

# Building Kiwanis Family Relations

**What are the  
branches  
within the  
Kiwanis  
Family?**



# K-Kids

K-Kids is the elementary school branch of the Kiwanis Family, and is the largest of all elementary

school level service organizations in the world! The focus of K-Kids is empowering youth through serving others, developing leadership abilities, and uniting students to protect and grow their schools and communities. K-Kids clubs are very service based, and participate in numerous tabletop service projects and helping at events on their campus. K-Kids clubs must have a Kiwanis Club as a sponsor, but Circle K clubs can also co-sponsor these clubs and help run service projects and help develop the club members.

As the youngest members of the Kiwanis Family, K-Kids members look up to Circle K members as strong role models for service; through interacting with them, members from both branches can continue to grow in new ways and impact different groups within their community.



# Builders Club

Builders Club is the middle school branch of the Kiwanis Family, and it is the largest service organization for middle school and junior high students with over 45,000 members worldwide. Builders Club's goal is to develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service. In Builders Club, members learn to work together and develop servant-leaders skills as they serve their school and community. In partnership with UNICEF and March of Dimes, the clubs are able to expand their outreach to babies and children of the world.

Builders Club is a student-led community service organization that operates under school regulations and draws its members from the student body.

Community-based Builders Clubs can also be established at churches, libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, lodges or similar facilities. A Kiwanis club, composed of like-minded, service-oriented people from the community, serves as the club's sponsor.

# Key Club and KIWIN'S

Key Club International is one of the oldest and largest high school service organizations across the globe. This organization offers service, leadership, and inclusiveness to high school student members. First, Key Club members find service opportunities to help out the communities. This can take the form of park cleanups, collecting donations, and organizing food drives. In addition, Key Club members develop leadership skills by running meetings, organizing and running service projects, and holding elected positions all over. Lastly, Key Club members develop friendships with all the different activities they engage in. Kiwanis International sponsors Key Club branches. Key Club also partners up with three different organizations: March of Dimes, Children's Miracle Network, and UNICEF.

Our Circle K District is fortunate enough to have two different Districts recognized by Key Club International to get involved with. We have the opportunity to work with both CNH Key Club and the KIWIN'S District. The reason for this is because Key Club was originally made for only male high school students and KIWIN'S was founded so that high school females would be allowed to serve in the Kiwanis Family. Although they are from different districts, they ultimately strive towards similar goals and service efforts.

# Aktion Club

Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities, with more than 12,000 members worldwide. There are over 500 Aktion Clubs serving their communities! Aktion Clubs draw members from various organizations that support individuals with disabilities, as well as other community programs. Aktion clubs can also be established at churches, libraries, YMCAs, lodges or similar facilities. A Kiwanis club, composed of like-minded, service-oriented people from the community, serves as the club's sponsor.

# Kiwanis

Kiwanis International was founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan, and became an international organization with the creation of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario in 1916. When Kiwanis International was founded, the members focused the organization around business networking, but in 1919, Kiwanis International changed the focus to service! Years later, Kiwanis International was spreading to places like Europe. In 1987, women were officially allowed to be a member of Kiwanis International! In 1920, Kiwanis International's motto was "We build". 85 years later during their 90th Anniversary, they changed their motto to "Serving the children of the world"!

Without our Kiwanis Clubs, our Service Leadership Programs (SLP) would not exist! Every SLP is sponsored by a Kiwanis Club in order to be active. Our Kiwanis Club helps sponsor SLPs by chartering the programs, provide financial support, chaperoning at certain events, and many more! Take the time to thank your Kiwanis Club as often as possible as they do so many things for your home club!

# Situations for Building Kiwanis Family Relations



# General Interactions with the Kiwanis Family

## Introduction

Whether you are trying to improve or maintain relations with Kiwanis, Key Club, KIWINS, Builder's Club, or K-Kids, the first few steps towards interactions are similar to one another. The first step is to reach out!

## Resources

There are tons of resources available to you (such as a map of the branches) and the fact that you are looking at this resource right now means you're already on the right track. Make sure you are aware of your resources such as one on ones with your respective liaison from the Kiwanis Family and Foundation committee as they would be able to give you personal help. You could also reach out to other school club's with successful Kiwanis family relations to see what they are up to. But most importantly you should reach out to your Kiwanis family.

## Helpful Links

[District Website/ Kiwanis Family Map](#)

[Helpful Manuals](#)

# General Interactions with the Kiwanis Family

## Where to Start

To start, try emailing a representative of the branch such as a president or LTG. A first email can contain an introduction and even an intent to attend one of their general meetings or DCMs. After the first email, occasional emails thereafter would help maintain relations with the branches.

