Key Club Leaders

Be the Advisor

Check out our new Key Club e-learning education resource on page 5.
Be the ADVISOR
Be the Advisor

Thank you for your dedication to Key Club. Advisors help ensure the world’s oldest and largest high school service organization will be around for future generations of student leaders. For that, we can’t thank you enough! Key Club is a student-led organization, and it is part of the advisor’s role to ensure this occurs within the club.

The Key Club advisor guide is meant to provide you with the essential elements to support your work. In the same spirit, we are providing guides for the officers of Key Club. These guides are meant to encourage club leaders’ success for next year. Each guide is unique, but they all contain common elements: job descriptions, tools to help them plan or prepare, identified resources, websites and checklists. Officers are also encouraged to connect with their lieutenant governor and other district officers for support.

Each club is to be led by a student board consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, editor, webmaster and class directors. These club officers are elected by their fellow club members.
**Be the Coach**

Key Club provides experiential opportunities for members to develop in many ways. Members will grow even more when advisors are there coaching them through their experiences. As an advisor, you take on the responsibility to mentor Key Club members as they discover their heart to serve, answer their call to lead, and exercise the courage to engage.

Key Club provides opportunities for young people to:
- Develop and practice skills.
- Find and pursue interests.
- Become engaged in the world around them in a meaningful way.

**Be the Mentor**

An advisor’s role is to be a mentor. You share your knowledge and experience to inspire the next generation of service leaders. Here are some tips for mentoring club officers:

- **Leadership can be taught.** Leadership requires a particular set of skills that can be developed through practice and assessment. After reviewing the officer guides and providing time for outgoing officers to work with new officers, let them practice by taking on new responsibilities. And then, assess with them how it went. Continue to touch base throughout the year to provide support, answer questions, and cheer them on.

- **Let them lead.** If there is a task that can be done by a member, allow them to do it. Advisors must step back, even if members do not do it your way or could possibly fail. It is from mistakes that we learn the most—especially if you take the time to provide guidance afterward. The best way for Key Club members to learn leadership is to take the lead.
• **Be a role model.** One of the most effective ways to teach youth is to model the behavior you want to see. Advisors must behave in a way that demonstrates the core values of Key Club. Empower your club officers to be the best leaders they can be by demonstrating your own leadership and mentoring skills to them.

The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.

KEN BLANCHARD

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**Reference:**

Each club is to be led by a student board consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, editor, webmaster and class directors. Descriptions for these positions can be found in your advisor guide on pages 32–34 at keyclub.org/advisorguide.
Be the Facilitator

As an advisor, you support your club’s leadership through the election process. Begin this process in January so officers are elected, trained and prepared to take office by May. Here are steps you can follow to set the Key Club officers up for success:

**Elect** officers—usually in February—with the elections committee overseeing the process. Once elections are completed, update officer information in the Membership Update Center at keyclub.org/muc.

**Connect** with each officer individually to review the officer guide. Each officer should set personal goals for their term in office.

**Reference** the Key Club district website for any additional officer duties and officer award programs. Find the district website at keyclub.org/districts.

**Allow** opportunities for the newly elected officers to shadow those currently holding office and encourage a mentoring relationship.

**Host** a club officer installation to thank the retiring officers and install the newly elected officers. A suggested outline is available on page 37 of the advisor guide at keyclub.org/advisorguide.

**Transition** the officers elected in February into their new positions in May.

**Establish** club committees to spread the workload and keep every member of the club active. Suggested committees are outlined on page 40 of the advisor guide at keyclub.org/advisorguide.

**Elect** the class representatives at the first meeting of the new school year. Once elected, update officer information in the Membership Update Center at keyclub.org/muc.

**Spread** the word about upcoming club elections. Encourage club members to consider running for an office. Detailed officer position responsibilities can be found on page 32 of the Key Club advisor guide at keyclub.org/advisorguide.
New Key Club e-learning education resource!

It’s essential for advisors to have the knowledge and resources to support Key Club members. Interactive online training sessions offer new and experienced advisors alike meaningful learning opportunities. These interactive sessions provide information to fully understand the scope of the Key Club International organization and training to prepare advisors to mentor Key Club members to success.

Youth Protection Guidelines *(available to Kiwanis advisors only)*

This overview of the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines is available to all Kiwanis members. The training covers important policies and recommendations on how to keep the youth that we serve safe.


Explore how Key Club works at the club, district and international levels. This interactive experience also clarifies the important role of an advisor at each level. Recommended for first-time advisors—but also a great refresher for experienced advisors.

Key Club Advisor: Developing Leadership through Key Club

This interactive experience takes an in-depth look at leadership. You will learn about the skills of an effective leader—and five strategies Key Club advisors can use to help members develop these skills. Recommended for all advisors.

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Ready to get started?
Visit keyclub.org/advisoreducation for 4 easy steps to begin.

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**Key Club acronyms:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAR</td>
<td>Annual Achievement Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>CKI</td>
<td>Circle K International</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMN</td>
<td>Children's Miracle Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCON</td>
<td>District Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICON</td>
<td>International Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Immediate Past</td>
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<tr>
<td>KCI</td>
<td>Key Club International</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTG</td>
<td>Lieutenant Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTC</td>
<td>Officer Training Conference</td>
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<td>YOF</td>
<td>Youth Opportunities Fund</td>
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