A Summer at Boggy Creek

BY: Sara Fruithandler
Suwannee Lt. Governor
University of Florida

Camp. Growing up, this meant flying North for the summer, running around for six weeks, without a care in the world. After this summer, the word “camp” now holds a new meaning I place close to my heart. Camp Boggy Creek is designed to allow children of varying chronic and life threatening illnesses to have a camp opportunity they would not be able to experience otherwise. Originally, I signed up to volunteer one session. I caught what we at camp like to call Boggy Fever, where I could not get enough and kept returning to camp to impact the lives of more children.

Like I mentioned previously, I spent my childhood at sleep away camp, where competing was everything. For these campers, their illnesses prevent them from being able to participate in various activities of our daily lives that we take for granted. At Camp Boggy Creek, they are given the opportunity to feel a sense of inclusion while enjoying their Boggy experience. In the “real” world as we refer to it, these campers have many obstacles impeding their ability to just be kids and enjoy themselves. Camp gives them the opportunity to feel “normal” amongst their peers. A wheelchair does not interfere with the ability to participate in a game and a scar during Heart session does not stop campers from taking off their shirts at the pool since they realize their peers at camp are all more like themselves than different.

Throughout last school year I was told on multiple occasions at CKI meetings that I needed to try out a CBC Family Weekend. I was always enticed by the idea of trying it but never got myself to fill out an application. Once summer neared, I came to the realization that I had no more excuses of why not and had nothing to lose in saying yes. It was not until I actually arrived at camp that I realized what I had truly gotten myself into.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)
service ideas, many of which CKI has used in the past for ongoing projects.

Our sponsoring Kiwanis club, Cape Coral Kiwanis, is the largest Kiwanis club in the state and one of the largest in the world. Their projects each year, which we take part in, raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the children of the world. This truly spectacular organization is currently in the early stages of planning, in conjunction with FGCU CKI, a tetanus shot drive on our campus to raise donations for Kiwanis’ Eliminate Project. Registered nurses will come out and give tetanus shots to students, faculty, and staff in exchange for donations. We are truly excited to be a part of it.

Overall, we are working hard at making our club emerge and become a beacon for our University. We are full of ideas, plans and potential and plan to show it off more than ever this year. We are bursting with Eagle pride and ready for an awesome new year getting to do amazing service projects that truly help change the world!

BY: Ashley Brompton
Club President
Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida Gulf Coast University is a growing member of Florida’s university system. Just like our University, FGCU’s Circle K International is experiencing growing pains. We are building our club and hope to make amazing progress in the next year. With all of our 2009-2010 officers graduating, we have turned over a new leaf and risen to the challenge. Since we are a smaller club, we are able to give each and every member the opportunity to lead and grow with us as we grow.

At FGCU, all students are required to obtain eighty service learning hours as a degree requirement. University Colloquium is required, which instills vital environmental awareness in students and provides ten service hours-the other seventy can be fulfilled in tons of ways. CKI is just one of many options for service groups on campus, but we have one of the largest service groups around. Eagles Connect encourages students and provides

ABOVE: University of Florida club Vice President Marissa McGehe. Photo courtesy of: Amanda Rigney

BY: Amanda Rigney and Mike Spicochi
University of Florida

The University of Florida CKI proudly presents our new Vice President, Marissa McGehe. She is a senior Psychology major with a minor in Art History who hails from West Palm Beach, FL. She volunteers at the Hospice with hopes of becoming a grief and bereavement counselor when done with her schooling.

She became involved with CKI in her first year at the University of Florida where she caught the “service fever.” She has served on the UF club board as a Social Chair and an MD&E chair as well. She is excited about continuing her tenure as club Vice President in the fall.

In her off time, she enjoys knitting, painting, cooking, baking, watching Oprah, and having a good time with her friends and family!

