SECTION 4 – KAY CITIZENSHIP WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

For many years, KAY Citizenship Week has provided schools across Kansas with an opportunity to celebrate service, leadership, and citizenship through the KAY program. As we continue to strengthen the impact of KAY in our schools, communities, nation, and world, we are excited to announce a renewed focus for KAY Citizenship Week beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

While KAY Citizenship Week will continue to be celebrated during SCW 20 in mid-November, the purpose and emphasis of the week will evolve to intentionally highlight the foundations of the KAY program and what it means to be a KAY member.

This renewed concept will encourage KAY clubs to educate students, schools, and communities about:

- The KAY Pledge
- The KAY Slogan
- The KAY Motto
- The KAY Objectives
- The KAY Privileges

More importantly, the week will serve as a celebration of the KAY program itself — a character-building, leadership-training, and service organization dedicated to developing responsible student leaders throughout Kansas schools.

Our goal is to help students, schools, and communities understand the following:

- What KAY stands for
- Why service and citizenship matter
- How KAY develops leadership and character
- The positive impact KAY clubs make within their schools, communities, nation, and world

This new section in the KAY Handbook is intended to provide an outline of the week, provide activity ideas, and to help clubs celebrate KAY Citizenship Week in meaningful and engaging ways. We recognize that clubs have traditional projects that they enjoy and that their school and community have come to rely on. Please continue to engage in these projects! These established projects undoubtedly fit into the foundation of KAY and will only reinforce what we intend to do with KAY Citizenship Week – promote KAY principles! Please note that the activity ideas are just that: ideas. Clubs are welcome to celebrate each respective day in the way that works best for their club and school – use your creativity!

We believe this renewed focus will strengthen the identity of KAY statewide while helping members take greater pride in the traditions, values, and purpose of KAY.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to KAY and the students you serve each day!

KAY CITIZENSHIP WEEK

Purpose:

- Celebrate KAY and its members
- Promote the core values and identity of KAY to clubs, schools, and communities
- Engage students in meaningful, action-based experiences
- Create a unified, statewide celebration of KAY
- Promote involvement and service
- Inspire students to make a positive impact today and in the future

Daily Focus:

- **Monday**: KAY Pledge Day
  - Students reflect on the KAY Pledge and take action to demonstrate high ideals, be a positive influence, and inspire others
- **Tuesday**: KAY Slogan Day (Laugh, Love, Lift)
  - Students actively practice bringing joy (laugh), showing kindness (love), and helping others (lift)
- **Wednesday**: KAY Privileges Day
  - Students explore the right they have to grow personally, respect and connect with others, and make a difference
- **Thursday**: KAY Objective Day
  - Students engage in activities tied to character, health, service, appreciation, recreation, and leadership
- **Friday**: KAY Motto Day
  - Students reflect on how their actions today shape their future

Visuals/Promotion:

- KAY Logo, KSHSAA Logo
- Colors: KAY Colors (Blue and Gold)
- Hashtag: **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY** for daily social media posts
  - Share with Kansas Association For Youth socials (Facebook, Instagram, X)
- Post to school website
- Share with local media

Monday – KAY Pledge Day

Focus: The KAY Pledge
Core Message: "Our actions reflect the ideals we promise to uphold." Students understand that KAY is about action, not just membership.
Key Lines to Highlight:

- "Maintain the high ideals of my organization"
- "Positive influence in my school and community"
- "Challenge and inspiration to future members"

Activity Ideas:

- Recite the KAY Pledge during announcements or at a meeting
- "Positive Influence Challenge" - Do one intentional act that improves your school
    - Help a classmate
    - Include someone new
    - Clean up without being asked
        - Recognize participation:
          -Hand out stickers: *"I made a positive impact today"*
          -Or use a QR check-in form
- "Live the Pledge Wall" - Create a large display where students respond to prompts:
    - "I can be a positive influence by…"
    - "High ideals mean…"
    - "I want to inspire others by…"
- "Maintain High Ideals"
    - Character Cards
        - Hand out words like: integrity, respect, responsibility
        - Students reflect or act on them
    - Teacher Shout-Outs
        - Students recognize teachers/staff who model high ideals
- "Be a Positive Influence"
    - Kindness Campaign
        - Sticky notes on lockers
        - 'Caught Being Kind' slips
- "Inspire Future Members"
    - Senior or Leader Messages
        - Short notes or Videos - "What KAY has meant to me"
    - Recruitment Push
        - Invite non-members to a: lunch meeting, activity participation
- "Classroom Takeover"
    - KAY members lead classroom discussions - "What does positive influence look like?"
- "Be the Example" Campaign
    - KAY members: Model behaviors all day and be intentionally visible.

Social Media + Visibility - Daily Post Idea:

"Today for KAY Pledge Day, we are choosing to be a positive influence. How are YOU making a difference?" **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY**

Visual Idea: Students holding signs: "I lead by example." "I choose to influence others positively."

