

SERVICE

A guide to innovative projects

The community service provided by Key Club members worldwide is invaluable. By dedicating more than 12 million hours each year to bettering their homes, schools and communities, our members have made tremendous strides in almost all facets of society, from helping Kiwanis International virtually eradicate Iodine Deficiency Disorders, to reducing HIV/AIDS rates in Swaziland through a partnership with UNICEF, to benefitting parks, schools, libraries and much more in communities around the globe. With each project completed and hour spent in service, members of Key Club International are changing the world.

Projects included in this guide have been sorted into three categories: Easy, Moderate and Difficult based on the expected amount of work each would require. So whether you start off slow and end with a bang, or flip to the final page at the beginning of your year, the Key Club International Board of Trustees sincerely thanks you for your efforts and wishes you the best of luck as you take advantage of our fantastic opportunity to serve.

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LET US HELP YOU SERVE THIS YEAR

Each year, Key Club International awards thousands of dollars in grants to Key Clubs around the world to help them in their service. Our thought? No club should have to pass up a chance to better their home, school or community simply because they can't raise the funds. Our Youth Opportunities Fund, an endowed fund within the Kiwanis International Foundation, allows us to provide your club with anywhere from US\$100-2,000 and all you have to do is apply. Visit www.KeyClub.org/service/yof for more information.

YOUR SERVICE... EVERYWHERE

Think your club does projects better than those listed in the past eleven pages? **Let us know.** Key Club International is constantly looking for new projects to feature on www.keyclub.org, in the KEY CLUB magazine, on Key Club TV and on our official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/keyclubintl. If your club is planning a great project or has conducted an exceptionally successful one recently, report it to us at www.keyclub.org/contact.

EASY

Projects guaranteed to be a hit in your home, school, or community with few challenges in implementation and execution.

Bell ringers

Members needed: 1+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

This holiday season, sign up to help your local Salvation Army help the underprivileged members of your community. Contact a volunteer specialist at your local branch and pledge to spend a few hours out in the cold. After all, it could greatly change a life.

Bright, shining service

Members needed: 3-5+

Take an afternoon to brighten the classrooms and corridors of your campus...literally. Gather a few members of your Key Club and equip them with glass cleaner, towels and everything else needed to cut through the grime on the windows. Extend the project to the entire community to make your service more visible, or to raise funds for your favorite service partner or charity.

Care cards

Members needed: 3+

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting

Fashion handmade holiday, birthday or sympathy cards for members of your community or donate to your local Children's Miracle Network hospital. Write encouraging or inspiring messages inside each card and deliver as necessary. Remember to sign each card as "From the members of our local Key Club."

Club buddies

Members needed: The more the merrier

The start of the school year is, of course, the greatest time to bring new recruits to the Kiwanis family. It's also a prime opportunity to show your club's caring to the student body. To start each year, match upperclassmen Key Club members up with struggling freshmen, new students and potential Key Clubbers. Just saying a few words each day can make the fresh faces feel included and at home on the new campus—and can do wonders for your club's growth.

Coats for kids

Members needed: 3+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Keeping warm in the winter months is something most of us take for granted. The same luxury, though, is tragically out of reach for many children—some, probably, even in your neighborhood. Before the coldness sets in, collect new or old coats from the members of your community. Then, contact your local Angel Tree coordinator or social service office to ensure they go to children in need.

Winning tips: Have convenient drop-off locations at schools, stores, etc. in your area. Then, see if a local drycleaner or laundromat would donate their services.

Grant a wish

Members needed: 2-5+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity!

The Make-A-Wish Foundation seeks to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses to boost their morale, and possibly even fulfill their wildest fantasies. The average wish, which can range from meeting a celebrity

to seeing the Super Bowl, costs about US\$7,000, so Make-A-Wish needs our help! Contact your local office to see how you can donate your time, expertise, funds or even frequent flier miles today.

Winning tips: Measure success in wishes. When you've raised US\$7,000 or volunteered in one fantasy, declare "One wish granted!" to your school and community.

Miracle minute

Members needed: 5-10

At your next school dance, Key Club event or party, promote the Key Club values by hosting a Miracle minute. For sixty crazy seconds, blare your favorite music and make your way through the crowd to collect pocket change, etc. After one minute, count the donations and announce the amount you were able to raise. Remember to advertise heavily before the dance or event, and consider having a reward (like extending dance time) if the crowd reaches a sufficient benchmark.