When we first met Marissa two years ago, we felt that she was an outgoing and passionate person. We then found out where her personality came from after meeting her family at a CKI tailgate party for a UF football game. Her dad, a magician, passed out balloon animals for the club. Her mom bonded with fellow Tebow lovers at the Gator Walk. Marissa is a hardworking and outgoing individual; and remains a role model for the UF CKI club.

ABOVE: FGCU’s small and green campus. Photo By: Carl Fridh
CKI in “Aktion” at Kiwanis DCON

BY: Gerard Sukhram
Sunbelt Lt. Governor
University of Tampa

It was a rough Friday, coming to Kiwanis DCON from Tampa. We’d just had a week of rain, it was the first week of classes, and I just felt in low spirits. However, despite the torrential downpour on the way to Orlando, I was determined to make the most of my otherwise dreary week.

The weekend definitely took a turn when I stepped into the Renaissance Hotel. It was absolutely beautiful: impeccable furnishing, an aquarium video feed in the center of the main lobby, and indoor balconies. Kiwanis definitely pulled out all the stops to put on a really impressive convention.

On Saturday morning, Circle K members helped run the Aktion Club Elections and Awards Ceremony. I can honestly say that I’ve never seen a more passionate group of individuals. Many of the Aktion Club members were brought to tears by the election speeches as well as when their clubs received awards. It was such a moving experience, and I was blessed with the opportunity to be there. One of the youngest members was running for a zone representative position, and he was so genuinely happy and excited to be there. The Aktion Club members were awarded in many different categories, but the one that seemed to receive the most applause was Best Scrapbook. I was very glad to work with the Aktion Club, and I hope to be able to in the future.

That night after the banquet, we joined in the festivities of outgoing Governor Donna Parton and her successor Tom Ramiccio. The celebrations were extravagant, and it was a beautiful night on their balconies.

We finished the conference by selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Circle K Alumni Association – funds that go to scholarships of us Circle K’ers. Between the ten of us, we managed to sell over $1,300 dollars! Almost $700 went to the Alumni Association. It was my first Kiwanis DCON I had ever attended and overall, I felt it was a very successful weekend!

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The Kiwanis Family: A Family You’ll Be OK With

BY: Carl Fridh
Florida District Editor
Florida Gulf Coast University

Circle K International is a collegiate service organization that is a part of the Kiwanis family (often abbreviated “K-Family”). But what is the Kiwanis family? Well, it’s a grand family that caters to anybody of all ages or abilities.

Builders Club

Builders Club is the largest service organization for middle school students that has more than 40,000 members worldwide.

The organization started in 1975 and since then flourished to more than 1,200 clubs in Aruba, Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, Italy, Jamaica, Korea, Martinique, Netherlands Antilles, Philippines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, and in the US.

The main focuses of the organization concentrate on character building, leadership, inclusiveness, and caring.

K-Kids

The K-Kids is the branch of Kiwanis dedicated to elementary school age children. The concept started in 1990, but flourished under former Florida District Kiwanis Governor Lamar Fisher in 1998-99. The first club chartered was the K-Kids Club of Brooksville Elementary School in Florida.

While K-Kids is an elementary leadership program, one of the biggest initiatives is “B.U.G.” or Bringing Up Grades, which tries to get students to strive harder in school.

The K-Kids has since grown outside the US in places such as Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Martinique, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago. With that, there are over 600 K-Kids clubs around the world.

Aktion Club

Aktion Club is the branch of the K-Family that specializes in helping the disabled be active in their communities. Another branch that has its origins in our district, started by 1988-89 Kiwanis Governor George D. “Jake” Swartout. The first club formed in 1987 in Putnam County, FL. With the help of Ed Brooks and Dick Wittner, Aktion Club slowly flourished throughout Florida and international. On October 1st, 2000; the Aktion Club became an official sponsored program of Kiwanis.

The main objectives of Aktion Club is always service, fellowship, and leadership. But also, the organization tries to integrate its members into society and show the dignity and value of citizens with disabilities.

