

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · DECEMBER 2023

THE JERSEY KEY

By New Jersey District Bulletin Editor: Sahara Bhathal

Note From Your Editor

BY SAHARA BHATHAL

Hello NJ Key Clubbers!

I am Sahara Bhathal, currently a senior at Hightstown High School, and I am privileged to serve as your District Editor for the 2023-2024 service year. Over the past few years, I've held various positions within Key Club. In my sophomore year, I was webmaster at my high school chapter. Then last year I served as the Lieutenant Governor for Division 6. Now, I have the honor of representing you as the District Editor. Beyond Key Club,

I also work at a thrift store operated by a local nonprofit organization. You can often find me attending concerts, listening to music, and hiking. In my role as District Editor, I am fully dedicated to creating connections between general members and the state board. If you have any questions or concerns, I am happy to answer them, whether in your role as an editor or in any other capacity. Do not hesitate to reach out to me through email or phone. I eagerly look forward to the opportunity to meet each one of you at Kiwanis Family Prom & DECON!

Yours in caring and service,
Sahara Bhathal
23-24 District Editor



This issue:

Table of Contents

PAGE 01

District Project

PAGE 02

Advocacy Focus

PAGE 03

Club Spotlight

PAGE 04

Why Join Key Club?

PAGE 05

Social Media

PAGE 06

Kiwanis Family

PAGE 07

Upcoming Events

PAGE 08

Meet the Board

PAGE 09



Learning More About the 2023-2024 District Project

BY HETVI THAKKER & ADITYA BALA

NJ Key Club is ecstatic to reintroduce our District Project for the 2023-2024 service year, "Education is the KEY." This project strives to address educational disparities in New Jersey and provide access to quality education for children from all backgrounds and abilities.



District Project 2023-2024 "Education is the KEY"



Over the past few years, many New Jersey students, especially those from marginalized communities, have experienced significant learning loss. Simultaneously, high school course loads are expected to be more rigorous than ever, and standardized test score ranges are continuously increasing. An enormous amount of pressure and strain are being placed on students, yet students are disproportionately impacted by these educational strains, and low income communities are still facing reduced resources that prevent equal opportunity. Schools in low-income areas may receive less funding than necessary to provide a quality education, leading to a lack of essential resources, outdated facilities, and insufficient support services. Ensuring that every student has access to a well-funded education is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty and improving overall societal well-being. Low-income students not only contend with disparities in education quality but also lack access to advantageous resources available to their wealthier peers. Private tutoring, SAT prep, and college counselors can significantly impact college admissions, yet these opportunities may be out of reach for less affluent students. The 2023-2024 NJKC District Project: Education is the KEY aims to combat educational disparities in New Jersey and increase access to quality education for students of all ages and backgrounds. Building on the success of the previous year, NJKC has already made significant strides, including a Fall Rally Book Drive to collect books for low-income communities, a statewide flash-card-based service project at DECON, and a week of service centered around Education is the KEY. Participation in the project extends beyond the district board, as numerous school clubs collaborate to make a concerted effort. By addressing educational disparities at both the district and club levels, NJKC seeks to create a more inclusive and equitable education system in New Jersey.



2023-2024 Advocacy Focus

BY HARSHINI ASOKUMAR

The Advocacy committee is a standing committee of the New Jersey district of Key Club International. Each spring the district board votes to pass an advocacy focus for the service year. The purpose of having a statewide advocacy focus is to inspire students to serve their homes, schools, and communities by raising awareness for specific relevant issues. To that end, it is the responsibility of the Advocacy Committee to provide helpful resources that inform and engage members.

The advocacy focus for the 2023-2024 service year is Building a Greener Future: Environmentalism & Sustainability for a Thriving Planet. This was chosen because of the importance of preserving the wellness of our planet as it is critical to all those who call it home. That is why it is essential to raise awareness and provide ways Key Club members can involve themselves in environmental wellness efforts. The Advocacy Committee recognizes the power of student-led clubs in effecting change.



By encouraging clubs to align with these bi-monthly themes, the committee aims to maximize impact and engagement. Here is a brief description of those bi-monthly focuses and different ways the committee intends to engage students this service year! For the months of October and November, the committee will prioritize waste disposal and recycling, aiming to establish a comprehensive recycling program within schools. Students will be encouraged to reduce waste and recycle responsibly. The committee also plans to encourage clubs to have a recycling collection fundraiser. This can involve a drop-off where people can bring cans and bottles to a set location on a specific day. The committee plans to release awareness campaigns on the importance of proper waste management. This includes but is not limited to social media. It can also include podcasts, videos, etc. The Advocacy committee this year hopes to provide Key Clubbers with tools and resources needed to make a positive impact on the environment.

