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Invite Service Leadership Program club members to attend Kiwanis meetings.

When your Kiwanis club sponsors a Circle K club, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids or Aktion club, you are working with a program that's going to have a tremendous impact on its members, your community and you.

But remember: Sponsoring a Service Leadership Program (SLP) club goes beyond just providing funds. As a Kiwanis sponsor, your goal is to help lead SLP club members in their projects and pursuits, and to inspire them to provide service and support for children around the world. It is your responsibility to help them develop character and to empower them to become competent, capable and compassionate leaders.

One of the best ways to do all this is to invite members of your sponsored clubs to your Kiwanis meetings and events. Doing so:

- Nurtures the partnership between your club and the SLP club, as well as the relationship between individual members of your club and the SLP club
- Instills in members of the SLP club the concept that they are members of the Kiwanis family, a global organization of volunteers who each year dedicate more than 6 million volunteer hours and invest more than US\$100 million in projects that strengthen their communities
- Makes it more likely that members of sponsored clubs will remain in the Kiwanis family until they join Kiwanis clubs as adults
- Provides opportunities to model servant leadership and mentor
- Bolsters the service your club provides in its community and around the world
- Builds a relationship between your club's members and parents of SLP club members that will spark interest in Kiwanis and boost your membership
- Will be fun!

Once you've decided to invite members of your sponsored clubs to your club's meetings and events, you may have a few questions. Here are answers to some key ones:



Is it okay to incorporate members of our sponsored clubs into our meeting?

Yes. Doing so will be rewarding *and* educational. There are many options.

- After your sponsored club elects its officers, introduce them to your club by inviting them to a meeting. This is a great way to begin building Kiwanis-family ties.
- Instead of scheduling a speaker, invite officers from your sponsored clubs to make a presentation about their service projects and fundraisers. This gives them a sense of fulfillment and shows your fellow Kiwanians that your club's investment in the future is paying off.
- If your club conducts a membership roundup, include representatives from your sponsored clubs in your program. Ask them to share with guests the activities their clubs are doing and what their involvement means to them personally. This is a great way to reinforce to potential members the Kiwanis goal of developing leaders of all ages.
- Turn your regular meeting over to officers of your sponsored club. Put them in charge of creating the agenda, calling the meeting to order, sharing announcements and arranging for a speaker or making their own presentation. This is a great leadership-development tool.

Should we invite our SLP club members to other events?

Yes, of course. For starters, invite them to join you in service projects—including Kiwanis One Day events—and fundraisers. Suggested events include cleanup days at parks and playgrounds, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, participating as a team in the March for Babies or taking part in a Read Around the World activity. These events provide you with a great marketing opportunity and allow your SLP members to see the impact working together can have.

Don't forget to invite them to some social events as well. Many Kiwanis clubs, for example, invite members of their sponsored clubs to activities such as picnics, sporting events, bowling and miniature golf. These activities strengthen your relationship with your SLP members and reward them for the valuable work they do.

Who, in particular, should we invite to meetings and activities?

It depends. If your meeting space is limited, it's not a good idea to invite all SLP members to a meeting, especially if you sponsor more than one club. In this instance, it's better to invite members from one club or one program (Key Club, Builders Club, Aktion Club, CKI, K-Kids) at a time.

Service projects and fundraisers are different, though. To get the most impact from your activity, go ahead and invite all members of your sponsored clubs to take part.

Is there any protocol we need to follow?

Here are a few things to keep in mind when inviting members from our sponsored clubs to your meetings and events:

- Be sure to invite parents and faculty/facility advisors. You can join them in their pride and share information about Kiwanis.
- Offer to provide transportation. Keep in mind, though, that some schools/agencies have policies that require individuals to either ride in school buses and vans or with parents.
- Greet them when they arrive and be sure to introduce them at the beginning of your meeting or event.
- If a meal is part of your club's meeting or event, pick up the tab for your guests. If snacks and refreshments are served, be sure to have enough for everybody.
- Give your guests mementos. Certificates, buttons, engraved pencils and other memorabilia are suitable. For other ideas, go to www.kiwanis.org and click on "Kiwanis Store."