

# **Grand Commandery of Missouri**

## **BRIGHT KNIGHT CHARITY PROGRAM**

The primary goal of the Bright Knight Charity Program is to collect donations for two of the Grand Commandery's charities: the Grand Encampment Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) and the Grand Commandery Charity Endowment Fund (CEF).

The Bright Knight Charity Program is voluntary. It is **NOT** a program that puts any Sir Knight participating at jeopardy of losing his membership. All "offenses" and "penalties" are strictly for fun.

The KTEF is a Masonic charity with a goal "That Others May See." Its mission is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. The KTEF supports research that can help launch the careers of clinical researchers and basic researchers focused on the prevention or cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants, children, and adults. The KTEF supports EyeCare America, the Pediatric Ophthalmology Education Center, and endowed Professorships at Universities and Institutions.

The Grand Commandery Charity Endowment Fund was begun by Sir Knight Ronnie E. Green during his year as Grand Commander (2009-2010). The interest from the CEF provides money annually to our Masonic Youth Organizations: DeMolay for Boys, Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters.

Both of these fine Masonic charities need our support. And that is the reason for creating the Bright Knight Charity Program. Another reason is to bring some fun into the lives of our Sir Knights and our Commanderies.

## THE RULES

- Sir Knights simply need to complete and submit a Bright Knight Program Charity Submission Form along with a check for the desired amount that they wish to donate to the appropriate charity below
  - The choices are
    - Knight Templar Eye Foundation – Why – Because we are Knights Templar and the KTEF works that others may see
    - The Grand Commandery Charity Endowment Fund – Why – Because the CEF supports our Masonic Youth Organizations
  - The Bright Knight Charity Program will process all donations through the Grand Recorder's Office as normal donations
    - To donate to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation make the check to **Grand Commandery of Missouri** and specify **KTEF** on the check's memo line
    - To donate to the Charity Endowment Fund make the check to **Grand Commandery of Missouri** and specify **CEF** on the check's memo line
    - **Mail all Forms and Checks** to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery (Grand Recorder, 107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO, 65248-1017)

- Sir Knights who cannot follow these simple instructions regarding how to participate in the Bright Knight Charity Program and go outside of the Program performing charitable acts
  - Can choose to confess their “crime” to their Commandery
  - Their Commandery Recorder needs to complete a Bright Knight Charity Submission Form including the penalty section describing the charitable act that took place as the result of the Sir Knight’s complete breakdown of discipline and utter inattention to the detailed Program rules
  - The Commandery as a whole (that includes the naughty Sir Knight) needs to discuss and set the amount that the Sir Knight will have to pay the Commandery as a “penalty” for doing good to others – the Recorder needs to document this amount on the Charity Submission Form and collect the money from the Sir Knight
  - The Commandery needs to prepare a check in an amount that the Commandery determined was appropriate to cover the fine for such lawlessness and insubordination to one (or both) of the Program Charities – KTEF or CEF – which the Sir Knight has paid to the Commandery
  - The Bright Knight Charity Program will process all donations through the Grand Recorder’s Office as normal donations
    - To donate to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation make the check to **Grand Commandery of Missouri** and specify **KTEF** on the check’s memo line
    - To donate to the Charity Endowment Fund make the check to **Grand Commandery of Missouri** and specify **CEF** on the check’s memo line

- **Mail all Forms and Checks** to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery (Grand Recorder, 107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO, 65248-1017)

## THE REASONS

- **Why would a Sir Knight want to participate in such a Program**
  - **Why** would you want to participate in a charitable Program that only takes money for the KTEF and the CEF
    - Because you
      - Are a Knights Templar
      - Want to support the charitable efforts of
        - Your Commandery
        - Your Grand Commandery
  - **Why** would you want to take part in a charitable Program that fines you for charitable acts other than those specified in the Program Rules
    - Because
      - It is 2020
      - You **ARE** a Knights Templar
      - No good deed goes unpunished
      - The idea that you have to give to charity because you gave to charity makes complete sense from an “illogical” 2020 perspective

- **Why** would you participate in a charitable program where you, as an individual Sir Knight, do not receive any credit
- Because
  - Matthew 6:1 (NIV)
    - Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
  - Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)
    - So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

## THE FORM

The Bright Knight Program is voluntary. It is **NOT** a program that puts any Sir Knight participating at jeopardy of loosing his membership. All "offenses" and "penalties" are strictly for fun and intended to raise money for Grand Commandery charities.