Pay it forward

Members needed: The more the merrier

A great service project to introduce at a club meeting

Turn service into a traded commodity at your school by pledging to pay it forward. Begin by printing business cards with inspirational sayings, interesting facts and of course the Key Club logo, and your new motto, "pay it forward." Then, as you help a fellow student pick up his books, pay for the next car's fast food at the window, etc., pass along one of your cards and urge the recipient to show their thanks by performing another act of kindness and passing along the card.

Spirit wear

Members needed: 2+

Design and produce school spirit apparel and sell it to your student body for a discount price. Offering attractive tees, sweats and more can raise virtually unlimited funds for your club's favorite charity.

Read-a-thon

Members needed: 5+

Volunteer at a local library or elementary school to host a reading day. Choose your favorite kid's book with an appropriate, important message and share it with the children of your community. Enjoy your unique opportunity to promote literacy and help instill a love for reading in the lives of participating kids.

Winning tips: Have extra copies so older students can follow along as you read, and consider having a hands-on project or craft ready for students when you've finished the story. Don't forget to practice your character voices beforehand to make the time even more enjoyable.

Ronald wants soda tabs

Members needed: 1+

Ronald McDonald House Charities provide roofs, beds and a comfortable life to families forced to travel far from home to seek treatment for their seriously ill or injured children. Treatments that can, in themselves, cause financial distress to a family, can last a day, a month or even longer. Ronald McDonald Houses located near major hospitals, especially those specializing in child care, can alleviate at least some of the stress by providing the necessities of life for free, so parents can stay focused on their child's recuperation. Collecting pop tabs in your school or community for donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities can help fund this great work.

School supply drive

Members needed: 1+

Having all the necessary supplies to complete the year is vital to the academic success of every student. However, many young students in our communities go without each year. To address this, your club can host a drive to collect new or gently used supplies at the beginning and end of each school year. Supplies can then be donated in bulk to a local elementary school, since they'll know how to distribute them best.

Seeds of service

Members needed: 3-5+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Want to liven up the look of your home, school and community? Take a few minutes this spring to plant flowers at your campus, park or just all around town. Doing so will beautify your area, and may even plant the seeds of service in all those who enjoy the plants, urging them to pick up where you left off.

Serving up the grub

Members needed: 3-5+

Donate your club's labor for an afternoon or evening stocking shelves at your local food pantry, or serving dinner to the less fortunate at a nearby soup kitchen. This is one of the fastest and best ways to see the difference in the faces of each and every life you'll touch.

Winning tips: Host a food drive for these organizations and bring everything you've collected with you. Feeding America is available to help with food drives across the United States. Log on to www.feedingamerica.org.

Spirit week

Members needed: 3-5+

One great way to raise awareness for your club and the partners it sponsors is to host a spirit week at your school. Decorate the halls, invite students to dress up in crazy spirit wear, and show off what your dedication to service means for the world around us. Go the extra mile and host a dance blowout at the end of the week, and look into electing your own Key Club royalty.

Winning tips: Try scheduling your spirit week for the establish Key Club Week, during the first week of November.

Telephones for troops

Members needed: 1+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Do you have drawers of old cell phones collecting dust in your house? What are you supposed to do with them when you upgrade, anyway? This project would have you collect your own phones along with your schoolmates and donate them to the www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com initiative. These old phones, worth little to you and I, can create a vital link between overseas soldiers and their families back home.

Thank a teacher

Members needed: The more the merrier

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting

As students, nothing we do would be possible without the help of our schools' faculty and staff. Consider showing your thanks to these important figures by designating one or more meetings per year to card creation. Let each faculty member in your school know how much they're appreciated by writing inspirational messages of thanks inside personalized cards. Personally delivering them can also add a special touch.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Hit the streets this Halloween to help ensure the well-being of children everywhere! Dress up as the scariest version of yourself and collect not candy, but monetary donations on October 31. Your donations, sent to the Key Club International Office, will be sent to aid in Key Club's UNICEF project—a real way for you to make a difference globally!



Winning tips: Be aware of your town's rules regarding trick-or-treating, it may not be permissible in every neighborhood. Travel in one large group, or split up into teams to turn the event into a fundraising contest!

KEY CLUB unicef 

Usher me in!

Members needed: 3-5+

School play, graduation, baccalaureate, no matter the occasion, Key Club can add some class. Serving as ushers to guests of honor or the general public at your school's next big event can ensure each guest is safely and correctly seated. Roll out the red carpet this year and show off the swank of Key Club International.

Winning tips: Dress appropriately for the occasion. Offering to check coats at the door can add an extra level of convenience for guests, and can even serve as a great fundraiser for your club.

MODERATE

Projects that may require advanced planning and extra hours, but are sure to make a measurable difference in your home, school, and community.

