

Get sponsored!



At Key Club leadership conferences and events, you can acquire leadership skills, service experience and fellowship with high school students from around the world. Some of those events require fees for registration, travel, meals and entertainment.

The good news: You don't have to pay all those fees yourself.

Try the one-third concept: Raise funds for one-third of the cost yourself, ask your Key Club to pay or fundraise another third and talk to your sponsoring Kiwanis club or local businesses about supporting the other third.

Not sure where to start? This event sponsorship toolkit will guide you and your club. You'll find:

- A **checklist** to keep you on track while you're searching for sponsors.
- **Talking points** and a **link to a PowerPoint presentation template** you can use when you talk to potential sponsors.
- A **sample letter** you can use to ask businesses and Kiwanians to sponsor you.
- A **fundraising guide** with project ideas big and small.
- A **fundraiser planning form** with a publicity checklist and tools to chart your profits.
- A **sample thank-you letter** for sponsors after you return from your Key Club event.

Let's get started!



Raising money takes time — and a lot of planning. Before you jump in and present your case, make sure you and your club are prepared.

BEFORE THE EVENT

___ **Create a budget.** Figure out how much you and your club are willing to pay. Then decide how much you will have to raise through fundraising projects or sponsorships.

___ **Start a fundraising plan.** Let sponsors know how you will raise part of the money on your own. Many sponsors will be more likely to support you if you put some effort into fundraising too. For help making a budget and delegating responsibilities, check out page 7 for fundraising ideas and tools.

___ **Do your research.** Learn as much as you can about the event before you start talking to potential sponsors. Make sure you won't be stumped if they ask you questions.

___ **Serve their needs.** Let potential sponsors know the community can benefit from investing in you. If you're headed to a leadership conference like Key Leader or a district or international convention, let them know you will come back with service ideas to collaborate on. You can also commit to leading a workshop or presentation on what you have learned.

___ **Make your case.** Schedule time in advance (at least two weeks) to present at a Kiwanis club meeting or to talk with a potential sponsor. Use the PowerPoint presentation template (found at keyclub.org/key-club-powerpoint-template) and the talking points included in this toolkit (page 4) as a starting point.

DURING THE EVENT

___ **Keep sponsors in the loop.** Offer updates about your experience. Give them a short phone call, mail out a postcard or, if you have internet access, send them an email. Let them know how much fun you're having and what you've learned so far.

AFTER THE EVENT

___ **Bring it back home.** Schedule a follow-up presentation for your sponsors. With pictures, PowerPoint slides, short personal memoirs or videos, show sponsors how much the experience meant to you.

___ **Express your thanks.** Thank your sponsors with a handwritten thank-you card, note or letter. (See our thank-you letter template on page 12).

Talking points



Speak confidently. Include these talking points in your presentation or meeting with sponsors who might be unfamiliar with Key Club.

What is Key Club?

Key Club International is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. It's a student-led organization that teaches leadership through service to others. Nearly 200,000 Key Club members worldwide in 40 countries develop themselves as servant leaders while building their schools and communities.

What is its impact on the community?

Key Club members serve their communities in many ways, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives. Key Clubs also collaborate with Thirst Project and UNICEF to raise money and awareness to improve the lives of young children around the world.

Why should you sponsor me to attend this event?

Key Club members like me learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects and holding elected leadership positions at the club, district and international levels. With your sponsorship, I will be able to bring information and resources about service and teamwork back home to share with other club members and improve my school and community.

What can your organization/business expect as a return on your investment?

When I return from this event, I will have new ideas about how to make our community better and our club stronger, and will have new leadership skills. I would love to talk with you about how my Key Club can collaborate with you on future civic and fundraising projects.

Sample request letter

KEY CLUB



April 7, 2022

Dear Happy Hills Kiwanis Club:

My name is Sally Studebaker, and I am a member of the Key Club of Happy Hills High School. I have a great opportunity to attend the 2022 Key Club International Convention in Washington, D.C., July 6–10.

