

# KEY LEADER<sup>®</sup>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What happens at a Key Leader event?**

Students arrive between 4:00 and 5:45 on Friday afternoon. They will check in and get their weekend team and cabin assignments. Dinner is served at 6:00. Immediately after dinner, students convene in the large group room for icebreakers and other activities. They begin exploring the curriculum with their lead facilitator. Throughout the weekend, there are large and small group activities. The curriculum has been carefully developed by Kiwanis International's Key Leader team to reflect the values and objects of Kiwanis and the five facets of servant leadership: Personal Growth, Integrity, Community, Respect, and Excellence. Students examine their own personal values and leadership styles to learn how to be effective servant leaders. There are video clips, real-life examples of servant leaders, and examinations of ethical dilemmas. Students are fully engaged in activities that lead them down the path of servant leadership. On Saturday afternoon, camp staff facilitates low ropes/team challenge activities for the students.

### **Low ropes? Team challenges?**

A large part of Key Leader is learning to trust and to build a team that serves others. One way this is accomplished over the weekend is by getting involved in low ropes/team challenges. Camp staff is on hand to lead students through various activities. These often include physical challenges that students need to work together on. Camp staff works hard to get everyone involved in meaningful ways and to relate the lessons to students' own lives. Students rate this as their favorite activity of the weekend.

### **Where is all this happening?**

Key Leader is a camp event. In Ohio, we are fortunate to have access to a fantastic, centrally located camp facility. Our events are held at Recreation Unlimited in the Columbus area. This camp is very modern and well-maintained. Most Key Leader activities take place in a newer, state-of-the-art meeting area with several breakout meeting rooms and many conveniences. Students are housed in cabins with bunk beds and hot running water. Meals are served in the dining hall. Special needs of any kind can be accommodated easily.

### **Who will be at Key Leader?**

Recent events have been host to approximately seventy-five students. About eight of those are Student Facilitators. These are students who have attended a previous Key Leader weekend and have come back to assist with the program. The male to female ratio is typically about 3:1. This is similar to the Key Club member to non-member ratio. Students come from all over Ohio, representing every type of area from rural to urban. Most come from around the "Three C's," Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

Other people who will be at Key Leader are ten to twelve adult chaperones including your Key Leader team members. These people are selected for their ability to work with students and to help keep the event running smoothly, not to mention, their ability to keep up with the students. Most are Kiwanians from around Ohio. All must pass a Kiwanis International background check before they are permitted to attend. If you wish to chaperone an event or to stop in and observe during the day, please contact Brian Yacucci for more details.

### **Tell me more about Student Facilitators (SFs).**

Again, they are students who have already attended the program and have applied to return for another weekend and participate in a different way. They use the leadership skills they have already gained to give the Key Leader experience to others. It is preferable that they are upperclassmen. Their duties include arriving early to camp to assist with set up as needed and to attend a meeting with the Lead Facilitator to learn his or her expectations. The SFs will lead a small group throughout the weekend and help keep things running smoothly. SFs enjoy a discounted registration rate of \$100.

### **Who is the Lead Facilitator?**

The Lead Facilitator is a professional leader who is trained by Kiwanis International to guide students through the Key Leader curriculum. They are dynamic speakers who do a wonderful job of engaging students in large and small group activities and discussions. Many have backgrounds in motivational speaking or higher education. For specific, event related LF information, you can navigate to the Ohio event information on the Key Leader website, [www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org).

### **Which students are the optimal candidates?**

Key Leader is designed to meet the needs of up-and-coming high-school-aged student leaders. The ideal student is in ninth or tenth grade. He or she does not need to be the best in the class or the star athlete. Students who benefit the most are those who sit in the back of the room and keep quiet. Those are the students who are often overlooked but have much to offer if given the opportunity. Key Leader is that opportunity for many of them. All high school students are welcome.

