The Avenue of Success for Sponsored Youth Organizations

Throughout the many years that I have had the opportunity of working together with the Sponsored Youth Organizations, especially Key Club and Circle K, I have found that the most successful clubs are those which enjoy a close working relationship with their sponsoring Kiwanis clubs.

The business and professional men and women that encompass Kiwanis membership, have the experience and the knowledge to offer professional counseling and personal assistance to our young people. With the opening of the first semester of the school year this fall, rapidly approaching, it’s important to remind ourselves of the outstanding characteristics largely responsible for the success of our sponsored youth program. I would like to list them for your review and implementation:

- Establish a line of communication through the Kiwanis and Faculty Advisor.
- The Individual Kiwanis club newsletter is an excellent vehicle for communicating. Make sure that your sponsored youth club is on your mailing list.
- Assist the club officers in planning for the first semester: prepare a budget, appoint service committees, analyze and implement service projects and activities that meet the needs of the school and community.
- Share club meetings with them: invite their members to your regular meetings and likewise, Kiwanians should attend their club meetings regularly.
- Annually, ask your sponsored youth club to conduct a Kiwanis club meeting. It will expose them to the entire Kiwanis Club membership.
- Participate in joint projects: Service projects, fundraisers, Kamp Kiwanis, and many other activities. Key Club and Circle K are a very important source of manpower.
- Financially support delegates to the District and Int’l Conventions including the Kiwanis and Faculty Advisors. The advisors play a vital role in the success of the Sponsored Youth Program.
- Assist with the implementation of a membership drive, the life line of the club.
- Include Key Club and Circle K members in your interclubs. Officially they can be part of a Kiwanis interclub.
- Make sure that your sponsored youth club has all of the materials available from the Int’l office to assist and guide them to a successful year of service and growth.

Most important: Communicate, work together, our young people look to us for guidance and support. It’s our responsibility to help them become responsible citizens and future leaders of our country.

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The Kiwanis Club of OCEANSIDE, Long Island Southwest Division – treated Oceanside children to a glorious day at sea aboard the Freeport’s Captain Pete to see who could catch the biggest fish. Even though most fish caught were under the state minimum and had to be returned to the water, there were two keepers meeting the state requirements of 17 1/2 inches. It was clear from the smiles on the children’s faces that all fisherman aboard had a fun day.

In the girls division, congratulations to Michelle Cozzi for catching the “Most Fish” and the “Biggest Fish,” and Avi Feierer caught the “Biggest Fish” also. In the boys division, Nicholas Comesana won for catching the “Most Fish” and William Remsen won for catching the “Biggest Fish.”

Department of Community Activities staff and Kiwanis Club representatives with happy fishing contestant winners.

North Rockland Key Club Secretary Katie Bulson goes through the hula hoop.

Four teams of girls between the ages of five and twelve or so ran, jumped and hula-hooped through ten relay races. Each girl received a t-shirt, snack, juice and a prize at the end. Thanks are owed to DPG Peter Mancuso who asked every Kiwanis Club to do some project that would encourage fitness in youth. At the 2003 Mid-Winter Convention Karen and Peter put on a series of relay races at the Nevells. Lenora, ever the teacher/learner, sat there and wrote everything down so we could know what to do for each race. This became the basis of our successful Girl Scout event. Wanting to complete the Governor’s Project in support of our own then LG Patricia Caldwell, Spring Valley managed to translate this into a now annual event.

Kiwanis Fitness

Kiwanis Club of SPRING VALLEY, Hudson Tri-County – again sponsored a day of fitness with the local Girl Scouts who attend the Saturday afternoon drop-in program in Haverstraw, NY. The program is one of several run by member Elena Lavallas, a district Girl Scout administrator. Kiwanians were joined by Spring Valley’s three Key Club (North Rockland, Ramapo, and Spring Valley) as well as the Willow Grove Builders Club making this a real K-Family event. It was just as successful this year as it was last year.