

Key Club co-sponsoring a K-Kids club

One of the natural role models for elementary and junior high/middle school students is the high school-age young adult. The impact of that role model is magnified when the high school student shares many of the same interests and values as the younger, impressionable elementary or junior high/middle school-age student. The development of this relationship into a continuing, positive mentorship is a likely outcome when Key Club members establish a meaningful, ongoing relationship with a K-Kids club or Builders Club. This relationship can be developed in several ways.

The ideal situation for developing a long-term relationship is for the Key Club to be registered with Kiwanis International as a co-sponsor (along with a Kiwanis club) of the K-Kids/Builders Club. This provides the Key Club with all K-Kids/Builders Club general mailings, but most important, the Key Club establishes the right and responsibility to fulfill the obligations of sponsorship—the same obligations to which the sponsoring Kiwanis club agreed upon chartering the K-Kids/Builders Club. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Attending K-Kids/Builders Club board of directors and general meetings
- B. Assisting with the training of K-Kids/Builders Club officers
- C. Participating in joint service and fundraising projects
- D. Hosting K-Kids/Builders Club members at Key Club meetings, projects and activities as allowed by both schools' policies
- E. Inter-clubbing with the K-Kids/Builders Club as allowed by both schools' policies
- F. Encouraging the K-Kids/Builders Club members to adhere to the following Objects:
 - ◆ To provide opportunities for working together in service to school and community;
 - ◆ To develop leadership potential;
 - ◆ To foster development of a strong, moral character; and
 - ◆ To encourage loyalty to school, community and nation.

Co-sponsorship may be established by:

- A. The current Kiwanis sponsor to the K-Kids/Builders Club submitting to the Service Leadership Programs Department at Kiwanis International a statement similar to the following and signed by the Kiwanis club president or secretary:

Please add the Key Club of _____ (insert charter number if known) as a co-sponsor to the K-Kids/Builders Club of _____ Elementary or Middle/Junior High School (insert charter number if known).

- B. The potential co-sponsoring Key Club of the K-Kids/Builders Club submitting to the Service Leadership Programs Department at Kiwanis International a statement similar to the following and signed by the Key Club president or secretary:

The Key Club of _____ (insert charter number if known) accepts co-sponsorship of the K-Kids/Builders Club of _____ Elementary or Middle/Junior High School (insert charter number if known).

If co-sponsorship is not an option, the Key Club may establish a relationship with the K-Kids/Builders Club by:

- A. Conducting an officer- and member-training conference
- B. Establishing a “buddy system” between Kiwanis, Key Club and K-Kids/Builders Club officers
- C. Setting up a special K-Kids/Builders Club-Key Club section at an athletic event, concert, theatrical performance, speech meet, etc.
- D. Coaching contestants in the K-Kids/Builders Club Speakers Contest
- E. Offering tutoring services for K-Kids/Builders Club members
- F. Coaching a K-Kids/Builders Club team for the elementary or junior high/middle school’s intramural program
- G. Conducting programs for the K-Kids/Builders Club meeting on a relevant topic:
 - 1. Dangers of drug abuse and other at-risk behaviors
 - 2. The value of being involved in school activities
 - 3. Opportunities offered in high school and beyond
 - 4. Preparing for school exams
 - 5. Conflict resolution
 - 6. Prevention of violence in the school
 - 7. Sportsmanship
 - 8. The value of diversity in the school and community
 - 9. Preparing for employment as a high school and college student
- H. Inviting K-Kids/Builders Club members and their parents to the Key Club’s end-of-year banquet

When developing a relationship with a K-Kids/Builders Club, remember that the quality of that relationship will be determined by the image the Key Club develops with the administration, staff, faculty, student body and parents of the students of the elementary or junior high/middle school, as well as with the co-sponsoring Kiwanis club. If the Key Club and its members personify the Objects of Key Club International, the relationship between the Key Club and the K-Kids/Builders Club will be sought after by both schools’ administrations, validated by the staff and faculty, encouraged by the parents of the students and cherished by the sponsoring Kiwanis club. The Key Club members should realize that every action taken, every word spoken and every message signaled by body language or tone of voice will leave a lasting impression on all involved with the K-Kids/Builders Club program—especially the preadolescent. Make that impression a positive one.