June/July - Eco-Friendliness (Plant More Trees)
August/September - Better Methods of Transportation
October/November - Waste disposal/Recycling Program
December/January - Fast fashion/Sustainable fashion
February/March - Park Cleanliness Cleanups of Local Parks



Club Spotlight

BY ISABELLA LARTEY

New Jersey Key Club would not be able to thrive without our dedicated members! Our exceptional members display the four core values of Key Club International during their daily endeavors: leadership, inclusiveness, caring, and character building. The Membership Recognition Committee aims to emphasize the contribution of our members through an initiative that requires your help! Ask yourselves: “Which members are going the extra mile to prove their dedication to community service?” Whether these members lead initiatives or encourage other Key Club members to be more proactive, we want to celebrate these members with you.

Your responses to our Google Form
are essential to kick-starting
Spotlight Sundays

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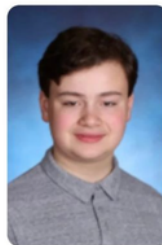


Spotlight Sunday Sophie Schadt



Sophie is from Mountain Lakes High School (Division 17). She took initiative by **organizing her school's "Trick or Suites" event** to provide fun for differently-abled students at the PG Chambers Schools!

Spotlight Sunday Connor Musgnung



Connor is from Phillipsburg High School (Division 11) and has over **100 service hours**. He is a member of FEA, NHS, and STUCO in addition to Key Club.

As his Key Club's **Corresponding Secretary**, Connor has a **deep love for helping others and bettering his community!** He strives to improve communication within and outside the club whilst always being there for his members and officers!

One Sunday a month, the NJ Key Club Instagram page (@njkeyclub) will feature a post for a member recognized in the Google Form. Through this initiative, we hope to not only show our appreciation for our members, but we also hope to get them more excited and involved with our organization! While Spotlight Sundays is a state-wide form of recognition, we also encourage clubs to recognize their members on a club level. Each month, you can recognize a member as “Key Clubber of the Month!” Or, your club can host an award ceremony at the end of the year for each member that exhibited one of the four core values throughout the service year. Members appreciated by our clubs and district will continue contributing to the success of New Jersey Key Club!





Why should you join Key Club?

BY MEMBERSHIP GROWTH & REACTIVATION

Key Club International, a student-led organization dedicated to service and leadership, provides young individuals with a unique platform to make a positive impact on their communities. Joining a Key Club goes beyond mere volunteerism; it offers a wealth of benefits that contribute to personal growth, leadership development, and a sense of social responsibility.

Community Engagement:

One of the primary advantages of being part of a Key Club is the opportunity to actively engage with the local community. Members have the chance to participate in a variety of service projects, ranging from environmental initiatives to assisting the less fortunate. This hands-on experience not only fosters a sense of empathy but also instills a lifelong commitment to community service.

Leadership Development:

Key Club places a strong emphasis on leadership development, offering members numerous opportunities to hone their organizational and managerial skills. From planning and executing service projects to taking on leadership roles within the club, members learn how to work collaboratively, make decisions, and inspire others - skills that are invaluable in any future endeavor.

Networking:

Joining a Key Club opens doors to a vast network of like-minded individuals who share a passion for service. This network extends beyond the local club to include regional and international connections, providing members with a diverse and supportive community.

Networking within Key Club can lead to lasting friendships, mentorship opportunities, and exposure to a wide range of perspectives.

Beyond the tangible benefits, Key Club fosters personal growth by encouraging members to step out of their comfort zones. Whether it's speaking in public, organizing events, or interacting with diverse groups of people, Key Club challenges individuals to develop new skills and build self-confidence. This personal growth extends beyond the high school years, preparing members for success in their future endeavors.





Social Media

BY KATE DIPAOLO

Following @njkeyclub on Instagram and our other social media platforms gives followers easy access to updates on our upcoming events, our latest projects, and resources to get more involved in the organization. Additionally, followers can stay up-to-date with relevant news, inspiring stories, and fun content.



We are thrilled to announce that we have created a TikTok page for our Key Club! We believe that TikTok is a great platform to reach out to our community and engage with them in a creative and fun way. Our handle is @nj_keyclub - make sure to follow us and spread the word!