At the convention, I will develop my leadership skills in informational workshops, be motivated by inspirational speaker Ethan Zohn, interact with other Key Club members from around the world and share service project ideas. I plan to bring back ideas and resources that my club can use to make our community better.

But I need your help to get there. Before I can attend the 2022 Key Club International Convention, I need to raise enough money to help pay for my registration, lodging, meals and other expenses.

I don't expect you to provide all those funds. Key Club encourages members to contribute one-third of the costs themselves before asking their Key Club to fund another third. Then we ask our sponsoring Kiwanis clubs to fund the final third.

To attend the convention, I still need \$200. If your club can't give that much, I hope you'll consider a smaller donation. Anything will help!

Please mail your donation check to me at the address below — or, if you prefer, I can meet you during one of our club meetings at Happy Hills High School to collect the money and thank you. I will follow up with you within two weeks of receiving your donation.

My registration deadline is May 18. Please let me know if you'll be able to support my trip by that time. After convention, I'll be happy to follow up with a report on my experiences. Thank you for supporting me and my Key Club!

Sincerely,

Sally Studebaker
1234 Hillside Lane
Happy Hills, Indiana 46256

[Request letter template: Remove this line before printing. Key Club letterhead can be found at keyclub.org/key-club-letterhead.]

[INSERT DATE]

Dear [INSERT POTENTIAL SPONSOR NAME]:

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a member of the Key Club of [YOUR SCHOOL NAME]. I have a great opportunity to attend [EVENT NAME] in [LOCATION], [DATE].

[WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO AND LEARN WHILE AT EVENT]

But I need your help to get there. Before I can attend [EVENT NAME], I need to raise enough money to help pay for my registration, lodging, meals and other expenses.

I don't expect you to provide all those funds. Key Club encourages members to contribute one-third of the costs themselves before asking their Key Club to fund another third. Then we ask [OUR SPONSORING KIWANIS CLUB/LOCAL BUSINESSES] to help fund the final third.

To attend [EVENT NAME], I still need \$[AMOUNT]. If you can't give that much, I hope you'll consider a smaller donation. Anything will help!

Please mail your donation check to me at the address below — or, if you prefer, I can meet you during one of our club meetings at [YOUR SCHOOL NAME] to collect the money and thank you. I will follow up with you within two weeks of receiving your donation.

My registration deadline is [DATE]. Please let me know if you'll be able to support my trip by that time.

After [EVENT NAME], I'd be happy to follow up with a report on my experiences. Thank you for supporting me and my Key Club!

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]



Sometimes it's easy to get in a rut and do the same fundraisers over and over. But it's also easy to start something new. To spark your creativity, check out a list of successful fundraisers from other Kiwanis family clubs. Team up with your friends or your Key Club to try out one of them, or come up with your own ideas. Designate how much of the project's proceeds you and other fundraiser participants will be able to add to your individual fundraising efforts. Your club will receive the rest.

Once you've decided on a fundraising idea, turn to the **fundraiser planning form** on page 9 for more tools to keep you organized and on track.

SIMPLE SALES

Excellent food fundraisers are about more than just a booth of home-baked goods. Successful events often involve the community. For example, try hosting a chili contest, or ask local restaurants to pitch in for your next bake-off.

Dinner night out. Ask local restaurants to donate a percentage of one day's proceeds to your club. Create and pass out a flyer to students, faculty and neighbors listing the date, location and some brief information about what your Key Club does. Possible restaurants include popular chains like Noodles and Co., Panera Bread and Buffalo Wild Wings or locally run cafés and burger joints.

Pancake breakfast. Organize a community or school-wide pancake breakfast. It's fun, it's cheap — and it's a great way to involve Kiwanians and other Kiwanis family members. Want some bonus funds? Create placemats for each customer with ads from local businesses on them. The money from selling ads could help pay for pancake batter and event space.

Funds by the slice. Host a “best cheese” pizza competition. Invite pizza restaurants to provide pizzas and publicize the event at your school. Attendees pay for each slice they wish to sample and vote on. Announce the top three winners at the end of the night.

