

# KEY CLUB

# WHO WE ARE

New York District



*Adapted from the "Key Club in Your Community" Booklet.*

# This is KEY CLUB



**Key Club International**, a service leadership program of Kiwanis International, is the oldest and largest service organization for high school students, and gives its members opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership skills.

Started in California in the 1920s, Key Club today thrives on more than 5,000 high school campuses with a total membership of 245,000 in 30 countries, including North America, the Caribbean nations, Central and South America, and most recently, Asia and Australia.

Key Club attributes its success to the fact that it is a student-led organization that teaches leadership through serving others. In other words, as members of the Kiwanis International family, Key Club members build themselves as they build their schools and communities.

Originally, Key Club adopted as its motto, "We Build," the same motto as its parent organization, Kiwanis International. In 1976, the program changed its motto to, "Caring—Our Way of Life," to more clearly convey members' reasons for helping others. Dues paid by every member fund Key Club, and its officers are high school leaders elected by the members at district and International conventions.

Among the opportunities provided to members are:

- Leadership development
- Vocational guidance
- College scholarships
- Subscription to Key Club magazine
- Service-learning
- Personal enrichment
- Value-added member benefit programs
- Liability insurance coverage

Female students were admitted in 1976, 11 years before women were admitted to the sponsoring organization, Kiwanis International, and Key Club encourages volunteering and fundraising for March of Dimes, UNICEF, and the Children's Miracle Network year-around.

Since 1925, Key Club International has provided millions of hours of service to homes, schools and communities each year. From building bridges, to collecting tons of food, thousands of dollars raised for cancer research, to helping eliminate iodine deficiency disorder (IDD), Key Club International plays a vital role alongside Kiwanis International and its family of service programs— Circle K, K-Kids, Builders Club, Kiwanis Junior, Aktion Kids—in serving the children of the world.

# Our PRINCIPLES



## MISSION STATEMENT

"Key Club is an international student-led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership."

## MOTTO

"Caring - Our Way of Life"

## VISION

"To develop **competent, capable, and caring** leaders through the vehicle of **SERVICE.**"

## CORE VALUES

The core values of Key Club International are **leadership, character building, caring, and inclusiveness.**

## PLEDGE

I pledge, on my honor,  
to uphold the Objects of Key Club International;  
to build my home, school and community;  
to serve my nation and God;  
and combat all forces which tend to undermine these institutions.

# A Brief HISTORY

**Key Club International** is committed to providing positive influences for youth. The first Key Club was started in 1925 at Sacramento High School in California as a means to combat secret societies and illegal fraternities of the period. Initiated by a high school vocational director, the local Kiwanis club teamed up with the school to start a Key Club composed of the “key” boys in the school. Within a few years, the idea of Key Club had spread across California to other states, including Kentucky, Florida, Utah, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Washington. With the formation of each Key Club, a local Kiwanis club agreed to sponsor the club with the school.

During World War II, Key Clubs concentrated in Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana joined together to form an association of Key Clubs and elected officers to lead the movement. By 1946, the association evolved into Key Club International, and Kiwanis International agreed to add a Key Club department and appropriate staff in its International Office. Key Club has continued to flourish since its beginning.

Today, Key Club exists in every American state and Canadian province and in 30 nations worldwide, including the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, Aruba, the Philippines, Colombia, and Panama. Clubs are organized into districts. Each district is supported by adult Kiwanians. Most importantly, the concept of developing responsible student leaders remains the top priority to this organization’s purpose.



# MEMBERSHIP and STRUCTURE

The requirements for Key Club membership are set forth in the Bylaws of Key Club International. Specifically, Key Club membership is open to any student who desires to become a leader in his/her school and community and wishes to provide service to others. The Bylaws of Key Club International provide these guidelines for membership:

*The membership of individual Key Clubs shall consist of students from the four upper classes (or the five upper classes in the Canadian provinces where high school is of a five-year duration) of the high school in which they are enrolled (or in ungraded schools, whose members shall be of age comparable to the four upper classes of high school), interested in service, qualified scholastically, of good character, possessing leadership potential, and having such other qualifications as shall be established by the local sponsoring Kiwanis club in cooperation with the proper school official.*

Each member of an individual Key Club must be willing to perform at least 50 hours of combined service to his/her home, school, and community annually. The membership of individual Key Clubs shall be selected without discrimination in accordance to local, state, provincial, and national laws.

