

Important Information for District Leaders

Chartering changes for Key Club and Circle K

Nothing is quite as sure as change. As we move toward our million-member goal, the Kiwanis International Board has approved removing some of the barriers to growth for our Service Leadership Programs. At its April Board meeting, the Board authorized allowing Key Clubs and Circle K clubs to be chartered without a sponsoring Kiwanis club.

We believe we offer the premier experience for service and leadership to high school and university and college students. Our goal is to extend these opportunities to as many of these young people as possible. Currently, many schools would like to open a Key Club or a Circle K club, but are not permitted to do so under existing policies and procedures.

What has changed?

Following the board's action, a Key Club or Circle K club without a Kiwanis sponsor:

- Can be chartered on any high school or college/university campus.
- Can be sponsored by a school only (not a community-based organization).
- The new club fee must be paid by the school or by members.
- In an existing Key Club or Circle K District, the District Administrator must approve the charter. (Notification will also be provided to the Kiwanis District Secretary).
- As these Key Clubs and Circle K clubs open in their communities, they will create opportunities for a new Kiwanis club.

What has not changed?

- Current Kiwanis club sponsors will continue to be an important part of the partnership with their local high schools and colleges.
- The traditional structure is still preferred, with a partnership between a sponsoring Kiwanis club and school.
- Minimum membership to charter remains the same: 15 for Key Club, and 15 or 20 for Circle K, depending on the size/type of school.

Some statistics to consider:

- We have Key Clubs at approximately 4,900 high schools in the United States, which is only 19 percent of the 26,000 total high schools. That's more than 21,000 schools that do not have a Key club. We can now say "yes" if the school is interested in having a Key Club.
- If we could open a Key Club in just 1 percent of these schools each year, we would welcome an additional 210 new Key Clubs. When you add this to the average of 250 new Key Clubs we build each year through normal channels, that totals about 460 new Key Clubs per year.
- We have Circle K clubs at nearly 500 colleges and universities in the United States, which is only 19 percent of the 2,600 four-year institutions. That's more than 2,000 schools where we could say "yes" if the school is interested in having a Circle K.
- If we could open a Circle K in just 2 percent of these schools each year, we would welcome an additional 40 new Circle K clubs. When you add this to the average of 50 new Circle K clubs we build each year through normal channels, that totals about 90 new Circle K clubs per year.