Today, Aktion Club has expanded internationally in places like Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Jamaica, and Malaysia.
The second largest branch of the Kiwanis family and one of the most popular is Key Club. You may have been a part of this organization, but for those not in the know, Key Club is the high school branch of the K-Family. In 2010, Key Club had 250,000 members in over 5,000 high school campuses in North America, Central America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The organization still follows the same tenets of Service, Fellowship, and Leadership. But the organization encourages character building, caring, and inclusiveness as well.

Key Club had its beginnings starting on May 7, 1925 at Sacramento High School in California. Florida though had an integral part in the organization’s growth, by inviting several students from all over to their annual convention in 1943. They formed the “International Association of Key Clubs,” and since then the organization grew into what it is today. As a matter of fact, the Florida District of Key Club is the oldest district in the organization.

Several notable leaders and celebrities have been members of Key Club; including former President Bill Clinton, Tom Cruise, Joe Namath, Senator Bill Nelson, Brad Pitt, Elvis Presley, and Howard Stern.

The head of the table at the K-Family is Kiwanis International. It has over 8,000 clubs in 96 countries, with more than 260,000 adult members.

Kiwanis started on January 21, 1915 in Detroit, Michigan by Joseph G. Prance and Allen S. Browne. The name Kiwanis means “We shout,” or “We gather,” originating from an American Indian expression, Nunc Kee-wanis. With that, the first Kiwanis club, the Kiwanis Club of Detroit, Michigan was started. A year later, the organization went international, with a club in Hamilton, Ontario in Canada. In 1962, rapid international expansion was approved and numbers skyrocketed.

Kiwanis primarily serves the youth of the world, whether it is through their well being or by starting service organizations such as the ones listed on the last page.

Kiwanis has a spinoff organization in European countries as well called Kiwanis Junior serving young professionals 18-35 years old.

BY: Candice Schottenloer
Evergold Lt. Governor & K-Family Chair
University of South Florida–Tampa

Hello Mighty Florida District!

I would like to welcome both new and old members to the 2010-11 Circle K International (CKI) year. I would like to introduce myself to those that do not already know me. I am Candice Schottenloer and have been a part of CKI for 3 years. I absolutely love every minute of it! I attend USF-Tampa. I am your District K-Family Chair this year. In CKI and throughout the K-Family, we know this involvement to be called “interclubbing.” Interclub means attending an event with a specific number of people based on members with members of another club.

I would like to see CKI this year get more involved with the other branches of the Kiwanis family by interclubbing. There are many positive outcomes by expanding your involvement. Some positive results that I have experienced from working with the other branches of the K-Family are memories, lifelong friends, amazing volunteer opportunities, and networking with professionals.

Also, some other K-Family news to look out for is the K-Family Directory, which will include all contact info for Key Club, CKI, Kiwanis, and Aktion Club. This year, CKI is going to have a K-Family Week. It is going to be similar to Service Week and will include lots of ideas about how to get involved with the other branches. I feel this will be very helpful to get the attention of others to become an active CKI member. Last but not least, I am planning a K-Family picnic for the Spring. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me!

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A Summer at Boggy Creek (cont.)

There’s a saying we have at camp: From the outside looking in you can’t understand it, from the inside looking out you can’t explain it. I hold the greatest appreciation for not only camp itself but also for all the campers of whom I had the honor of meeting. Although I was able to teach them how great and beautiful each and every one of them are, they taught me something much greater. Appreciate the little things in life and always be the true you for if you wear a mask to appeal to others you will never appeal to yourself.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thank you very much for the story, Sara. Due to the strict rules of photography at Camp Boggy Creek, there were not many photos taken. But there are an abundance of service opportunities throughout the year at the camp and they would greatly appreciate CKI’s help!

Govener’s Word

The 3 Rs

Recruit

Renew

Relax

The 3 R’s of CKI are a great way to rejuvenate your club for the fall semester!

BY: Tim Wolfinger
Florida District Governor
University of Central Florida

Hello Mighty Mighty Florida District!

I am excited to see and hear about all the great things the clubs and members are doing so far this semester. Right now, membership recruitment and retention is crucial. That is why I want everyone to work on the three R’s of CKI!

