

Builders Club

Builders Club structure

What is Builders Club?

Builders Club is an international organization for middle school students imbedded in the philosophy of building character and developing leadership through service. The vision is “to develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service.”

These young students develop and carry out service projects for their school and community. They also can participate in fundraising projects and use the money earned to support a local charity or school concern.

Builders Clubs elect their own officers, conduct regular meetings, and establish their own committees. Projects suggested by members are conducted under the supervision and cooperation of the faculty advisor, school administrator, and sponsoring Kiwanis club.

The history of Builders Club

Kiwanis clubs have dedicated themselves to community service for more than 90 years. Schools have been a vital part of that interest, and much concern focuses on the development of youth and the direction of their energies into worthwhile activities.

In 1975, Kiwanis International expanded its family of youth programs to include Builders Club. Builders Club is the middle/junior high school member of the Kiwanis family, which includes K-Kids for elementary school students, Key Club for high school students, Circle K for college students, Aktion Club for adults with disabilities, Kiwanis Junior (European young adults), and Kiwanis.

Kiwanis International considers Builders Club an important service organization. The support provided to these youth members by Kiwanians is a practical extension of the objectives of the International organization.

Currently, more than 1,300 Builders Clubs have been established, with an estimated membership of more than 36,000. Builders Clubs exist in Antigua, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Korea, Malaysia, Martinique, the Philippines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.



Objectives, core values and motto of Builders Club

The following Objectives are stated in the Standard Form for Builders Club Bylaws:

- To provide opportunities for working together in service to school and community.
- To develop leadership potential.
- To foster development of a strong and moral character.
- To encourage loyalty to school, community, and nation.

Core Values:

- **Character Building:** the ability to do the right thing, even when it might be the unpopular choice
- **Leadership:** the ability to listen, communicate, serve and guide others
- **Inclusiveness:** accepting and welcoming the differences in other people
- **Caring:** the act of being concerned about or interested in another person or situation

The motto of Builders Club is “Building Leaders.”

What is Kiwanis International?

Kiwanis is a worldwide organization of men and women whose clubs serve children, develop youth leadership, and provide for social and business networking. Kiwanians participate in projects that provide assistance to local charities, hospitals, schools, shelters, other community organizations, and individuals.

The Objects of Kiwanis International are:

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism, which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

There are more than 600,000 Kiwanis-family members in 16,000 clubs in more than 70 nations.

The structure of Kiwanis International

Kiwanis International is managed by a 19-member Board of Trustees, who are volunteers elected by Kiwanis club delegates to represent the organization. These International officers reside in all regions of the Kiwanis world. They gather several times each year at the Kiwanis International Office in Indianapolis, Indiana, to set policy and make decisions that guide the organization.

Kiwanis International is divided into 48 districts. These districts are organized geographically, typically by state, region, or nation. The official elected to oversee the activities of the district is the

governor. The district governor also leads the district board comprised of a secretary and several lieutenant governors. The lieutenant governor is the chief elected official of a division, which is a group of clubs within a district. Divisions also are organized primarily along geographic or demographic boundaries. There are typically 10 to 15 clubs in a division.

The local Kiwanis club is the backbone and building block of the International organization. It is the members of the local clubs who provide the time and resources to assist individuals and communities. The members of each Kiwanis club elect a president and a board of directors to guide the club in its activities.

International and district support of Builders Club

Three groups of individuals support the Builders Club program on the International and district levels. Each Kiwanis district governor, prior to his or her term in office, appoints an individual to serve as the Builders Club district administrator. This individual has the responsibility for the maintenance and growth of the Builders Club program in the district. Specific duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Building new Builders Club in the district, in cooperation with Kiwanis club sponsors.
- Devising and initiating, in consultation with the district governor, such promotion as is valuable and practical for clubs within the district.
- Communicating with the International Office about the status of the Builders Club program in the district.
- Assisting the International Office, when necessary, in determining the actual status of individual Builders Clubs within the district.

Individual Builders Club advisors are encouraged to contact the district administrator for assistance and guidance. A listing of district administrators is distributed to the clubs annually.

Each year, the Kiwanis International President-Elect appoints individuals to serve on the International Committee on Builders Club. The purpose of this committee is to promote and encourage the growth of the Builders Club program on the International level. This promotion takes the form of correspondence with Builders Club district administrators, publication of articles in various Kiwanis and Builders Club newsletters, and communication with the Kiwanis International Board. This committee often reviews current programs related to Builders Club and offers suggestions for change. The names and addresses of individuals on the International committee are distributed to the clubs annually.

Administration of the Builders Club program is the responsibility of the Builders Club Department at the Kiwanis International Office. This area is responsible for maintaining information on individual clubs and statistical information on the entire program, producing and distributing the Builders Club Newsletter and semi-annual mailings, and providing support materials upon request.

The Builders Club Department also provides program development functions for Builders Club, such as creating new support items, preparing the annual budget for Builders Club, and coordinating award programs. Though International Office staff develops these programs and materials, the Kiwanis International Board must approve all new initiatives prior to implementation.

Structure of Builders Club

The Builders Club program was specifically designed to operate on a local club basis with no district or International structure. The sponsoring Kiwanis club, in conjunction with the school administration, is responsible for the direction and functioning of the Builders Club.

The Kiwanis International Board has set some operational guidelines. These guidelines are outlined in the Standard Form for Builders Club Bylaws. This document covers such topics as election and duties of club officers, meetings, membership, Objects and activities, dues, and committees.

Each Builders Club should adopt bylaws that adhere to the standard form. The Builders Club, sponsoring Kiwanis club, and school administration must approve these bylaws. A copy of the approved bylaws should be kept in the sponsoring Kiwanis club's and Builders Club's files. A copy should also be forwarded to the International Office.

Builders Club officers' duties

The Standard Form for Builders Club Bylaws states that the officers of a Builders Club shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Election of new officers should be conducted at a meeting during the spring semester. The new officers should assume their responsibilities at the last meeting of the school year. Each officer shall be a member in good standing. No other limitations or restrictions should be placed on these officers.