

## The Difference Between Interact and Key Club - September 5, 2013

At face value, Interact and Key Club look like duplicate organizations.

However, the two clubs are quite different with Interact Club governed by students and focused on both community and international service and Key Club governed by school administrators and focused only on community service. Interact is directly affiliated with Rotary, of which St. Joseph High School leadership holds membership.

However, both Interact and Key Club have outstanding qualities of which students could have dual membership, fellowship and service participation. More time in this document was spent on Interact as it is a newer organization.

### **Interact Club**

#### Club Overview

- Internationally founded in 1965
- Interact Club Officers are High School students
- Membership is global, touching 200 countries
- Key areas of focus: Community and Global Service and Understanding
- Interact is known Internationally for fostering leadership, responsible citizenship and promoting international understanding and peace
- Interact is the first step in a lifetime of service, with affiliate membership opportunities continuing in to college with Rotaract and into business with membership in Rotary
- In 2011, the “Interact Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor” was chartered within a record-breaking 2 weeks by 60 students
- Interact clubs are guided by sponsoring Rotary Clubs, but self-governed and self-supported with service projects decided upon by student Interact Members
- A member of the sponsoring Rotary Club attends all meetings and supports members
- On a local level, leadership structure of the 5 school Interact Club consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary
- On a school level, the leadership structure will consist of Officers assigned by the Club President
- Interact is easy to join, fun to participate in, brings area schools together, connects students with business professionals and provides opportunities to work on one community and one large global service project annually – rewarding to students and highly regarded by colleges
- The local chapter consists of students from 5 area High Schools – St. Joseph High School, Lake Michigan Catholic High School, Michigan Lutheran High School, Benton Harbor High School and Countryside Academy
- Interact Meetings are twice monthly
  - One meeting at a common location of all area High Schools
  - One meeting for students within their separate High Schools
- Each year, during the first week of November, Interact Members and sponsoring Rotary Clubs come together to celebrate “Interact Week,” hosting fun school and member activities and planning joint projects (examples include a club in Uganda donating time and materials to a local orphanage and our local Clubs coordinating efforts to raise funds for BioSand Water Filters)
- It was decided by Interact Club Officers that this year’s global initiative will be bringing clean water to families in the Dominican Republic
- The global initiative was first launched in 2004 by 3 local Rotarian businessmen – Charles Jespersen, former Global Director at Whirlpool and Board Member of The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor; Terry Allen, former CEO of Pemco, member of the Rotary Club of Lakeshore and 2013-2014 Rotary District Governor for District 6360; and Dick Laney, former Founder and CEO of Lane Automotive and The Rotary Club of Benton Harbor Sunrise (deceased)
- Under consideration, is a 2014 student mission trip to the Dominican Republic to actually make home installations of BioSand Water Filters (Rotarians and parents joining students)
- Reference:
  - Global organization: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

- Local chapter: [www.sjbhrotary.org](http://www.sjbhrotary.org)
- BioSand Water Filters: <http://bentonspiritnews.com/local-couple-provides-for-families-in-the-dominican-republic-p380.htm>, <http://leaderpub.com/2012/04/01/water-boys-ride-geyser-of-success/>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BioSand\\_Filter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BioSand_Filter)

### Interact Affiliates and Sponsors

- The sponsor of our Interact club is the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor
- Our sponsoring club is one of the largest and fastest growing service clubs in the world at 160 members and 15% new member growth 2012-2013 (most service clubs have under 40 members and are in new member decline)
- Interact is an affiliate of Rotary International, headquartered in Evanston, Illinois
- Rotary was founded by businessman Paul Harris in 1905
- Rotary International is the largest and oldest service club in the world, consisting of 1.2 million members, 200 countries and 34,000 clubs

