



Kiwanis
Terrific
Kids 



Terrific Kids Program Guide

What is **Terrific Kids?**

Terrific Kids

Being young leaders through practicing good character and good citizenship.

Terrific is an acronym for: **T**houghtful **E**nthusiastic **R**espectful **R**esponsible **I**nclusive **F**riendly **I**nquisitive **C**apable Students learn about and hopefully begin demonstrating these character traits by participating in the program.

(Visit the Terrific Kids Web site to review fun group activities that promote understanding of Terrific Kid character traits.)

Terrific Kids is a student recognition program that promotes character development, positive self-esteem, and perseverance. Students work with their classroom teacher and establish goals to improve behavior, peer relationships, attendance, or schoolwork. Students then work toward achieving of their goal during a specific time period.

The objective is to honor as many students in the school as possible. The teachers and principal determine the best schedule for presentation of recognition. Some schools recognize Terrific Kids each month, six times a year, or during each grading period. It depends on what is most manageable for school faculty.

At the end of the designated time period, all students who achieved their goals are recognized as Terrific Kids. Recognition includes being pinned as a Terrific Kid; a pizza, ice cream, or other food-themed party; and presentation of certificates and other giveaways.

A service club/organization helps support the Terrific Kids program at the school. The club or organization plans a Terrific Kids party, provides recognition, and establishes partnerships with local community businesses to secure support for the program. Sponsoring businesses have the option of providing coupons, giveaways, or food for Terrific Kids parties.

The Terrific Kids program provides teachers with a tool to reward students for special achievements that may otherwise go unnoticed.

Although the Terrific Kids program was designed as a school program, it also can be adapted for use in community centers or other organizations that support youth. When used in this setting, a staff member steps in to serve in the teacher's role. The staff member then works with participants to set goals and monitors achievement.

To learn more about starting a Terrific Kids program in your school or organization visit the Terrific Kids Web site at www.terrifickids.org.

How it works!

The Terrific Kids program is a fun and simple program to implement at school or in an agency that supports youth.

The Terrific Kids Program is successful because:

- ★ Students learn to set and achieve goals.
- ★ Students compete with themselves, not other students in the class.
- ★ Students receive positive recognition for an achievement they took part in selecting.
- ★ The program encourages development of partnerships between the business community and the school/agency.
- ★ Implementation of the program takes minimal effort from the sponsoring club/organization and the school/agency.
- ★ School administration or agency management can adapt the program to meet their needs.

Here is a checklist to assist in implementing the program.

The sponsoring club should:

- Read through the Terrific Kids Guidebook and visit the Web site to familiarize volunteers supporting the program.
- Open the Terrific Kids resource CD and print copies of the informational sheet, form letters, and goal progress chart, and create a handout for distribution to teachers during an information session about the program.
- Meet with the school principal and teachers and agree on:
 - ★ The types of goals students should set.
 - ★ The percentage of students who should achieve the award.
 - ★ The communication plan for educating teachers, students and parents.
- Hang a Terrific Kids banner in the school to promote awareness. (The banner is included in the program kit.)

- ❑ Make arrangements with teachers to create a bulletin board where photos of Terrific Kids will be displayed. (Bulletin board materials are included in the program kit.)
- ❑ Ask local businesses to sponsor the Terrific Kids program by providing coupons, giveaways, and other types of support.
- ❑ Supply recognition certificates and other Kiwanis Terrific Kid's awards. (These items are all included in the program kit.)
- ❑ Photograph Terrific Kids. Photos are displayed on the school's Terrific Kids bulletin board and sent with news releases.
- ❑ Invite parents to award presentations. (A letter of invitation is included on the resource CD.)
- ❑ Plan and attend recognition events, presents awards, and spend time with Terrific Kids!

The school principal or organization director should:

- ❑ Explain the Terrific Kids program to teachers at a faculty meeting and request input regarding goals that should be set, percentage of students to be honored, and recognition schedule. An organization director would take the same action as the principal and explain the program to staff members.
- ❑ Share information about the program with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or other group supporting the school or organization. (An informational sheet is available on the resource CD. Kiwanis Kids brochures promoting Kiwanis' elementary school programs also are available from Kiwanis International.)
- ❑ Announce Terrific Kid recipients over the school's public announcement (PA) system. An organization director would do the same using the facilities PA system.