Beads of Courage

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting.

Members needed: 2+

Beads of Courage is a program based in Tucson, Arizona, that aims to support children recovering from various ailments. For each night spent in the hospital or every procedure undergone or shot taken, children are encouraged to add a bead to their recovery bracelet. By the end of their hospital stay, children have both a beautiful reminder of their strength and courage, and complete ownership in their recovery.

Winning tips: Raise funds to purchase beads to donate, or spend some time at an upcoming meeting creating starter bracelets to take to a local children's hospital. For more information, visit www.beadsofcourage.org.

Book drive

Members needed: 3-5+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Old books, new books, kids' books, comic books, there's a use for them all. Hold a drive to collect gently used books in your school district's elementary, middle, and/or high schools and distribute the books to needy libraries or students. Making new pieces of literature available to the children in your area will open doors for them like no other project.

Winning tip: Consider selling duplicate books for US25-50¢ and using the proceeds to purchase more new books.

Concessions

Members needed: 5-10+

Set up a snack bar at your school's next sporting, fine arts or other extra-curricular event. Selling snacks, drinks, food and souvenirs to attendees can rank in the chance for your favorite charity fast!

Winning tips: Pick a good location, one with access to electricity and water. Know your customers. Buy products you know spectators will like in bulk to save on overhead costs.

Dance marathon

Members needed: 5-10+

Each year, Children's Miracle Network affiliates worldwide hold official Dance Marathons. At these events, students and adults alike dance the night away to raise money for their local CMN hospitals. Including a small cover charge for anyone who wants to take part and selling your own concessions once dancers have entered, you can raise a lot of money for the good of children—and have a whole lot of fun while you're at it.

Winning tips:

Designate the Key Clubber with the best taste in music (or the fullest MP3 player) to be the event DJ; this can save you the overhead cost of hiring a professional mixer. Also, consider having prizes available for the "last man standing" to encourage extra participation



Change race

Members needed: 2-4+

It's war! Set up one can for each class in your school and encourage students to deposit pennies and dollars into their class' can for positive points, and silver coins into the other class' for negative ones. US1¢ = 1 point, and a change race = a whole lot of fun.

Winning tip: Keep students informed by counting the change often and announcing point standings.

First aid class

Members needed: 3-5+

Offer a free first aid class for kids and community members in your area. Find a professional willing to donate his time or do your own research to teach basic first aid facts and action plans for situations likely to happen around the house, school and outside. Making the class fun and informative for kids can ensure children's safety whether adults are around or not.

Gift wrapping

Members needed: 5-10+

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting!

During the holiday season, find local groups buying presents to donate to charity and offer to wrap for them. Try to get paper and ribbons donated, or fundraise to buy the necessities. You can even open the service up to the community for a small charge to raise money to buy more gifts, or to cover the expense of the project's materials.

Winning tips: Label presents clearly and correctly as you wrap them to make sure all the packages get back to their respective givers/groups. Play music or movies while you wrap to make the process more fun for everyone involved.

Homeless shelter birthday parties

Members needed: 3-5+

Host monthly birthday parties for kids at your local homeless shelter or community center. Bring games, gifts, cake and refreshments and the spirit of fun to these less fortunate children and leave a lasting impact on the community.

Winning tips: Get gifts, party supplies and food donated, if possible. Show up early to decorate, and be sure to go all out to make the event extra special.

Kid's booth

Members needed: 5-10+

At the next community carnival or fair in your area, do something to keep the local kids busy. Offer to run a kid's booth with games, face painting and plenty of crafts, all for free to ensure the event is fun for everyone.

Winning tips: Get permission from the event's sponsor beforehand. Show up early to set up, and plan to stay late to pick up once everything's finished.

Kids' safety maps

Members needed: 3-5+

Want to keep kids in your neighborhood safe? Map out the best routes from your neighborhood to the local elementary and middle schools and distribute the maps to area youth. Using them will keep kids safely away from danger while encouraging social science skills.

Winning tips: Ask police, school officials or other experts for their recommendations on the best and safest walking routes.

Lights, camera, goodbye

Members needed: 3-5+

Give each senior in your school's graduating class 45 seconds in front of a video camera to say farewell to the school. The DVD can also include shots from prom, graduation and other big events throughout the year. You can sell copies as a fundraiser for your favorite charity, or give the work away to any student who supplies a blank DVD.

Museum guides

Members needed: 5-10+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Volunteer at your local art, science or history museum to show visitors around. Share some background information and lead tours for kids and adults alike to encourage an interest in your local culture. Don't forget to read up on the subject beforehand, though.

