

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 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.

Key Club and KIWIN'S

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



Clubs with a weak or new relationships with their Kiwanis Club

New or weaker clubs should emphasize starting relationships with Kiwanians. This can take the form of joint service projects. Key club members can try to find service opportunities, such as park cleanups. At the events, they can try to talk to one another and foster stronger relations for future interactions.

Whether your club is newly chartered or is already fully established and still struggling, it's okay! Building Kiwanis relations is not always an easy task; however, it is extremely rewarding. This first step to establishing relations would be to reach out. It is important to try to reach out. There are tons of resources available to you 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. Every Circle K club is sponsored by a Kiwanis club so it would be nice to reach out to them. 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.

Be aware of the Kiwanis family branches near you. While it is great to start working with Kiwanis, there are also other branches you could work with as well - such as Key Club, Builders Club, and K-Kids. Send an email, introduce yourself, or stop by at events to say hi! All these things can do a lot for Kiwanis family relations because everyone needs to start somewhere. 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. Invite Kiwanians to your club's general meetings or events in general.



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

Acknowledgements:

The first edition of the *Building Kiwanis Family Relations Manual* was created and compiled by the 2016 - 2017 CNH Circle K District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee:

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Helpful Links:

[Circle K International Website](#)
[CNH Circle K Website](#)

Contact your District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Chair at kfamily@cnhcirclek.org