### **Our Kiwanis Club wants to sponsor a student or two (or more). How do we go about identifying individual candidates?**

There is no one way to do this. There are as many methods of selection as there are potential sponsors. If you choose to go through your Key Club, you might collaborate with the advisors. School counselors are also great allies. Speak to the same person who assists with your scholarships. Go outside of the school to other groups you may work with: Boys and Girls Clubs, scouts, church groups, etc. Students are in your neighborhood, and maybe even in your family. We have had sons/daughters, nieces/nephews and grandchildren of Kiwanians. Wherever there are teens, there are Key Leader candidates.

The selection process is yours alone. Some clubs are more particular in their selections than others. There are clubs who use applications and interviews; clubs who defer selection to school personnel; clubs who simply offer the opportunity to any students who wish to participate.

### **How much is this going to cost and who is paying for it?**

With the help of our donors and sponsors, we are super excited to be able to reduce the cost of Key Leader registration to \$175. There are as many options for sponsorship as there are for selecting students. Many Kiwanis Clubs opt to foot the entire bill for their students. Students can pay their own way or seek other funding sources. Albeit rare, there are a few schools who have funded student participation in Key Leader through leadership education funds or other means. Local businesses may also be willing to make a donation toward servant leadership education for students in their area. You'll never know unless you ask. We do recommend that students pay a small amount toward their registration. This makes them more likely to show up and participate. Some clubs refund the "deposit" after the event.

### **What if my Kiwanis Club doesn't have enough money in its budget?**

Consider combining with another Kiwanis Club, your division or your Key Club to sponsor a student. Utilize the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 Rule in which 1/3 of the cost is paid by your Kiwanis Club, the Key Club, and the student/family. Another option is to donate through the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation (designated for Key Leader). There are often students in need to sponsorship who can be helped through this fund. In this way, each and every club has the opportunity to participate in Key Leader, even indirectly.

### **What is included in the registration cost?**

Aside from the Key Leader curriculum, students will get to spend the weekend at a beautiful camp facility in central Ohio. They will enjoy five meals, a variety of snacks, two nights' lodging in climate-controlled, modern cabins, low ropes/team challenge activities, various handouts and more all under the supervision of background-checked, responsible adults.

### **Okay, I'm convinced. I even know a student who wants to attend. Now what?**

All students who plan to attend are required to register online through. It does not matter who completes the registration, only that it is done in a timely manner and that it includes all of the necessary information. Students and sponsors MUST have VALID email addresses listed. All communications, including a confirmation email, weekend details and paperwork that must be completed and brought to the event are sent to those addresses. Online registration will open in August. The registration link and other information will be posted on the Ohio District Kiwanis website at [www.ohiokiwanis.org/page/44006](http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/page/44006). Key Leader will be in the right-side menu.

### **Are there other ways to help?**

Yes! Ohio District Key Leader does a lot of copying of flyers, handouts and mailings for the use of the district. If you have access to discounted color copying, t-shirt printing, or other potentially useful services or products to donate please let us know. We would love to take additional steps to reduce expenditures and maximize our funds. **Sponsorship opportunities** are also available. Please see [www.ohiokiwanis.org/page/44006](http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/page/44006) for additional sponsorship information. Get involved! Contact Brian Yacucci to see what you can do to help at a Key Leader weekend. Kiwanians are able to observe the program and assist in various ways. The best way you can help is to spread the message to clubs in your Division. It is critical that we do a better job of involving students from every part of Ohio.

### **Anything else I need to know?**

Please contact us at any time with questions, suggestions or concerns. We are working very hard to continue to have successful Key Leader weekends in Ohio. It takes a district to make this happen. There are some new ideas being implemented and we hope you will continue to help Key Leader grow. Preferred contact is email: [ohiokeyleader@gmail.com](mailto:ohiokeyleader@gmail.com).

### **What Covid related precautions are being taken for an in-person event in 2021?**

All guidelines set forth by the State of Ohio, Kiwanis International and Recreation Unlimited will be followed. If vaccines are available to students at that time, it will be highly encouraged that vaccines have been received prior to the event. Social distancing and mask regulations may be in place. As recommendations and mandates are continually changing, further information will be available as we get closer to the event.

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