



# SPONSORING A KIWANIS VOICES CLUB

By sponsoring a Kiwanis Voices club, your club gives young adults ages 18-26 another avenue to Kiwanis membership — whether they're alumni of our Service Leadership Programs or starting their Kiwanis service journey. In addition, your members help ensure the Kiwanis Voices club receives mentorship for operations, service, fundraising and membership growth.

## BENEFITS FOR THE NEW CLUB AND YOUR CLUB

Thanks to your club's sponsorship, Kiwanis Voices club members learn from experienced Kiwanians how to:

- Create a satisfying membership experience that emphasizes service and fellowship.
- Host service projects and fundraisers rooted in the community and its needs.
- Invite new members to join.
- Use local media resources and social media to highlight the club's impact.

Helping attract potential members to a new club also strengthens the sponsoring club. For example, sponsoring club members gain confidence from teaching new recruiting techniques and sharing successful tactics. They also learn ways to assess their community's needs — and ensure the relevance of Kiwanis in their area for years to come. In fact, a sponsoring club's service even gains a potential source of strength: Members of the Kiwanis Voices club can assist with your service projects.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSORING CLUB

The sponsoring Kiwanis club members support and nurture the Kiwanis Voices club and agree to:

- Assist in the club opening process of the Kiwanis Voices club.
- Conduct interclubs — meetings where at least four members from one club visit another club for a meeting, event or service project — for the new club's pre-organizational meetings, the official organizational meeting, charter night and intermittently throughout the year.
- Assist the club coach and lieutenant governor as they support the Kiwanis Voices club.
- Help plan and guide the first service project of the Kiwanis Voices club.
- Monitor the Kiwanis Voices club for one year and help it maintain a roster of at least 15 members (which is the membership level of a club "in good standing" with Kiwanis International). Kiwanis International prefers opening and maintaining a sustainable club of at least 30 members. A club that reaches 30 or more members by its charter celebration will be invited to apply for a community service grant of up to US\$1,000 from the Kiwanis Children's Fund for projects that are related to the Kiwanis causes of children's health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

The lieutenant governor is another resource for the Kiwanis Voices club and the sponsoring club. The new club will be highlighted during a regular division council meeting. The lieutenant governor will encourage the new club's officers to participate in club leadership education, as well as attend the district's midyear conference and annual convention. In addition, the lieutenant governor will urge other clubs in the division to contribute monetary gifts during the new club's charter celebration, with funds designated to support the club's service account.





## SPECIFICS FOR SPONSORING A KIWANIS VOICES CLUB

A sponsoring Kiwanis club pays a one-time US\$100 sponsorship fee when the Kiwanis Voices club organizes. This fee is in addition to the individual annual dues of US\$40. The US\$100 fee may be paid out of the sponsoring club's service account if they so choose, as it is a pinnacle service project to open new clubs.

While opening a Kiwanis Voices club, the sponsoring Kiwanis club:

- Decides who collects startup dues (sponsoring club or district).
- Determines with the club members any additional club fee to be collected.
- Completes and submits the new club information sheet and bylaws, as well as any additional form or information needed by Kiwanis International to organize the club.
- Provides guidance or helps register for/with state and federal agencies, apply for EIN, complete Form 8976, open a bank account, incorporation, etc. (Kiwanis Voices clubs opened outside the U.S. need to comply with local and national registrations).
- Advises on planning and implementing a charter celebration — to be held within 90 days, including solicitation of silent/live auction gifts if the new club decides to feature them as a means by which to grow their service account.
- Helps establish new member orientation/onboarding and an annual review of Kiwanis International's Youth Protection Guidelines.
- Provides at least one — preferably two — club coaches who work with the Kiwanis Voices club for at least 24 months. Kiwanis Voices clubs will prosper with guidance from the club coach(es) beyond the initial 24 months.
- Helps Kiwanis Voices clubs continue to recruit members each year.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR MENTORING A KIWANIS VOICES CLUB

Keep an open and creative mind. This club may not look or interact like a traditional club, so you should allow the members to create a Kiwanis experience that works for them. For instance, that may mean no gong, gavel, banner or traditional regalia for these service-minded individuals.

Here are some best practices for mentorship:

- Peer-to-peer mentoring (president-to-president, secretary-to-secretary, etc.) is highly encouraged. This allows many members of your club to work actively with the Kiwanis Voices club. Assistance with Kiwanis Engage, our online membership platform, will be a necessary component.
- A Kiwanis Voices club does not have to open a checking account if the sponsoring club agrees to house the club's funds and include them in separate line items such as "Kiwanis Voices administrative" and "Kiwanis Voices service."
- Continue financial guidance, including an annual financial review.
- Encourage members of the Kiwanis Voices club to enroll in the Kiwanis Amplify personal development program.

To learn more about Kiwanis Voices, go to [kiwanis.org/voices](https://kiwanis.org/voices). For specific questions regarding organizing a club, email [KiwanisVoices@kiwanis.org](mailto:KiwanisVoices@kiwanis.org).



## SERVICE PROJECTS THAT APPEAL TO POTENTIAL KIWANIS VOICES MEMBERS

Community service that appeals to young adults often aligns with their personal interests, values and career aspirations — or provides opportunities for skill development and social engagement. Here are some examples:

- **Environmental causes:** Beach and park cleanups, maintaining community gardens, creating educational materials on sustainability, and restoring wildlife habitats. These activities allow members to be outdoors, connect with nature, and contribute to environmental stewardship.
- **Social justice and advocacy:** Advocating for social issues, participating in awareness campaigns and working with organizations that support marginalized communities, such as those addressing homelessness, food insecurity or refugee resettlement.
- **Education and mentorship:** Tutoring younger students, organizing literacy programs, assisting in after-school programs, providing technology training for seniors or coaching youth sports teams. These opportunities allow members to share their knowledge and skills and positively impact younger generations.
- **Animal welfare:** Volunteering at animal shelters, assisting with adoption events or participating in pet foster programs. This appeals to animal lovers and provides a chance to interact with animals in need.
- **Healthcare and support services:** Volunteering at hospitals or nursing homes, helping with blood drives or vaccination campaigns, organizing fitness classes or facilitating support groups. These opportunities provide insights into healthcare and allow them to offer support during challenging times.
- **Event organization and coordination:** Organizing charity runs/walks, fundraising events, or community festivals. This provides practical experience in event planning, marketing, and leadership, while supporting causes they care about.
- **Building and construction:** Participating in projects with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, which involve building homes and advocating for affordable housing. This offers a chance to contribute to tangible projects and develop practical skills.

In addition, young adults are often drawn to community service that:

- **Offers remote or virtual opportunities:** Many now seek flexibility and opportunities that can be done online, such as virtual tutoring or healthcare assistance.
- **Promotes skill development:** Community service can be a way to develop leadership, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.
- **Allows them to pursue passions and build resumes:** Activities related to their academic interests or career aspirations can be particularly appealing.
- **Fosters a sense of community:** Activities that bring people together, such as community clean-ups or garden projects, can be especially rewarding.

Sources: CollegeVine, Post University, YMCA, TeenLife, Inspirit AI, [cleanupusa.org](http://cleanupusa.org), [dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org).