**Key Club International**

Every club elects its own officers annually. A president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a webmaster, and an editor are elected each February to take office by the end of the academic year in May. These officers, along with a director for each class in the club, compose the club's board of directors. The club also is organized into committees, which are responsible for planning and implementing the club's service and social activities. It is important that every Key Club member find a role in the club.

The club membership adopts its own club bylaws, which must be in accordance with the Key Club International Bylaws, as well as the school policies and other guidelines. A standard form for bylaws is provided to every new club.

Every Key Club has the autonomy to select its own service projects. In addition, all Key Clubs worldwide unite in service under the banner of the Key Club International Major Emphasis Program (MEP) -

*Children: Their Future, Our Focus*, which, through the hands-on service initiative and service partners, helps Key Clubbers become lifelong advocates for children.

The Key Clubs of the New York District also participate in the Governor's Project and District Projects each year. Each year, the Governor will select one hands-on service initiative and the District Board will choose various charity organizations to partner with. Each Key Club in the New York District are encouraged to participate in these projects to serve their homes, schools, and communities.

# The KIWANIS FAMILY

*Serving the Children of the World*



**Kiwaniis International** is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

## Key Club - for high school students



**Key Club International**—245,000 high school leaders from 28 countries unite every day to provide service in their homes, schools, and communities, and complete more than 12 million hours of service. Key Clubbers work to help eliminate HIV/AIDS in Africa, stop premature birth, and battle for the rights of children in their communities.

## Circle K - for college students



**Circle K International (CKI)** is the premiere university service organization in the world sponsored by Kiwanis International. With clubs on more than 550 campuses globally, programming is based upon the tenets of service, leadership, and fellowship.

## Key Leader - for youth leaders



**Key Leader** is a leadership experience for today's youth leaders. It focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership development experience. A Key Leader learns the most important lesson of leadership—leadership comes from helping others succeed.

## Builders Club - for middle school and junior high students



**Builders Club**—Nearly 40, 000 middle and junior high students in 1,300 clubs in 18 nations contribute service to school and community while developing leadership and people skills. Builders Club members implement practical service-learning principles as they focus on supporting organizations that focus on the needs of children.

## K-Kids - for elementary students



**K-Kids** is a student-led community service club for elementary students that teaches members the value of helping others through participation in community service projects and club activities.

## Aktion Club - for adults with disabilities



**Aktion Club** members in more than 200 clubs in seven nations allow adults living with disabilities to develop initiative and leadership skills through hands-on service. These adults return to the community the benefits, help, and caring they have received.



# FREQUENTLY asked QUESTIONS

## **What kind of service projects can a Key Club undertake?**

There is almost no limit to the scope and nature of Key Club service projects. The New York District website, the Empire Key, your Lt. Governor's newsletter, your Governor's newsletter, the Key Club Web site, and the Key Club magazine, all offer ideas for service opportunities. Better yet, begin by looking around your school and community for existing needs.

## **Are there any minimums for involvement in a Key Club?**

Many clubs use a point system in which members earn points for attending meetings and projects. The best rule of thumb is the 50-hour rule: Every Key Club member should be willing to undertake 50 hours of service each year. Throughout the organization, more than 12 million service hours are produced annually!

## **My high school already has other service clubs? Why add a Key Club?**

First, and most importantly, most high schools can only benefit by having more clubs provide positive service opportunities for students. Multiple service clubs can, when properly encouraged, produce a synergy of service to a school and community. Second, Key Club is one of the few organizations that actually is a student-led organization from top to bottom. That means the members elect the officers and pay the dues. Key Club is the greatest organization to learn and develop leadership through service.

## **What's the cost for chartering a new Key Club?**

There is a one-time cost that is paid by the sponsoring Kiwanis club. Visit [keyclub.org](http://keyclub.org) for more information.

## **How many members are needed to start a new Key Club?**

Fifteen (15) is all it takes!

## **How do I build a Key Club?**

First, contact your local Kiwanis club. Then, contact the New York District Governor and/or the the New York District New Club Building and Reactivation Committee Chair by visiting the New York District website at [www.nydkc.org](http://www.nydkc.org). Together, with the Kiwanis club in your community, order a new club building kit from Key Club International.

# KEY CLUB

New York District of Key Club International

[www.nydkc.org](http://www.nydkc.org)



**Kiwanis**  
Service Leadership

[www.nydkc.org](http://www.nydkc.org) | [www.keyclub.org](http://www.keyclub.org)

**GOVERNOR ALLEN YU**

New York District Key Club 2009-2010