

Circle K in Brief

CKI IN BRIEF

CKI is a co-educational service, leadership development, and friendship organization, organized and sponsored by a Kiwanis club on a college or university campus. It is a self-governing organization and elects its own officers, conducts its own meetings, determines its own service activities, and establishes its own dues structure. Its Objects include the Objects of Kiwanis. Once organized, a CKI club continues to be sponsored by a Kiwanis club. Although the ultimate responsibility for CKI is that of the Kiwanis Board of Directors, the sponsorship function is most directly carried out by the Kiwanis club Committee on CKI Clubs, assisted by a faculty advisor (who may or may not be a Kiwanian) designated by the college or university administration.

District and International Conventions are held each year. At the International Convention, International officers are elected, the Constitution and Bylaws are amended, and CKI members participate in a service project.

CKI is the largest service organization of its kind. It offers numerous opportunities to link with service-learning and character education programming.

HISTORY

In 1936, CKI was instituted as a fraternity at Washington State University by the Kiwanis Club of Pullman, Washington. The idea started with Jay N. Emerson, who was later elected Kiwanis International President. His interest led to the building of the first CKI club in 1947 at Carthage College, Illinois.

Other Kiwanians became interested, and during the next eight years 168 CKI clubs were started in the United States and Canada. In October 1955 representatives from these clubs met in Philadelphia and voted to form an international organization under the sponsorship of Kiwanis. In 1956, a special department was created in the Kiwanis International Office to serve as the International Headquarters for CKI.

Today, CKI is a student-led organization with its own Constitution and Bylaws and is governed by its own board of 11 student leaders.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CKI has adopted a service initiative focus, "Focusing on the Future: Children," which is the major emphasis program for all CKI clubs.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CKI is dedicated to the principle of being student-led at every level of the organization. CKI members are elected to serve as the officers at the club, division, district and International levels.

The underlying message CKI members receive is that every member is a leader, developing skills from planning projects, leading meetings, and being part of a team that helps others.

Adult advisors work with the youth leaders to provide guidance and advisement and to help them develop leadership skills.

THE KIWANIS FAMILY

Each CKI must have one or more sponsoring Kiwanis Club. The program is designed for the Kiwanis members to interactively support the CKI. In addition, most Kiwanis clubs provide financial support of the club and its members – including registration costs from convention and conferences and scholarships for graduating seniors.

Kiwanis International is a worldwide organization of 8,400 adult community service clubs in more than 96 nations. It is the parent organization for all the members of the *Kiwanis Family*, a special group of dedicated youth and adults who provide more than 20 million hours of community service to thousands of communities every year. The Kiwanis family includes:

- CKI, a student-led organization on college and university campuses
- *Key Club International*, a student-led organization for high school students
- *Kiwanis Kids Programs* for elementary students:
 - o *Terrific Kids* is a student recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. Students learn how to establish and work toward achievement of realistic goals.
 - o *Bring Up Grades or (BUG)* is a program designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades into an acceptable range, and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next.
 - o *K-Kids* is a "student-led" community service club that teaches members the value of helping others through participation in community service projects and club activities.

MEMBERSHIP

CKI membership is open to students willing to provide service each year, qualified scholastically, of good character, and possessing leadership potential. A CKI may not restrict its membership based upon gender, religious affiliation, or ethnicity.

CKI MEMBERSHIP

(as of September 30, 2006)

Paid Membership.....	13,331
Paid Clubs	566
CKI Nations.....	17

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of CKI clubs pay membership dues. Dues fund the operation of CKI, each district and the club. Each member receives a membership card and handbook, a subscription to CKI magazine and online e-zine, the opportunity to attend and participate in various leadership conferences and conventions, eligibility to apply for numerous college scholarships, and other special benefits. Each club receives officer and advisor training, educational materials and resources, liability insurance coverage, and ongoing support from the district and the Kiwanis International service centers around the globe.



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