

# Transitioning from Key Club and KIWIN'S to Circle K Manual

# What is Circle K?

Circle K International (CKI) is the premier collegiate community service, leadership development, and fellowship organization in the world. With more than 13,770 members in 18 nations, CKI is making a positive impact on the world every day.

- Circle K clubs are organized and sponsored by a Kiwanis club on a college or university campus. CKI is a self-governing organization and elects its own officers, conducts its own meetings, and determines its own service activities. CKI blends community service and leadership training with the opportunity to meet other college students around the world.
- Projects such as the Six Cents Initiative, CKI's International fundraiser that aims to provide water to the 2.2 billion children worldwide who lack safe drinking water, bring CKI members together to make a difference in the world.

There are many **differences** between *Key Club International* and *Circle K International*.

Although they are both service leadership programs under the **Kiwanis Family**, the experience and benefits from both vary greatly.



## Size

- Both *CNH Key Club* and *CNH District of Circle K* are the largest Key Club and Circle K district in the world, respectively.
- But there are still large differences between the number of members between the two branches.

## Interactions

- In Key Club, division involvement is very popular and prominent.
- Versus Circle K, that tends to be much more *club-focused*, as each club comes from a college or university.

There are many other differences between these branches, but part of the fun is finding them for yourself! Getting used to the big differences can feel unsettling at first, but rest assured, Circle K is still a part of the Kiwanis Family you have come to love.

*Why  
Should  
I Join  
Circle K?*



# FELLOWSHIP . . . . .

Through fellowship, Circle Kers are able to grow as a person and develop better social skills. Circle K provides opportunities to meet new people and create lifelong, meaningful friendships and relationships. It allows you to network with fellow members, officers, advisors, and Kiwanians from not only across the District (California, Nevada, Hawaii) but also from around the world (internationally). There are many programs provided in Circle K that give you the chance to bond such as a **family system, mentorship, pen pal system, and much more.**



## **Family System:**

- An example, Orange Coast College, along with many other CNH Circle K clubs, has a family system each year that consists of four families; dad, mom, uncle/aunt, and big. The general members of the club will then be divided into each family and be the “littles”. Each year OCC Circle K has a Fall and Spring Installation in which members are installed into one of the four families. Throughout the year, there are events such as Family Olympics, socials, and much more. The reason why the family system is so important is because the club is very large. In order for members to receive the full bonding and fellowship experience of Circle K, they have their smaller families to be closer to one another.

## **Mentorship and/or big and little system**

- Active members generally select new members to be their ‘littles’ or ‘mentors’ and treat them as a little brother or sister, helping them adjust to college and to Circle K.



## Role of a big/mentor

- A 'big' or 'mentor' is essentially a friend to their 'little' and is just one of the many lasting relationships members can expect to develop in Circle K. Most 'littles' then go on to become a 'big' and help a new member develop their own character in Circle K.
- Oftentimes, 'big' or 'mentors' promote various Circle K events to their 'littles' or 'mentees' to allow them to engage in more club events and meet other Circle K members.
- **For example**, University of California Santa Barbara's (UCSB) Circle K club often plans fellowship events that involve bigs and littles. There are big-and-little potlucks held that encourage each pairing to make and bring a dish together. UCSB CKI has also held a big-and-little photo scavenger hunt where bigs and littles are given a list of activities to do together and then instructed to take pictures to later build a collage showing the different things each pairing did together. This is a great way to develop stronger relationships between bigs and littles and to ensure that bigs and littles maintain a close connection.



## Large scale socials

- Most Circle K clubs also include recurring fellowship events throughout the school year to turn the club into a close-knit community. These events are different for each club and can be as simple as a late-night boba/McDonalds run after a general meeting, a mini-golf hangout, or planning a club get-together at the county fair. All these events are worth attending, because they are fun and easy ways to bond with the members within your club!
- **For example**, University of California Los Angeles' (UCLA) Circle K club has quarterly socials where members are invited to attend school events together such as culture nights, dance shows, football games, and even a camping trip in the winter!



