

## Aktion Club Interactions



Aktion Club members strive to return to their communities the benefits, help, and caring they have received, as well as develop important skills in the process. As part of the Kiwanis Family, CKI members can help!

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**MOTTO:** Where development has no disability.

**MISSION:** To provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities.

**VISION:** To develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service.

**CORE VALUES:** Character Building, Leadership, Inclusiveness, Caring

## Some Suggestions for What Your Club Can Do

### Bell Ringing

During the holidays, many organizations have opportunities to ring bells outside local businesses. Schedule a few shifts to ring bells with members of Aktion Club and spread holiday cheer!

### Card Making

Help make cards for nursing home residents or hospital patients! Cards can be made from construction paper and each member can add their own creativity. Also pass the cards around during meetings to get each member to sign.

### Fill Activity Bags

Another great activity to do with Aktion Club is to fill activity bags for kids in hospitals or underprivileged schools. Fill these bags with all sorts of fun things such as stickers, pencils, coloring books, play-doh, and various other fun items.

### Braided Dog Toys

Teach members how to braid old T-shirt strips together with the ends tied tight! It's a great opportunity to have CKI members pair up with an Aktion Club members and have them learn a new skill.

# Interaction Tips:

1. Use first-person language when referring to someone with a disability, rather than “a disabled person.”
2. Don’t make assumptions about a person’s abilities. The individual is the best judge of what he/she can or cannot do.
3. Make eye contact and speak to the person directly (rather than their personal care attendant or interpreter, for example).
4. Speak using your normal volume and pace, unless you are asked to speak louder or slower.
5. If you don’t understand what someone is saying, ask the person to repeat it or offer another form of communication (such as paper/pen or computer) for clarification.
6. If you are working with someone who uses a wheelchair or mobility device, do not lean on it. Also, if you are speaking with them for a prolonged period of time, sit in a chair to be at their level.
7. If you are working with someone who is blind, clearly identify yourself when you first arrive and be sure to let him or her know when you are leaving the conversation or room. Also, offer to read any written information. Finally, give them your arm and gently guide them if requested.
8. If you are working with a person who has a developmental disability, use clear sentences, simple words and concrete concepts. Gauge the pace, complexity and vocabulary of your speech to match theirs. And, unless you are informed otherwise, remember he or she can make his or her own decisions.
9. If you are working with someone who has a service dog, ask permission before touching the animal.
10. Relax. Mistakes are human, just be willing to learn from them.

**Most importantly, if you don’t know what to do or what something means, ask the person. They are the experts on their needs and how to best meet them.**

## Chartering and Co-Sponsoring an Aktion Club

### There are three simple steps:

1. **Find:** Find advisors, members and a place to meet.
2. **Lead:** Get organized, file paperwork, train club leaders and build enthusiasm.
3. **Serve:** Reach out to the community and make a difference through meaningful service projects.

More Information can be found at:  
<http://www.aktionclub.org/discover/Co-sponsorship.aspx>



**To find your local Aktion Club, please contact the Kiwanis International Office at 1-800-549-2647 extension 411, and an operator will direct you to the appropriate personnel.**

a Kiwanis-family member  
[www.circlek.org](http://www.circlek.org)

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