

Brief History of the Key Club

Key Club began in 1925 in Sacramento, California, in order to provide an active, vocational guidance program for students. The attraction quickly caught on to join Key Club with the help of Kiwanians who visited the Sacramento Club and came away with the idea of introducing the high school service club to their communities. The idea spread quickly and soon Key Clubs were forming all across the nation.

Key Club International continues to grow rapidly. There are now clubs throughout the world, totaling over 230,000 members, 4,800 clubs, and 21 countries. In time, Key Club has grown to be the largest high school service organizations in the world. Key Club International is truly a student led organization, with a Board of Trustees elected at International Conventions, and District Boards Elected at District Conventions. Every year, two hundred or more new Key Clubs are built, however, emphasis is on the commitment to improving existing clubs. With this criterion as a guide, Key Clubs can expect a steady, healthy growth for many years to come.

International Timeline

1925 – First Key Club started in Sacramento, California

1939 – Florida held first “state” convention

1943 – International Association of Key Clubs formed, Malcolm Lewis (West Palm Beach, Florida) elected President

1946 – First Canadian Club Chartered

Keynoter Magazine created

Key Club International Constitution and Bylaws adopted

Key Club International formed and Hartley Hall, IV

(Macon, Georgia) elected President

1977 – Females admitted to Key Club International

1998 – Key Club International membership reaches 200,000

2000 – Key Club celebrates 75 years