## The Next Step

In these emails can be plans for joint events, but you can also mention these during the general meetings as well. However, for Key Club, KIWIN's, Builder's and K-Kids, do make sure you have the proper approvals needed before attending or planning events. Having many joint events can help strengthen or start bonds and traditions, especially if you integrate activities where members split up and talk to the members of the other branch. This can take the form of joint service projects, social, or even fundraising events. You can even combine activities with multiple branches. For more information and ideas on service events with the Kiwanis Family, check out the [Kiwanis Family Events Manual](#) and the [Connecting the K's Manual](#)!

# Clubs with a weak or new relationship with their Kiwanis Club

## **Why, you may ask?**

New or weaker clubs should emphasize starting relationships with Kiwanians. Every Circle K club is sponsored by a Kiwanis club, and they help us in many ways such as funding, providing service opportunities, and even job opportunities on occasion! Also, don't forget to show your appreciation for the Kiwanians who do so much!

## **How, you may ask?**

Whether your club is newly chartered or is already fully established and still struggling, it's okay! Be aware of the Kiwanis family branches near you. Kiwanis is always here to support us so it is important that we support them too. You could develop a support system with Kiwanis by asking them if they need any help with upcoming service projects or by giving them updates on what your home club has been up to. As mentioned in the general section, inter-clubs can greatly serve to strengthen these relations. At the events, they can try to talk to one another and foster stronger relations for future interactions.

## **General Meetings**

The important first step to establishing relations would be to reach out. This could be done through emails to check up on each other; however, it would be nice to push for members of the club to attend Kiwanis meetings as well. Here you'll be able to meet with Kiwanis members in person, or you can invite Kiwanians to your club's general meetings or events in general. You can also look into hosting a Kiwanis Takeover Manual!

# Aktion

When choosing a way to interact with Aktion club, the sky's the limit! At UCR, we have this event called "My Play Club." At this event, Circle K members work alongside Aktion club to put on a fair for children with disabilities. It is a day filled with many games, crafts, and activities.



If you are ever interested in reaching putting on a similar event, reach out to your local Aktion club! The more you interact with them, the deeper your club's bond with them will grow!

# K-Kids & Builders

If your club is fortunate enough to have a K-Kids or Builders Club nearby there are a variety of different ways you can interact with the.

**Attending Meetings:** When attending their meetings have Circle K members spread out around the room and encourage them to interact with the kids.

**Club Advisors:** Circle K clubs can even act as co-club advisors and help the school staff advisor and student board in planning and executing their meetings.

**Pen Pals/Buddy System:** Pair up willing Circle K members to a K-Kid or Builders club member and give them monthly topics to write about and then exchange letters at meeting. This can also work to encourage CKI member to attend the meetings.

**Host a College Tour of your campus**

**Joint Service or Fundraiser event**

**And much more!**

# Involvement with Aktion Club

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## **Reach out and help them grow:**

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**Host a College Tour of your campus**

**Joint Service or Fundraiser event**

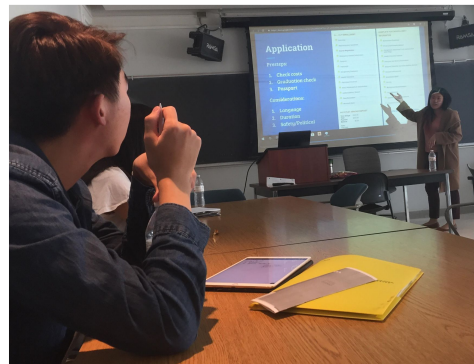
**And much more(Refer to the K-Kid  
& Builders Manual)!!**



# Key Club and KIWIN'S

## Building Potential

Whether you were in Key Club, KIWIN's, or neither, interacting with the high school branches is a wonderful experience you can't forego! However, unlike with Kiwanis, for Key Club and KIWIN's, you need an Event Request Form (ERF). This must be submitted a minimum of 3 weeks before an event, so don't wait to plan! However, if both of your clubs are sponsored by the same Kiwanis Club, then you only need your Kiwanis' permission and enough chaperones!



## Building Ideas

You can plan out joint DCMs, service events, or even events with other branches as well! During your events, you can have group activities split amongst Key Club/KIWIN's and CKI to get them familiar with each other. Some ideas that can help improve relations between your boards is having a "Think Tank" kind of event where the officers meet up with their specific counterparts to discuss pros/ cons and advice on both sides. Other popular events consist of tabletop projects, as well as a Key to College to help them transition to college (Refer to the Key to College Manual).



If you have any questions about Kiwanis Relations, please do not hesitate on contacting any member of the District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee! Good luck with planning!

### **Acknowledgements:**

#### **Created:**

- 2016-2017 term (*The District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee, chaired by Josef Madrigal*)

#### **Revised:**

- 2017-2018 term (*The District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee, chaired by Ana Chavez*)
- 2018-2019 term (*The District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee, chaired by Calvin Chau*)

### **Helpful Links:**

Circle K International Website  
CNH Circle K Website