Winning tips: Go the extra mile and print maps to distribute to patrons, and use them to study up at your club meetings; having guides well-versed in the layout and contents of the museum can greatly improve the quality of your service.

New teacher/student survival kit

Members needed: 3-5+

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting

Help new teachers or students get through their first few days by putting together free survival kits for them. By providing them with a small token of your caring, you'll introduce the new additions to your school to the value of having such a great service-leadership organization on campus.

Winning tips: If you plan to create packages for new teachers, see what veterans of the trade would suggest. Commonly requested materials might include dry erase markers, highlighters and loads of caffeine. Donating all your kits to your school's administration near the end of the year can have them ready to go once the new school year rolls around.

Pet adoption drive

Members needed: 5-10+

Work with your local animal shelter to help give abandoned pets a home in your community. Hold an expo so everyone can see the cute and cuddly animals, and have plenty of shelter personnel on hand to help people take them home. Holding a lottery drawing for anyone who adopts and advertising can go along way in changing the lives of local pets and new pet owners.

Prom rescue

Members needed: 3-5+

Talk to your local tuxedo rental location or dress retailer and see if they'd be interested in loaning tuxes or dresses to disadvantaged students for the night of prom. If no, ask them to offer discounts or no- or low-interest financing options to that all your school's students can participate in that one night to remember.

Winning tips: Asking your classmates to donate or cheaply sell their past prom attire can also provide a low-cost option for the less fortunate students at your school.

Powder puff

Members needed: 5-10+

For this project, have the girls and the guys of your school's Key Club or sports team switch sides. Let the girls play each other in a good old fashioned game of football, basketball, etc. while the boys cheer them on. Sell tickets at the gate and donate the proceeds to your favorite charity.

Winning tip: Consider holding a sporting event in which a sports team competes with teachers.

Senior's game day

Members needed: 5-10+

Grab all your favorite board games, Bingo, cards and snacks and head over to the senior center to infuse a little fun into everyone's day. Use the opportunity to get to know your community's elders, and enjoy yourself as you log service hour after service hour.

Tape a teacher

Members needed: 5-10+

Sell 1-foot-long strands of tape for US\$1 to students eager to tape a teacher to the wall.

Winning tips: Picking a really popular (or maybe a really *unpopular* teacher can boost participation in your fundraiser.) Remember to set the ground rules early, no tape in a volunteers face or hair.

Tutor time

Members needed: 5-10+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Volunteer at a local elementary school to tutor the students there. Visit the after school programs or late busses and spend some time helping students finish work, prepare for tests and gear up for a successful future.



Winning tips: Act appropriately at all times - little eyes will be watching. Be sure get the school administration's permission before setting up your tutor time. Remain patient with students and remember to offer plenty of compliments.

Voter registration drive

Members needed: 5-10+

Before your city, county, state or national elections, host a voter registration drive in your school or around your community. Get all the information you need and present it to 18+ year olds to encourage them to vote.

Winning tip: Targeting your classmates first can boost the youth vote while giving you valuable practice before you hit the streets/community center to convince the general public.

Walking beads

Members needed: 3-5+

At your next Relay for Life or special charity walk event, set up a walking beads stand. For a US\$5 donation, give participants a string and special bead. Then, for the rest of the night, as they finish laps, give participants another colored bead. Include special beads for survivors or family members and 1-mile and 5-mile accomplishments. Donate the proceeds of the event to your favorite charity.

Winning tip: For Relay for Life, make sure you stay up all night to serve everyone who walks.

Walking day

Members needed: 3-5+

Promote good health at your high school by planning a walking day. With the help of your school and public administration, set up a path around your town and encourage students to come walk with you.

Winning tips: Plan service projects along the route to help get your community in shape at the same time you shape up. Also, consider providing or selling healthy drinks and snacks for participants.

DIFFICULT

Don't shy away from these harder projects because just as the planning and execution effort intensifies, so do the rewards.

Adopt a room

Members needed: 5-10+

Help brighten the atmosphere of those in need. Adopt a room at the local orphanage, community center, library, school or whatever by cleaning, painting, decorating and giving an all-around rejuvenation.

Winning tip: Make a multi-year commitment or convince other organizations to adopt rooms to multiply impact.

Art show

Members needed: 3-5+

Hold an art fair for the local kids. Have them submit art in different formats and age groups, then display them and allow the public to vote on the winners. Instill a love of art in the new generation and raise the spirits of local children through this awesome project.

