

2026-27 RECOGNITION PROGRAM

APPROVED:
APRIL 18, 2026

FOR KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CLUBS, MEMBERS, DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS

Distinguished District recognition

ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFICATIONS

To achieve Distinguished status, a Kiwanis district must:

- Submit a membership plan by October 31, 2026.
- Meet the club opening goal established jointly by the president-elect and the governor-elect prior to the start of the administrative year. **Clubs opened one month prior (September 2026) and one month following (November 2027) the administrative year count toward Distinguished criteria. Kiwanis Voices clubs are official Kiwanis clubs and count toward the club opening goal.**
- Achieve a net increase in district membership over 2025-26.
- Open at least one (1) student led programs club within districts of 4,000 or fewer members; or at least two (2) Service Leadership Programs clubs within districts of more than 4,000 members. Student led programs include Builders Club, Circle K International, Key Club and K-Kids.

PLUS

A district that achieves its own higher ("stretch") club opening goal will receive a special citation.

AWARD RECOGNITION

- Presidential letter of recognition
- Distinguished District governor pin and certificate
- Distinguished District secretary pin and certificate
- Distinguished District banner patch
- Kiwanis website listing

PRESENTATION

At a special event during the Kiwanis International convention by Kiwanis International's immediate past president.

Distinguished Division recognition

DISTRICT-DETERMINED

SUGGESTED ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 80% of clubs in the division submit a membership plan with identified recruitment efforts and goals by December 31, 2026.
- At least 60% of the clubs in the division achieve Distinguished Club status.

AWARD RECOGNITION

- Presidential letter of recognition
- Distinguished Lieutenant Governor pin and certificate

PRESENTATION

At district convention or other district conference by board counselor or district governor

Recognition items available for purchase in the Kiwanis Family Store.



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Distinguished Club recognition

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Distinguished status, a Kiwanis club must be:

- In good standing with Kiwanis International and the district.
- At least at charter strength in membership.

ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFICATIONS

Membership & engagement

To qualify for Distinguished status, clubs must:

1. Develop a 2026-27 membership plan, to be submitted by December 31, 2026. The plan must include:
 - a. At least one recruitment event
 - b. Defined goals for each recruitment effort

Kiwanis International provides an online form for a membership plan to be submitted by December 31, 2026.

2. Appoint a club membership chairperson by October 1.

The membership chairperson should be submitted on the club election report.

3. Achieve a net gain of at least four (4) members OR sponsor a new Kiwanis club (either a traditional Kiwanis club or a Kiwanis Voices club).

Leadership & education

Clubs must meet the following criteria:

1. Club president, secretary, treasurer and membership chairperson participate in in-person (where possible) Club Leadership Education or similar training coordinated by division, district or international educational leaders.
2. On Kiwanis Engage, each of the following club officers must be reported: president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer.
3. At least one member attends the Kiwanis International convention.
4. At least two members participate in Kiwanis Amplify 2026.

Community impact

Clubs must:

1. Sponsor one or more of the following Service Leadership Programs: Builders Club, Circle K International, Key Club or K-Kids. (The Service Leadership Programs club can be either newly chartered or an existing club.)
2. Submit all 12 monthly club reports.
3. Complete the Youth Protection Guidelines education and report it in Kiwanis Engage.
4. Submit a club service project in the Kiwanis Signature Project Contest.
5. Provide an early-learning (first 2,000 days) project for the community. Examples include an education (literacy) or nutrition project to support children ages 5 and younger.

Financial viability

Clubs must donate at least US\$10 per member to the Kiwanis Children's Fund or national Kiwanis foundation.

Branding & image

Clubs must appoint a club public relations chairperson by October 1.

Public relations chairperson should be submitted on the club election report.

Kiwanis International will provide districts with a list of clubs that meet the above criteria for review.



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AWARD RECOGNITION

- Presidential letter of recognition
- Distinguished Club president pin and certificate
- Distinguished Club secretary pin and certificate
- Distinguished Club banner patch

PRESENTATION

At district convention or other district event by board counselor or district governor

Distinguished Member recognition

CLUB-FACILITATED

SUGGESTED ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFICATIONS

Sponsor at least two (2) new members.

AWARD RECOGNITION

- Presidential letter of recognition
- Distinguished Member recognition pin and certificate

PRESENTATION

Club meeting by Kiwanis club president or lieutenant governor

Recognition items are available for purchase in the Kiwanis Family Store.



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