, 2026–November 15, 2026

Mike Felerski
State Deputy

M. Stewart Vetter
Measure Up Chairman



What is Measure Up?

Every year Knights of Columbus around Ohio collect and raise money to help people with developmental disabilities. This flagship program is the Measure Up campaign. Local councils remit the full amount collected and a grant form to the State Measure Up Chairman. The state council retains 20% of the funds to fund the program and donate to Special Olympics of Ohio. The remaining 80% will be returned to the local council based on the grant form submitted.

This booklet includes many ideas for raising the funds but do not feel limited to those ideas. Council chairmen are encouraged to be creative and develop a plan that works for their council and their area. Your council's goal is to raise more money than the previous year. Set the bar high because our Savior said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

When is Measure Up?

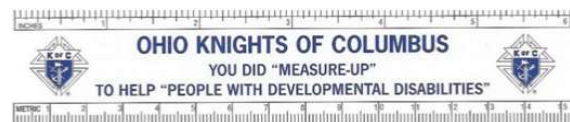
The campaign runs April 1, 2026 – November 15, 2026. During that time, you may conduct as many events as you wish. An umbrella insurance policy is in effect from May 1, 2026 through September 14, 2026. We have super-sized from two weekends to 136 days. Councils are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to have a liability policy for all other events. Please also be aware, some communities require permits for street/store front collection or other events. Councils are encouraged to comply with all local regulations. All checks and grant forms must be received by the State Measure Up Chairman by November 15, 2026. Submissions after that date will be processed after all the "on time" submissions. Submissions received after November 25, 2026 will become part of the following year's Measure Up campaign.

What is our goal? How much do we want to raise?

Every council is encouraged to set their own goal and share their progress toward that goal at council meetings. You could even create goals for each portion of the campaign, i.e. Gimme Five goal, fundraiser goal, collection goal etc. The state goal is \$300,000 in collected funds and 180 councils participating.

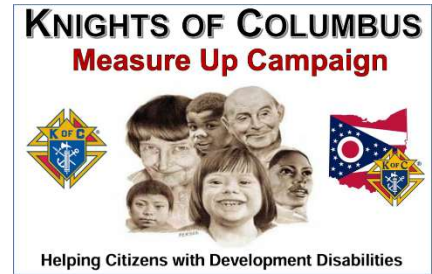
Where do I buy Measure Up rulers?

Measure up rulers are **FREE** for participating councils. Rulers are available from your District Deputy.



How should collection cans be labeled?

A label template is available on the state website (kofcoho.org/programs/measure-up) or they are available from the State Measure Up Chairman. All collection canisters should be labeled to enhance trust and ensure authenticity. Collection canisters are great for near cash registers at stores, street and church collections, or any time you are collecting Measure Up funds. Local chairmen should keep track of where the collection canisters are located and should empty them frequently.



Fundraising Ideas

Gimme Five Campaign

Gimme Five goes out with your annual dues notices.

Flyers are available at the state website



(kofcoho.org/programs/measure-up).

Members who give \$5 or more receive a Gimme Five sticker on their traveling card. Sticker templates are available on the state website. Collected funds become part of the total submitted with the grant form.



Street/Store Front Collection



This is the traditional method by which Measure Up funds were raised. Local businesses are contacted and Knights of Columbus “shake the can” for donations. Every donor is given Measure Up ruler as a reminder of their good turn that day. This is a great opportunity to wear council shirts or K of C apparel under the bright yellow aprons that read “helping citizens with developmental disabilities.” A generic corporate letter from our State Deputy is available on the state website if you need it to be granted permission.

Local Organization Donation Letter

The Grand Knight or local Measure Up Chairman sends a letter to local businesses and service organizations explaining the need in the developmental disability community and soliciting funds. Special focus should be on organizations that have games of chance as they are required by law to donate a portion of their profits to charities.

Council Fundraiser

This is where every council can be creative and tailor the program to your community or your parish. This could be a bake sale, a fish fry, a pancake breakfast, a sporting event watch party, a car wash, or anything that works for your council in your community. Keep it simple and profitable.

Church Collection

Work with your pastor to schedule a second collection or have Brother Knights stand at the doors after mass to collect for Measure Up. It turns out protestant churches use and donate American dollars too. Do not be afraid to engage our Christian brothers and sisters and allow them the opportunity to donate to Measure



Up. Contact the pastor/preacher, explain the program, and ask for permission to stand at the doors and collect. It would be a disservice to these other children of Abraham not to allow them the opportunity to support our special citizens. With store front collection becoming more complicated and more rare, this is a way to engage more of your community.

Parking Cars

An Ohio council asked for donations to park cars during high school football games. Patrons became very generous once they knew the money was going to Measure Up.

The Measure Up Grant Form

The Measure Up grant form is available on the state website (kofcoho.org/programs/measure-up). The form is used for designating to which organizations the council would like to donate. Please remember that these agencies must be IRS 501 C-3 designated and must care for citizens with developmental disabilities. The grant form **MUST** be submitted with the council check in the full amount of the collection. The check should be made payable to the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus. Of the amount submitted, 80% will be returned to the councils for distribution to the selected agencies. The remaining 20% will be used to fund charities selected by the state officers and to administer the statewide program. All checks and grant forms must be received by the State Measure Up Chairman by November 15, 2026. Submissions after that date will be processed after all the “on time” submissions. Submissions received after November 25, 2026 will become part of the following year’s Measure Up campaign.

A Sample Plan

1. The Grand Knight appoints a local Measure Up Chairman.
2. Write the plan down! A written plan makes the plan real and tangible. It also gives the local chairman something to refer to when asked for a report at council meetings.
3. Set your collection goal. Set a dollar amount goal that requires effort to reach but is not so far from past achievements that it feels unreachable. Ten percent more than the prior year is a good rule of thumb.
4. Make the plan. Choose which activities you will do and which month each will be done. Write it down. Vague is good for now and details can be added later.
5. Report it at council meetings. The local chairman should be called upon at council meetings to update the council on the status of the next event and how much of the goal has been attained so far. These reports should be frequent.
6. Work out the details. In the 10 weeks before each activity, details should be worked out including time, place, manpower requirements, volunteer sign ups for times, etc. The details will vary with the activity but well planned is well done.
7. Report it. Local chairman should report after each activity and update how close the council is to attaining the council's collection goal. This is also a good time to file a state activity program report on the state website! You did the activity, get the points.
8. File the grant form. At the end of the campaign, the council should submit the grant form (see the grant form section for more details) and a check for the full amount collected. This is also a good time to evaluate what went well and what did not go well as preparation for the next Measure Up campaign.
9. Recognition. The Grand Knight should recognize the chairman for all his hard work. If your council did exceptionally well, enjoy your recognition from the State Council.

I have more questions!

If you have questions, the first stop is your district deputy. These men are a wealth of knowledge and experience and were selected by the State Deputy to help you. The State Measure Up Chairman/State Warden is available help too.

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Measure Up 2026

April 1, 2026 – November 15, 2026

Check made out to: Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus

Measure Up 2026 in memo line

Check and form in the mail: **November 7, 2025**

Forms and info at kofcoohio.org/programs/measure-up