Following the individual division accounts allows members to stay informed about what's going on within their own divisions, such as upcoming events and service opportunities. It also allows members to connect with other members from their own division and build relationships. Finally, it is a great way to recognize the work that members in the division are doing.

Follow Our
Social Media
TikTok:
@nj_keyclub
Instagram:
@njkeyclub



Spotlight Sunday Sophie Schadt Sophie is from Mountain Lakes High School (Division 12). She took initiative by organizing her school's "Think or Swim?" event to provide fun for differently-abled students at the PG Chambers School! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Dues Reminders Deadline: December 1st Clubs must pay dues by December 1st to remain in good standing with the district! Dues help fund senior scholarships, district events and more! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Meet the Boar Ethan Schmidt Hello! My name is Ethan Schmidt, and I have the privilege of serving as your Incoming President! I am currently a junior and am from the Division District. SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!
District Handbook 2023-2024 Our District Handbook is an amazing resource compiled by our District Secretary to help members learn more about New Jersey Key Club! SWIPE FOR ACCESS!	K-Family Book Kiwanis Family Relations Committee The K-Family Booklet is a resource that the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee creates for all the chapters of the Kiwanis family to utilize to stay connected with one another. SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Global Engage Rally: What to Expect November 16 @ 7 p.m. EST via Zoom With more than 20 countries participating in the largest Kiwanis event, this is a chance for you to connect with other members and see the world from a different perspective! There will be a chance to win prizes and a chance to be a part of the Global Engage Rally! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!
Meet the Boar Oseka Balogun Hello! My name is Oseka Balogun and I am currently a senior at Division 12. I am excited to serve as your Incoming President! I am currently a senior at Division 12 and I am excited to serve as your Incoming President! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Spotlight Sunday Connor Musgunug Hello! My name is Connor Musgunug and I am currently a senior at Division 12. I am excited to serve as your Incoming President! I am currently a senior at Division 12 and I am excited to serve as your Incoming President! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Connect the K Key Club Week: Day 5 Connect with local members, District 12, and the world. Let your friends know who you are Key Club! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!
Random Acts of Kindness Key Club Week: Day 4 A little smile goes a long way! Choose to be kind by giving out of your way to brighten up someone's day. Try to implement little random acts of kindness. SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Dare To Share Key Club Week: Day 3 Many members love Key Club's warm and inviting community and fun activities. Now is the perfect time to share them! Make new friends while taking advantage of the amazing opportunities Key Club has to offer! SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!	Invite & Include Key Club Week: Day 2 Key Club is the largest service organization in the world. Let your friends know who you are Key Club! This is the perfect day to show off how inclusive Key Club is and why it's important. SWIPE TO LEARN MORE!



KIWANIS FAMILY PROM QR CODE



Kiwanis Family Relations

BY ABIGAIL LEE

What is the K-Family?

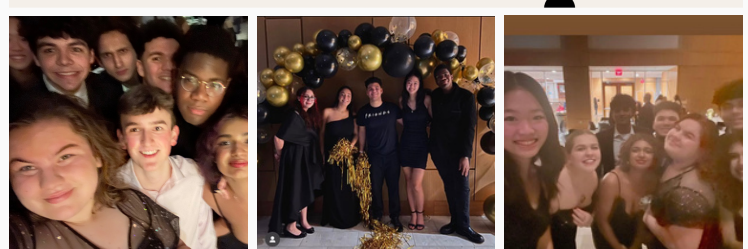
The Kiwanis Family, or K-Family, describes the six service-oriented organizations that all work towards the same goal of helping serve the community. There are six branches of the K-Family that extend out of Kiwanis which is the larger, adult organization. There are 2 programs associated with elementary school education (Terrific Kids & BUG). The K-Family Relations Committee works diligently to create strong relationships between the various branches that make up the K-Family.

