



Operating an extra-large club

With nearly 5,000 clubs in 30 different nations, it's easy to see how a club can become large very quickly, and with a resource of more than 250,000 members, each club will most definitely be unique. If your Key Club is like many others, then your membership has grown significantly. If you have concerns about whether you're ready to meet the challenge of operating an extra-large club, then you're in the right place.

Like any size club, an extra-large club has its advantages and disadvantages; however, there can be special obstacles an extra-large club may face.

What is an extra-large club?

Any club with 86 or more members is considered "extra large."

What advantages do extra-large clubs possess?

Because of your club's size, you're able to provide more service. You're also more likely to have a rather diverse club. If you've got such a resource, then utilize this individuality. People are different: work to make use of the talents and personalities of your membership. With a big club, you can afford to have several different large projects: from mentoring to cleaning up the school, from working with senior adults to volunteering at a hospital, your club can simultaneously carry out a number of service projects.

Challenges

Despite all of the advantages of an extra-large club, you'll still face some challenges. But don't worry: it's nothing you can't handle. As it was mentioned earlier, you're probably going to have many service opportunities for you members; however, not every volunteer opportunity will require the entirety of your membership. If you want to provide a project in which every member can participate, you're going to have to take some time to plan. Some of the most efficient ways of including every member are the following: mentoring, "a-thons," tutoring, cleaning up the campus or community or fundraisers. It's also possible to do service over a long period of time, such as reading to children at a local elementary school for a week, month or even semester. By alternating which members participate, you can include much of your club in the project.

Organizational efficiency

Goal setting

One of the keys to success in your club's year is whether or not you set and meet goals. When you decide what you want to accomplish, you have a focus toward which you can work; setting goals will allow you to concentrate your efforts to reach these new heights.

Fundraising

Because your club is large, you're going to need significant funds if you want to hold special events like induction of new members, installation of officers, parents' night, a party, an awards night or even a program. You'll also need

funding to help your members to go to conventions and conferences, such as fall rallies, divisional training conferences, district convention and international convention. It's important to realize the necessity of fundraising with respect to your club's needs. Plan ahead; if you know that you're going to need money to have an end-of-the-year party, make sure that you've acquired the necessary funds that such will entail. Don't be discouraged: with so many members, you'll be able to gain the funding that your club needs. With planning and dedication, you'll soon be able to hold that induction, banquet or other activity.

The board of directors

If you're going to have an effective club, you're going to need an organized and committed board of directors. Your club is large, so you'll have much to discuss when it's time for your board to meet. By creating an agenda, you can move proficiently through items of interest without wasting time.

The general membership

Organization is essential in carrying out a meeting of a large club; it's also okay to have icebreakers, programs and guest speakers. People enjoy change; it's going to be hard to satisfy the requests of all of your members, but don't be disheartened. By providing an enjoyable and informative meeting, you can retain your large membership and ensure its continued participation.

Engaging leadership

With so many members and so much to do, your club's board of directors may begin to feel that it's being stretched thin. If you need help, look to your members; invite them to take part in leading. In taking charge of a project, planning, preparing for a meeting or other tasks, your members can become involved. Allowing this kind of participation will develop leaders in your club and will provide you with an excellent resource in serving.

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