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Looking for ideas you can do yourself or with a friend or two? Here are some ways to raise money easily in a small group:

Handy-dandy helpers. Offer to do yard work or odd jobs for family members, neighbors and Kiwanians you trust. Rake, sweep, dust, paint, garden and clean for donations.

Cleanup crew. Talk to your school's athletic office to see if cleanup crews are needed after sporting events. Ask if you and your friends can help clean for donations.

EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT

Hosting elaborate fundraisers such as silent auctions and benefit concerts requires a lot of time and work, but big events can bring in big money. The key: organization. Make a schedule and get every member involved.

Key Club's got talent. Recruit friends and acquaintances to perform in a talent show. Charge admission. If possible, invite a well-known act to help draw a larger audience. Ask area businesses to donate prizes and transform the talent show into a competition.

Flowers for grads. Work with a local florist to purchase flowers from a wholesaler. Make your own bouquets and sell them at your school's graduation ceremony. Get more business by handing out order forms to parents two weeks before graduation.

Competitive spirit. Host a sports tournament. Choose a specific sport, date and location. If it's a team sport, advertise for people to register in teams. Ask businesses to sponsor the tournament or donate a grand prize. Sell drinks and snacks during the event.

Parents' night out. Give parents the night off by creating an evening of food, games and fun for their young children. Gather chaperones, set a location and fee, and get ready for face-painting, craft-making and story time.

Fundraiser planning form

Once your club has decided on a project, fill out this project planning form. Make sure to complete it at least two weeks before your fundraiser so the planning committee has enough time to coordinate project details.

BASIC INFORMATION

Committee responsible for project:

Title of project and brief description:

Purpose of project:

Date/time of project:

Location of project:

Resources needed (people, money, expertise, etc.):

PUBLICITY CHECKLIST

Specify the tasks that need to be accomplished, the member responsible for each task and the task's deadline.

Flyers, table tents

Person in charge:

Deadline:

News ads

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Posters

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Brochures

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Banners

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Social media announcements

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Press releases

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Photographer

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Open letter to faculty, students, administration, community groups

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Wall display

Person in charge:

Deadline:

Other (fill in)

Person in charge:

Deadline:

PROJECT BUDGET WORKSHEET

Income

_____ Fundraising money
_____ Allocation from club budget
_____ Co-sponsorship income
_____ Food or clothing sales
_____ Other
_____ **Total income**

Expenses

_____ Program materials
_____ Presenter's fee
_____ Publicity
_____ Travel
_____ Postage
_____ Housing
_____ Food
_____ Rentals
_____ Awards, certificates
_____ Other
_____ **Total expenses**

INCOME – EXPENSES = NET PROFIT or NET LOSS

_____ **Net profit or loss**

Sample thank-you letter

KEY CLUB



July 11, 2022

Dear Happy Hills Kiwanis Club,

Thanks to your support, I was able to attend the 2022 Key Club International convention in Washington, D.C., July 6–10. It was a fantastic experience I'll never forget!

I had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, meet other service-minded students and get motivation to do more for the world around me. Some of my favorite moments were meeting Key Club members from all over and learning more about UNICEF and Thirst Project. I attended workshops that provided me with tools to support my club, enhance my life and expand my skills.

None of this would have been possible without your generosity. Thank you again for your help.

I would love to speak at one of your club meetings about my experience. I look forward to hearing from you — and working with you on service projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Sally Studebaker
1234 Hillside Lane
Happy Hills, Indiana 46256

[Request letter template: Remove this line before printing. Key Club letterhead can be found at keyclub.org/key-club-letterhead.]

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT SPONSOR],

Thanks to your support, I was able to attend [EVENT] in [LOCATION], [DATES]. It was a fantastic experience I'll never forget!

[INSERT WHAT YOU LEARNED, FAVORITE MOMENTS, ETC.]

None of this would have been possible without your generosity. Thank you again for your help.

I would love to speak at one of your club meetings about my experience. I look forward to hearing from you — and working together with you on service projects in the future.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]