The Kiwanis Family Resource Booklet

The Kiwanis Family Relations Committee works on various projects to help increase the communication between all of the branches. One of these projects is the Kiwanis Family Resource Booklet which is a packet that is meant to encompass what the different branches of Kiwanis are and why they are important to us as Key Clubbers! It serves as a reminder of how we can all stay connected and be a guide through your journey of learning and engaging with the different branches of the K-Family. If you would like to read the K-Family Booklet, reach out to your respective Lieutenant Governor or the chair of the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee: Abigail Lee – Email: alee@njkeyclub.org

K-Family Prom

One of the largest and most fun events planned for the whole K-Family is Kiwanis Family Prom. This is a prom-like event for anyone in the K-Family to come and have a good time together while also supporting a good cause. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Bridge Of Books Foundation which is a New Jersey Non-Profit Organization that focuses on providing books to underprivileged children. This organization's mission aligns with our District Project, "Education is the KEY" and by joining us for a fun night of music, food, and dancing you will also be giving back to others in the community. The theme for this year will be "Cloud Nine and Caring" and it will be hosted at The College Of New Jersey (2000 Pennington Rd, Ewing Twp, NJ 08628). Registration is open so we hope that on January 26th, 2024, from 6:00-10:00 PM, you will be able to experience cloud nine when you attend K-Family Prom!

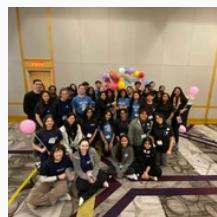
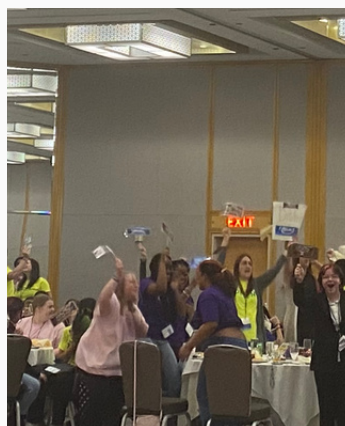




UPCOMING EVENTS

DECON AND ELECTIONS

This year's District Educational Conference is the 78th celebration where Key Clubbers from all over New Jersey gather to commemorate the achievements made throughout the state. This year's DECON is a two-day conference that starts Friday, March 22, and ends Saturday, March 23, at the Hyatt Regency Princeton in Princeton, NJ. It is two days filled with workshops, service projects, awards, contests, and more. The DECON registration packet will be released and will include rooming for one night, four meals, event registration, and exclusive convention T-shirt and pin.



Another event that is fast approaching is Lieutenant Governor elections for the 2024-2025 service year. If you are interested in running for a position on the New Jersey state board reach out to your Lieutenant Governor for more information.



Meet the District Board



District Webmaster
Aviel Hernandez



District Secretary
Tessa Lee



District Governor
Laine Elliott



District Treasurer
William Wang



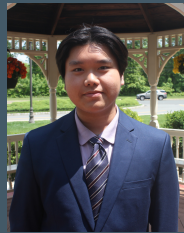
District Editor
Sahara Bhathal



Division 1: Demi Lu
dlu@njkeyclub.org



Division 2: Michael Liang
mliang@njkeyclub.org



Division 3: Justin Chen
jchen@njkeyclub.org



Division 4: Hetvi Thakker
hthakker@njkeyclub.org



Division 5: Bailey Terrett
bterrett@njkeyclub.org



Division 6: Aditya Bala
abala@njkeyclub.org



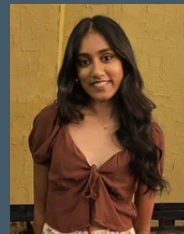
Division 7: Christine Prince
cprince@njkeyclub.org



Division 8: Aeryn Morrow
amorrow@njkeyclub.org



Division 9: Kate DiPaolo
kdipaolo@njkeyclub.org



Division 10: Dhriti Thogarchedu
dthogarchedu@njkeyclub.org



Division 11: Abigail Housel
ahousel@njkeyclub.org



Division 12: Harshini Asokumar
hasokumar@njkeyclub.org



Division 13: Eva Sarantidis
esarantidis@njkeyclub.org



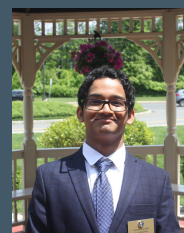
Division 14: Oseka Balogun
obalogun@njkeyclub.org



Division 15: Ellianie Montealgre
emontealgre@njkeyclub.org



Division 16: Isabella Lartey
ilartey@njkeyclub.org



Division 17: Shashank Karra
skarra@njkeyclub.org



Division 18: Olivia Abraham
oabraham@njkeyclub.org



Division 19: Lina Mousa
lmousa@njkeyclub.org



Division 20: Abigail Lee
alee@njkeyclub.org



Division 21: Gaayathri Nadarajah
gnadarajah@njkeyclub.org



At-Large: Nikita Kumar
nkumar@njkeyclub.org



At-Large: Rashi Jakhotiya
rjakhotiya@njkeyclub.org