The first R is recruiting! I want to encourage your club to dedicate a solid week on tabling near your union or other populated areas and recruit new members for CKI. When recruiting however, try to make it a little different. Always have as many members out there as you can. Be creative when recruiting, have a BBQ to pull in people. Give away free things like club shirts and other items that get people excited. Play some music so everyone can have a good time.

The next R is renewing! Work with all your returning members and remind them why they are in CKI, renew their love for the organization. Plan projects that they love to do. Host socials so they can bond with the many members you will have. Encourage them to attend district conferences and conventions so they get to know people from around the district. IDEAS is coming up. Try and get as many people to the conference as you possibly can. I know that the Con/Con chairs are working hard, and this is going to be a fantastic IDEAS conference!

The last R is relaxing! After you get your new members and get your returning members to get fired up...relax. Enjoy everything the CKI has to offer. Attend your favorite projects and participate in some fun socials. CKI is not just about the numbers but the experience. It is vital that you make this YOUR organization and just have some fun! If you’re having fun, more than likely your members are having fun as well.

I can’t wait to see you all at IDEAS!
In friendship and service,
Tim Wolfinger
Florida District Governor
Are you the Thermostat, or the Thermometer?

BY: Matthew Cantrall
Florida District Administrator

Have you ever given it any thought? Are you the thermostat or the thermometer? Too often in this world we allow outside influences into our lives and let other people or circumstances dictate what we are going to do today, tomorrow or even the rest of our lives. If this feels like you, now is the time to become that person who will set your own thermostat.

Life is short enough to be confined by what the world might consider best for us. It’s time to follow your heart and dreams and to make a difference in the lives of those you come in contact with. At the end of the day there will be no one responsible for your actions but yourself.

As leaders on campus and in our clubs, we all must raise the bar and let others measure themselves against the wonderful things you and CKI are doing that create a significant impact on lives from one to one hundred. In CKI and in Kiwanis, the challenge is there to showcase to the world that the power of one is great. But the power of one with an organization behind you, like CKI or Kiwanis, means you have the power within you to bring happiness to a child in need or a senior who has no one left to share a special moment with.

Despite the fact that each person’s DNA is different, we all have within us the ability to become that “thermostat” that really heats things up. Life is too short to always follow the leader. Let us commit today to blaze a trail where no other has gone. As your collegiate career continues, never settle on anything for once you begin to accept less than what you deserve it will become a way of life.

So as the school year unfolds, continue to maximize your education, take care of those things that are important and close to your heart and look towards the future with optimism, setting a higher standard by which others will be envious of.

Editor’s Korner

BY: Carl Fridh
Florida District Editor
Florida Gulf Coast University

Hello wonderful Florida District!

I hope everybody is finally back into the groove of schoolwork and CKI after a great summer. Hopefully your meetings are going smoothly and a lot of bright new faces are joining. But there’s a point I’d like to make to both new faces and familiar friends...

You know what is great about being in CKI? It’s the fact that we are a bunch of wild and spirited individuals that go the extra mile. Yes, we do more than those homework assignments and grinding into the night to study for the next quiz. But we do the service that nobody else does.

We take the time to visit those kids in the community. We take the time to clean up the beaches and roadways. And we excel in leadership skills by continuing to run (and hopefully grow) our wonderful organization and the K-Family.

We can also take note from our younger and older siblings in the K-Family as well. Whether its teaming up with your local Key Club for their fundraisers or attending your sponsoring Kiwanis club meetings, there’s always an opportunity for service in your community.

So I say to you, fine ladies and gentlemen, continue going the extra mile and hopefully I will see each and every one of you at IDEAS in Gainesville!

Stay Wild and Continue the Extra Mile!

CKI—We go the extra mile and keep on going.

“Don’t be content with doing only your duty. Do more than your duty. It’s the horse that finishes a neck ahead wins the race.”

-Andrew Carnegie
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