The participating teacher or staff member should:

- ❑ Explain the Terrific Kids program to students. (An informational sheet explaining the program is available on the resource CD.)
- ❑ Schedule a time to meet with each student to discuss and select student goals. Each student sets a goal to improve in some way, such as reducing tardiness or being quiet in class. (Remember: Students compete with themselves, not one another.)

Select goals that are realistic, achievable, and timely.)

- ❑ Complete the student goal chart noting each student's goal. (This form is on the resource CD.)
- ❑ Send a letter to each parent explaining the program and the goal chosen by their child. Also include a parent brochure. (A sample parent letter is available on the resource CD.)
- ❑ Decide if students will be honored during each grading period, monthly or more often. Determine when names of Terrific Kid recipients will be given to the school principal or organization director, and to the sponsoring club/organization. Continue with this reporting schedule throughout the year.
- ❑ The school principal uses this listing to announce the names of Terrific Kids over the school's public announcement (PA) system. The organization director should promote recipients in the same way, if possible.
- ❑ The sponsoring club/organization uses this list to produce certificates for presentation to students at a special ceremony. The list also will be used in news releases.

Presentation of awards includes these steps.

The school and the sponsoring club work together to:

1

Make arrangements for presenting awards. This may vary from school to school, or organization to organization. Some schools may choose to recognize students at a special school assembly, during the lunch hour, during class, or some schools may choose one or more of these options. (Review the section of the guidebook about planning the recognition party for more information.)

2

The sponsoring club is responsible for recruiting local businesses to assist with the Terrific Kids recognition. The school/organization should share ideas about which business partners are of interest. Fast food restaurants, grocery stores, and retailers often are interested in supporting character development programs and may provide coupons in return for advertising.

3

Post the business sponsor's name on the Terrific Kids bulletin board, mention them in news releases sent to local media, and promote them in school publica-

tions and yearbooks. Providing this type of advertising ensures that the business partner will continue to support the program.

4

Write congratulatory letters to the parents of the Terrific Kids and invite them to the recognition event. (A copy of this letter is included on the resource CD.) Sponsoring clubs may choose to host a program at the end of the school day providing punch and cookies, while others may arrange a pizza party during the school lunch hour. If parents are unable to attend during a lunch hour session, recognition items should be sent home to keep parents informed.

5

Present each Terrific Kid with a personalized certificate, business sponsor coupon, and other gift. Recipients are photographed separately and as a group. Photos are placed on the Terrific Kids school bulletin board, sent to the business sponsor, and used to send with news releases to local news media.

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A banner, posters, bulletin board decor, certificates, and other recognition items are provided in the Terrific Kids program kit. If the Terrific Kids program is sponsored by a large school or more than one school, additional recognition items are available from the Kiwanis Family Store.

Terrific Kids with a twist: Alternative approaches

When implementing the Terrific Kids program at a school, the goal is to recognize all students with the award. Sometimes, though, this isn't possible. To solve the problem of one child receiving the award and another feeling excluded because he or she didn't receive the award, school administration can change the program to meet their needs.

Rather than asking students to identify a goal which must be achieved for recognition, one school opted to place all the students' names in a basket and names were drawn for the recognition at a designated time each month. When taking this approach, the school encouraged students in all the classrooms to learn about and practice the character traits of the Terrific Kid. Students practiced being TERRIFIC: Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, and Capable.

Teachers should describe each of the Terrific Kids character traits to the students and display a poster noting the students' names and the character traits. Each time a student demonstrates a terrific behavior, a star is placed next to his or her name. Honored students then understand they are being recognized for consistently working at being a Terrific Kid.

Approaching business sponsors

Often schools are interested in partnering with businesses but don't know how to approach them for assistance. The Terrific Kids program provides an easy solution. A sponsor is needed to support this program and this is what the business can do to offer support. In return the school will promote the sponsoring company in school publications and through news releases sent to local media. It's a win, win situation!

The school receives coupons and or free giveaways to provide incentive to students, and the local business receives additional business, additional publicity, and improves its image as a result of providing support to the school.

Visit the Terrific Kids Web site to learn helpful tips about ways your club or organization can approach businesses for support.

Some sponsoring clubs have found it helpful to develop one primary business partner. This partner often times agrees to pick up most of the program's cost.

The key to approaching businesses for support is pointing out the benefits they will enjoy as a result of being involved in the program.