Blood drive

Members needed: 10-15+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion, and the need only intensifies as you begin to consider the thirty nations of Key Club International. Donating blood is the second best way to partner with the American Red Cross to directly save lives. The first is to host your own school – or community-wide blood drive. Make sure to include a canteen with snacks high in sugar and protein, and schedule lots of helpers to act as escorts. Contact your local Red Cross office or visit www.givelife.org for more information.

Building benches

Members needed: 5-10+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Head over to the hardware store, pick up some supplies and build benches for your local park, school, or other community area. Get instructions online and recruit your local Kiwanis family members to help the cause.

Winning tips: Try to get wood and other supplies donated, and consider building your benches on-site. Assembling in a line – Henry Ford style – can help with productivity, too.

Carnival night

Members needed: 10-15+

A hall or auditorium can be decorated to suit the theme of a carnival with relative ease. Offering a range of activities (think cake walk, weight guessing, ring toss, etc.) can keep kids happy and having fun for hours. Sell refreshments and provide entertainment to make the evening truly unforgettable.

Winning tip: Assign different club members to certain booths and plan for each activity accordingly.

Dodgeball tournament

Members needed: 10+

Want to serve with some excitement, energy and fun? Try a dodgeball tournament for charity. Inviting local schools to register and send teams can spread the fun around, and getting local news outlets to cover the event will add to the experience. Charging a small entry fee for teams and selling tickets, snacks and souvenirs can raise money quickly.

Lock-in

Members needed: 5-10+

Host an all-nighter at your town's YMCA, community center or school at which students can enjoy themselves by participating in different activities like crafts, games, movies and/or a dance. Donations collected or the funds generated from charging a cover fee can be donated to your favorite charity.

Winning tip: Kids respond to food, consider serving it.

March for Babies

Members needed: 10-15+

March of Dimes is an organization that works to save the lives of babies born prematurely or born with life-threatening birth defects. They fund research and treatment and implement advocacy programs with the ultimate goal of creating a world in which every baby is born healthy and on time. In their signature project, the March for Babies, participants gather pledges from sponsors and walk a pre-determined path to raise both funds and awareness for this very worthy cause. Consider hosting your own March for Babies, or rally the members of your club to form a team to march in a nearby event.

Winning tips: Have your route well-planned and clearly marked in advance.

Consider holding the event in the morning before it gets too hot, and always be prepared to help participants in need; keep water bottles and a first-aid kit on hand at all times. Consider holding a celebration breakfast at the finish line just like at Key Club's international convention.



Special Olympics

Members needed: 15+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Volunteer at your local Special Olympics event as assistants, concession stand workers or cheerleaders! The athletes will appreciate all your hard work and support, and the community will back you in your support of the handicapped. Don't have an event in your community? Visit www.specialolympics.org to learn how you can plan one.

Winning tips: Be patient and ready yourself for a long day. Contact your event's organizers early and often. If you don't have one now, contact your local Kiwanis Club about chartering an Aktion club in your area to allow Kiwanis to compete next time around.

www.aktionclub.org



Spooktacular!

Members needed: 10-15+

Combine all the old favorites of Halloween into one fun haunted house for local children. Booths for bobbing for apples, cake walks, costume contests, snacks and games will all contribute to a great, safe evening. You can even recruit other organizations on your campus to aid you in the holiday event.

Winning tip: Encourage parents to celebrate Halloween with their children at your haunted house – but keep the frights age-appropriate. Close your events a few minutes before your scheduled event end time.

The great sofa hunt

Members needed: The more the merrier

A great service project to introduce at a club meeting

Finally an easy way for everyone in your Key Club to get involved. Send each member of your club or student body home to dig through their home's furniture, nooks and crannies for loose change. Grandparents' homes can be treasure troves as well, so encourage your members to hit up family members. Donate the funds to your club's

favorite charity.

Winning tip: Display the change collected at school so students can see their small contributions build up into one large donation when everyone works together for the betterment of your home school, and community.

Trauma dolls

Members needed: 5-10+

A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting

Sew dolls for children in local hospitals that can be used by doctors to explain procedures and injuries to kids. To gain ownership in their situation, friendship in a new toy and a sense of community caring, the kids can then keep their new custom-made doll. With a little time, patience and creativity, you can brighten the day and possibly even change the life of a hospitalized child in your community.

Winning tip: Have materials ready if you plan to make trauma dolls at a Key Club meeting.

Variety show

Members needed: 5-10+

A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Brighten the days of residents at local nursing homes, orphanages, hospitals, senior centers, etc. by hosting a youth variety show for all to enjoy. Acts can vary from the simple and straightforward to the elaborate and intense. Remember to keep the cameras rolling to catch every minute on film.