## Pen Pal System

- This system is held district-wide, divisionally, and even within clubs. Members have the option to opt in to receive a Pen Pal to connect with! It is a great opportunity to meet new people from all over the Cal-Nev-Ha District or closet!

## Other great fellowship opportunities:

- Buddy systems
- Club-wide Assassins Game
- Member Retreats
- ...and so much more!

# LEADERSHIP



There are plenty of ways to get involved in this organization at all levels of Circle K! From the role of being a general member, to club, divisional, district, or even international board!



## **General Member:**

- As a general member, you are able to pick and choose service, fellowship and leadership events that interest you! Service events include but are not limited to park cleanups, helping out at your local pet shelter, or even tutoring at your local elementary school among many others. Leadership can take the form of joining a committee to being a chair of an event. Lastly, fellowship events can be socials, attending attending general meetings, or even attending other schools' events. Participation in all these different activities are great ways to becoming involved in CKI!

## **Club Level:**

- There are different leadership positions that are available for interested members.
- The primary elected positions consist of President, Administrative Vice President, Service Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- Additionally, some larger clubs also have other appointed positions: Historian, Kiwanis Family and Foundation, Service, Public Relations, and MD&E among others!

## **Division:**

- At a Divisional level, there are many positions that are available.
- The positions range from Lieutenant Governor, Executive Assistant, Public Relation Chair, Member Recognition Chair, Special Service Chair, and many more.
- Within each chair, there is a committee! You can apply to be in a committee to be more active at the Divisional Level!





# SERVICE

Similar to Key Club, Circle K is a **service organization!**

On the club level, service events include but are not limited to: demonstrating science experiments at local elementary schools, walking and playing with dogs and

cats at local pet shelters and assisting with food distribution at the local homeless shelter among many other service opportunities. On the divisional and district level, members are able to participate in park/school/community restorations.



## ***DLSSP (District Large Scale Service Project)***

- One of the things that **distinguishes** CKI from Key Club are **district-wide service projects such as DLSSP (District Large Scale Service Project)**. Similar to how Key Club is divided into different districts, Circle K is as well. Once a year our Cali-Nev-Ha Circle K district hosts a service project in which the entire district attends. However, since our district is so large we split this event into two, having one DLSSP for the North and one for the South. At this event, we spend a day conducting different service projects including repairing veterans' homes. At this event you get to meet a bunch of people from the district while doing service with them.

## ***DSI (District Service Initiative)***

- In addition to these projects, our district adopts a new **DSI (District Service Initiative)** every term.
- The purpose of a DSI is to choose a main focus for our service for the year. While our service projects are not limited to our DSI, it helps to focus on one particular area. This year our DSI is Personal Health. Specifically, we are focusing on multiple factors that we could help improve so we can all practice to have healthier behaviors. In other years however, the DSI has involved Hope for the Homeless, literacy of children, and personal health.

# Not convinced?

CHECK OUT THESE BENEFITS!



Joining Circle K gives you the opportunity to make lifelong friends and meaningful relationships. This organization is welcoming to people of all backgrounds and can provide so much for you. It can help you find a “home away from home” in college, which definitely makes transitioning into college a better experience.

In addition, you get to develop yourself professional through networking opportunities and professional development events. You can meet Kiwanians who are working in the careers that you want in the future. Moreover, Circle K is a place where you can continue to grow and develop as a person and a leader.

Check out your local Circle K club so you can make friends and make an impact on the community!



If you have any questions on *Transitioning from Key Club & KIWIN'S to Circle K*, please do not hesitate on contacting any member of the District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee! Good luck with planning!

### **Acknowledgements:**

#### **Created:**

- 2016-2017 term (*The District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee, chaired by Josef Madrigal*)

#### **Revised:**

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- 2018-2019 term (*The District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Committee, chaired by Calvin Chau*)

### **Helpful Links:**

Circle K International Website  
CNH Circle K Website

Contact your District Kiwanis Family and Foundation Chair at [kfamily@cnhcirclek.org](mailto:kfamily@cnhcirclek.org)