Benefits to partnering businesses

- Increased visibility
- Increased business
- Improved community image
- Good feeling in knowing their business is supporting youth

When talking to businesses share this information:

- ★ Size of the school.
- ★ Average size of each classroom.
- ★ Estimated number of students the club would like to honor during the year.

- ★ Estimated cost of all program materials, asking that a portion of this amount be donated, or requesting coupons, or giveaways.
- ★ Ideas about business partner promotions.
 - › Free advertising in the school’s yearbooks.
 - › Name recognition in letters sent home to parents.
 - › Name recognition in news releases sent to local media.
 - › Name recognition on bumper stickers.

(The business sponsor may want to provide funds for a portion of the cost of personalized Terrific Kids bumper stickers displaying the business name.)
 - › Promotion of business partnership on Terrific Kids bulletin board.
- ★ Remember to provide the business sponsor with copies of promotional materials in which their name is mentioned. Also ask the business sponsor to post information about Terrific Kid winners. If the business sponsor has an employee bulletin board, post the information in this area for employees to see.

Planning an awards program

Recognition in the classroom

- ★ Terrific Kids participate in a special activity (The teacher can identify the fun activity at the beginning of the year in an attempt to motivate student participation.)
- ★ Terrific Kids share team-building activities, which promote Terrific Kid character traits. (Visit the Terrific Kids Web site to view and print these types of activities.)
- ★ A list of Terrific Kids names are displayed in the classroom. Students should be informed that the goal is to honor everyone in the classroom as Terrific Kids.

Recognition at a school assembly

When making the Terrific Kid recognition, a short presentation should be made explaining the program and what Terrific represents.



Students should be seated in the same order their names will be announced. Students should step forward to accept their certificates at the school assembly. If there is enough time, a button also may be presented to each student.

Parents should be invited to this presentation.

Take photos of each Terrific Kid and then take a group photo.

Recognition at a special party *Lunch party*

Make arrangements to seat Terrific Kids in one section of the lunchroom. Volunteers then serve Terrific Kids a special lunch. The food served is up to the volunteers. Pizza is a big hit with kids. Be sure to check with the school cafeteria to okay any plans volunteers have to provide lunch. The lunch celebration usually is held in combination with another celebration, like recognition at a school assembly. This way students are recognized and receive awards at the assembly, and also receive special acknowledgement at lunchtime. The lunch celebration is created specifically for students; parents may not be able to attend a function at this time of the day.

Take photos of the group eating lunch.

Mid-day or end of the day party

- ★ Invite parents to attend this event.
- ★ Serve punch, cookies, cake, ice cream, and other snacks.
- ★ Present students with Terrific Kids certificates, lapel pins, and special gifts.
- ★ Assist volunteers with presentation of awards.
- ★ Take a group photo and photos of each Terrific Kid.

Publicity

- ★ Contact local newspapers about coverage.
- ★ Contact local radio and television stations. Ask them to report award ceremonies.
- ★ Don't forget high school radio stations. Ask the high school radio-television department to provide coverage and to create promotional radio and television spots.
- ★ Make a presentation at Parent Teacher meetings or other meetings at which individuals are interested in the program.
- ★ Conduct a Terrific Kid essay contest in which Terrific Kids write about something

they've learned by being involved in the program.

- ★ Ask Terrific Kid recipients to write thank-you notes to business sponsors and make copies of newspaper clippings covering the program, and send them to the business sponsor. (Sample news releases are included on the CD.)

The Budget

The club sponsoring the Terrific Kids program and the business sponsor should try to split the cost of these items, if possible:

- ★ Cost of additional materials for presentation (see the Kiwanis Family Store catalog).
- ★ Cost of refreshments or food for a lunch party.
- ★ Cost of photo development, unless done electronically with a digital camera.
- ★ Cost of postage to mail invitations and news releases.
- ★ Cost of paper and duplicating.

Share your Terrific Kids success stories.

Send Kiwanis Kids staff an e-mail and share how this program made an impact at your school or organization.

E-mail: kiwaniskids@kiwanis.org

Web site: www.kiwaniskids.org

TERRIFIC Kids!



www.kiwaniskids.org

3636 Woodview Trace Indianapolis, Indiana 46268 USA
Worldwide: 1-317-875-8755 • USA and Canada: 1-800-KIWANIS