

# Kickin' it with KEY CLUB®

## Throwing a Senior Reception!

The seniors in Key Club are at a pivotal point in their lives; after twelve years of education, they are about to close a major chapter of their lives and embark on a new journey! So it's time to celebrate! Not only is it a great way to congratulate the Key Clubbers, but it is also a great way to promote Circle K, which could be their next step in the Kiwanis Family! So whether you want to go big or keep it intimate, here are some important steps:

### ➤ Step One: Ask Kiwanis for help!

First thing's first, no matter what level of Key Club your reception is for, contact the corresponding Kiwanis level for help! Not only may they offer to support the reception financially, but if some of the seniors are planning on entering the work force or armed forces after high school, joining a Kiwanis Club would be the next step on their Kiwanis journey!

### ➤ Step Two: Get the word out!

Whether you'd like your reception to be big or small, make sure that the Key Club Seniors know about it! If you're planning it just for one club, you can print up fancy-looking invitations that the president could pass out at their meeting. Or try making a flyer and sending it to multiple Key Clubs in your area! For a senior reception at a Key Club District Convention, ask the Key Club district to put it in their program!

### ➤ Step Three: FOOD!

What's a party without food? Ask for donations from local grocery stores for snacks and drinks. Other options for having food at the event are splitting the cost of food with the Kiwanis club or ask each attending Kiwanian/Circle K member to bring a dish. You can also get some inexpensive decorations at the local dollar store.

### ➤ Step Four: People for the Party!

Invite as many of your Circle K members and Kiwanians as possible so that there will be plenty of elders to mingle with the seniors. As Circle K members, you can answer any of the Key Club members' questions about college life! Also invite the district and local international leadership in both Circle K and Kiwanis to attend!

## ➤ Step Five: Talk the Talk

About 10 minutes after the seniors arrive, choose a speaker to congratulate the seniors on a great year of service in Key Club and on their pending graduation! This speech should be inspirational and get the seniors excited on the next step of their life. Next, your club president should spend a few minutes talking about Circle K and the benefits of membership. Your president can also talk about your club specifically and the types of service projects you do. After that, the Kiwanis Club president should do the same!

## ➤ Step Six: All the Info

Don't forget to print some brochures about Circle K and Kiwanis for them to take home, as well as a Congratulations card from your club and the Kiwanis Club! Also, when the seniors arrive, ask for their name, personal email address, and college/university they plan on attending in the Fall. If that school has a Circle K, you can let the Key Clubber know about it! You can also pass along the Key Clubber's information to the Circle K so that they can add him/her to their email list in the Fall!

## ➤ Step Seven: MAKE TIME TO MINGLE!

The biggest impact that you can make at this reception is just by hanging out and talking to the Key Club seniors. While they're really excited to be done with high school, most likely they're nervous about heading off to college or wherever they're headed next. But you've been through it already! Just by talking to them about your experience and answering their questions, you're leaving an impact on them. When they get on campus in the Fall and see Circle K at their Activities Fair, they're going to remember the cool Circle K members that came and talked to them in high school. Hopefully that will be enough to get them to stop at the Circle K table and get more information about the first meeting! Even if the school they attend doesn't have a Circle K, once that Key Clubber settles into college life, they might find that they miss the fun they had in Key Club and might pull out that Circle K brochure you gave them.

**The goal of the Senior Reception is to make the seniors feel special—not just about graduating, but about being a member of the Kiwanis Family. A family that does *not* have to stop after high school. So feel free to hold the reception in any way you like, as long as you keep the main goal at heart!**