### Rotary Student Program

- The success of our sponsoring club, is due, in part, to its commitment to mentoring young people, particularly through Interact and The Rotary Student Program
- First launched in 2005, the popular mentoring program is endorsed by District Superintendents and coordinated through High School counselors who select 10 Juniors and Seniors annually
- A unique mentoring initiative, the program works through Rotarian “hosts” who formally match selected students with business professionals living “the dream” – from Fortune CEOs, to NFL football players, Aero Space Engineers and independent entrepreneurs
- School counselors make student selections considering outstanding citizenship, good grades, unusual talent, aspiration to succeed and a level of maturity to take seriously the opportunity to reverse interview a high level executive
- In St. Joseph, the program is endorsed by SJPS Superintendent, Ann Cardon, and coordinated by SJHS Counselor, Jim Berry, who works directly with SJHS Counselors to select students
- The program was formally presented at Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, on June 23-26, by Founding Chairman and 2012-2013 Club President, Jackie Huie (typical convention attendance 25,000-40,000 Rotarians)
- Given the high interest in global adoption by representatives in 50 countries, the program is being translated into 5 languages
- Simple for schools to coordinate and students to participate in, the program provides online training tips and an easy to execute digital system
- One SJHS student, David Reimers, gives credit to the Program for the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Whirlpool CEO, Jeff Fettig, being awarded a \$15,000 college scholarship and continuing in his communication with the Fortune 100 executive, who has now become a personal mentor
- Student participants are protected under stringent Youth Protection Policies followed by Rotary International and Rotarian host background checks provided by the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department
- Rotary Student Program: <http://www.rotarystudentprogram.org>, [https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project\\_detail.aspx?guid=74f51501-6448-4f6b-91ac-d6693d710125](https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=74f51501-6448-4f6b-91ac-d6693d710125), <http://www.rotarystudentprogram.org/index.php/about/endorsements>

### Interact Leadership

- Interact of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor President, Mitchell Davis
- St. Joseph High School Interact Advisor, Maria Kibler, VP Edgewater Bank and Vice President of the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor
- St. Joseph High School Interact Coordinator, Jackie Huie, President JohnsonRauhoff, Chairman Rotary Student Program, 2012-2013 President of the Rotary Club of Benton Harbor St. Joseph
- St. Joseph High School Interact Coordinator, Mary Fry, incoming Rotary Member

### Affiliated Rotarians

- Rotarians affiliated with SJHS Interact program: SJPS Superintendent Ann Carden, SJPS Foundation Chairman Bill Marohn, SJPS Board Members Randy Reimers and Bill Schalk, former SJPS student and SJHS Interact Coordinator Jackie Huie

- Rotary Spouses affiliated with SJHS include and familiar with the program: SJPS Board Director Amy Porritt-Peirce (Mike) and Amy Marohn (Jim)

## **Key Club**

### Club Overview

- Key Club Officers are High School Leaders
- Membership is limited to the United States and Canada
- According to Wikipedia, official Key Club service projects were historically decided upon by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees and changed every 2 years
- In 2011 the Board of Trustees decided that the freedom of selecting service activities should fall within individual Key Clubs as long as they followed the focus of to major theme of Kiwanis International - “Children: Our Future, Their Focus”
- Membership and Meetings are at within individual High Schools
- The first week of November is Key Club Week – in seven days, Key Clubs are encouraged to celebrate with activities like “Show Your K In Every Way; Kconnect the Ks; Kudos to the Key Players” and more
- The weeklong November promotion is the primary awareness and membership-building initiative in Key Club, designed to ultimately attract Kiwanis Members
- Service consists of several community initiatives annually
- Focuses on Leadership, Character Building, Caring and Inclusiveness
- Key method of focus for Key Club: Community Service
- Founded in 1925 by California State Commissioner of Schools Albert C. Olney and Vocational Education teacher Frank C. Vincent, who worked together to form the first Key Club at Sacramento High School in California
- Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club

### Kiwanis

- Founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan
- Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Third largest service organization in the world
- Its membership consists of 600,000 from 80 countries
- Women were first admitted in to Kiwanis International in 1987
- Recent key focus: Eliminating the major risk of Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) from the face of the earth
- Global organization: <http://www.kiwanis.org/>
- Local chapter: [www.sjkiwanis.org](http://www.sjkiwanis.org)
- St. Joseph High School Coordinator: Mrs. Berry

Additional Reference on Interact and Key Club (Special Note: Some posted information is contradictory and inaccurate)

College Confidential: <http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/high-school-life/1031615-key-club-vs-interact-club.html>

Yahoo Answers: <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100222190416AAGA4qB>

Yahoo Answers: <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20110813104331AAtZA7i>

Urban Dictionary: <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Interact%20Club>

The Voice: <http://ihsvoice.com/opinions/2013/02/05/the-real-differences-between-leo-key-interact-club/>

Wikipedia/Key Club: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key\\_Club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_Club)

Interact/Rotary: <https://www.rotary.org/en/interact>

Rotaract: [http://www.rotaractorwiki.org/wiki/Interact\\_Club](http://www.rotaractorwiki.org/wiki/Interact_Club)