Commandery of the participating Sir Knight:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Sir Knight's and Recorders need to provide the Name and Number of the Commandery. All charity donations will be attributed to the Sir Knight's Commandery.*

### Penalty Section

To be completed by the Commandery Recorder **if and only if** the Sir Knight does not choose to donate to one or both of the charity's listed in the Contribution Section. (Otherwise skip to the Contribution Section)

*Note: The Penalty Section is ONLY completed by Recorders when a Sir Knight voluntarily self-reports a charitable act outside of the Program. Sir Knights who are donating to the Program charities need to skip this section and go to the Contribution Section.*

Description of the "offense": \_\_\_\_\_

Possible descriptions for the "offense" (tongue in cheek): Lack of Discipline, Inability to follow instruction, Insubordination, Untrainable Sir Knight, General mayhem in the Commandery, Sabotage, Mutiny, Excessive willfulness to do good for others

*Note: A lot of detail is not needed. A brief statement is fine.*

Amount of the "penalty" donation deemed appropriate by the Commandery and collected from the "offending" Sir Knight:  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Keep in mind that this amount is determined by the members of the Commandery including the Sir Knight who voluntarily self-reported his actions. The "penalty" is not intended to punish the Sir Knight. The amount should not be excessive or beyond their means to pay. Any amount from \$1.00 up is acceptable.*

If the Penalty Section is completed, then the Commandery writes a check and indicates amount and check number in the Contribution section below.

*Note: Both Sir Knights providing donations to the Program charities and Commanderies reporting Sir Knights who voluntarily self-report his actions complete the Contribution Section.*

**Contribution Section**

To be completed by Sir Knights following the rules as well as Commanderies reporting "offenses" in the Penalty Section.

Donation to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation: (circle) Yes No

Check Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check Number\_\_\_\_\_

Donation to GrKT Charity Endowment Fund: (circle) Yes No

Check Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check Number\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit separate checks (No Cash) payable to: Grand Commandery of Missouri and write either KTEF or CEF on the memo line of the check

Please mail checks and forms to: Grand Recorder, 107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO, 65248-1017



All charitable donations will be detailed in the Bright Knight Program section of the next Hospitaler Committee report. All funds will be sent to the KTEF and the CEF after the next Grand Session concludes.

## THE EXAMPLES OF MISCONDUCT

- **Example 1:**

- A Sir Knight from Rolla Commandery No. 59 failed to follow the simple instructions of the Bright Knight Program
- He donated 2 hours of his time to Habitat for Humanity
- As a result Rolla Commandery completed a Charity Form including the penalty section explaining the blatant disregard for the Program rules by the Sir Knight
- They imposed a fine of \$50.00 to the KTEF which Rolla Commandery collected from the Sir Knight
- They wrote the check to the Grand Commandery of Missouri and wrote KTEF on the check's memo line
- They submitted the Form and Check to the Grand Recorder

- **Example 2:**

- A Sir Knight from Ely Commandery No. 22 went rogue one day
- He volunteered a day of his time at a local food bank providing meals for the recently unemployed
- As a result Ely Commandery completed a Charity Form including the penalty section explaining the excessive willfulness of their Sir Knight to do good unto others
- They imposed a fine of \$50.00 to the CEF which Ely Commandery collected from the Sir Knight
- They wrote the check to the Grand Commandery of Missouri and wrote CEF on the check's memo line
- They submitted the Form and Check to the Grand Recorder

**● Example 3:**

- The Sir Knights, during a WebEx meeting of St Graal Commandery No. 12, committed the grievous offense of voting to send a donation check directly to Coyote Hills
- This infraction thus circumvented all oversight and program administration by the Bright Knight Program
- The Sir Knights also failed to support the Grand Commandery of Missouri's standing as a charitable organization
- As a result St. Graal Commandery completed a Charity Form including the penalty section explaining the Sir Knights heinous offense
- They imposed two fines for this infraction – \$25.00 to the KTEF and \$25.00 to the CEF – which St. Graal Commandery collected from the Sir Knights involved
- They wrote two checks to the Grand Commandery of Missouri – on one they wrote KTEF on the check's memo line and on the other one they wrote CEF on the check's memo line
- They submitted the Form and two Checks to the Grand Recorder

## **THE CONCLUSION**

Sir Knights it is our job to be charitable. According to the Great Light in Freemasonry we need to do so anonymously from an individual perspective.

# **THANK YOU!**