Tuesday – KAY Slogan Day

Focus: KAY Slogan - 'Laugh, Love, Lift"
Core Message: Take time today to bring joy, show kindness, and lift someone up. Small actions can make a big difference.
Key Ideas To Highlight:

Laugh: Bring joy
Love: Show kindness
Lift: Help others

Activity Ideas:

- **LAUGH**
  - Dress-up theme: Bright/fun colors
  - "3 Acts Challenge":
    - Make someone laugh
    - Show kindness
    - Help someone
  - Post-it campaign:
    - Leave encouraging notes around school
  - Joke of the Day
    - Share over announcements or social media
  - Funny Photo Booth
    - Props: hats, glasses, signs
  - Teacher Talent/Funny Video
  - Staff share jokes or short clips
  - "Make Someone Smile" Challenge
- **LOVE**
  - Sticky Note Kindness Campaign
  - Leave positive notes on lockers, desks
  - Thank-You Cards
    - For teachers, custodians, cafeteria staff
  - "Caught Being Kind" Slips
    - Hand out when students show kindness
  - Compliment Chain
    - Each student compliments someone new
- **LIFT**
  - Peer Support
    - Tutoring, help classmates
  - Mini Service Project
    - Collect items, clean a space, organize supplies
  - "Lift Someone Up" Board
    - Shout-outs to students who helped others
  - Help-a-Friend Challenge
    - Carry books/bag, help with work, include others

Social Media + Visibility - Daily Post Idea:

"Today is Slogan Day—Laugh, Love, Lift. Take time today to bring joy, show kindness, and lift someone up. Small actions can make a big difference. How can YOU lift someone up?" **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY**

Visual Idea: Action pictures of students laughing with each other or actions pictures of students participating in activities that lift others up.

Wednesday – KAY Privileges Day

Focus: KAY Privileges
Core Message: "As youth, we have the power and responsibility to grow, serve, and lead."
Highlighted Privileges (rotate or feature all): To love and be loved

- To think creatively
- To seek the truth
- To appreciate and respect all races
- To enjoy fun and laughter
- To share with family and friends
- To strive to be a good citizen
- To live a healthy lifestyle
- To give myself to a cause
- To take the long look

Activity Ideas:

- "Privilege Reflection Wall":
    - Students and faculty write which privilege matters most to them and why and post to wall
- Highlight one privilege every hour (announcements/social)
- Students pick one privilege to focus on for the day
- Idea board: "How can we improve our school" or another question your club wants to focus on
- Art station
- Cultural appreciation display
- "Kindness Across Differences" campaign
- Games during lunch
- Encourage students to sit with someone new at lunch
- "Bring a Friend" to a KAY event
- "Do the Right Thing" challenge
- School pride activity: clean up, clean trophy cases, etc.
- Short breaks throughout the day for movement/meditation
- Mini service project
- Goal setting activity: "Where do I want to be in 5 years?"

Social Media + Visibility - Daily Post Idea:

"Today is KAY Privilege Day. KAY members know that as youth, they have the power to grow, serve, and lead. We challenge YOU to choose one privilege and put it into action today!" **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY**

Visual Idea: Interview students and ask them what privilege is most important to them and why.

Thursday – KAY Objectives Day

Focus: KAY Objectives
Core Message: "KAY develops the whole person."
The 6 Objectives:

- Character (Laugh, Love, Lift)
- Health (Physical & Mental)
- Service (School, Community, Nation, World)
- Appreciation (Friends, All Races, Self)
- Recreation (Relaxation, Rest, Recreation)
- Leadership (Citizenship and Caring)

Activity Ideas:

- "6 Stations" or themed activities:
    - Character
        - Kindness cards station
            - Students stop in to write a quick note of kindness to someone in school
        - "Make Someone Smile Challenge"
    - Health
        - Quick workout/stretch station
        - Stress relief activities (coloring, breathing exercises, etc.)
    - Service
        - Mini service project
    - Appreciation
        - Thank-you notes
    - Recreation
        - Fun activity/games throughout the school day
        - Music or brain break activities throughout the school day
    - Leadership
        - Student-led activity
        - Quick leadership lesson: "What makes a good leader?"
- Showcase past KAY projects tied to objectives
- "Objectives in Action"
    - Students receive a digital checklist or handout and participate in 2-3 objectives throughout the day
- "Objective of the Hour"
    - Announcements throughout the day highlight one objective at a time - provide a quick challenge
- Color Theme Day
    - Wear the color of the objective that you like the most
        - Character - red; Health - white; Service - blue; Appreciation - yellow; Recreation - green; Leadership - purple
- Posters around school
    - Character - Be Kind; Health - Take Care; Service - Give Back; Appreciation - Value Others; Recreation - Have Fun/Be Active; Leadership - Step Up

Social Media + Visibility - Daily Post Idea:

"Today is KAY Objectives Day. KAY focuses on developing character, health, service, appreciation, recreation, and leadership. Take time today to grow in at least one of these areas!" **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY**

Visual Idea: Post pictures of students holding posters that say, "KAY helps me grow in ____ because ___."

Friday – KAY Motto Day

Focus: KAY Motto - "Today for Tomorrow"
Core Message: "What we do today shapes our future." Students connect KAY to long-term purpose and legacy.

Activity Ideas:

- "Future Impact Challenge"
    - Students answer: What am I doing today to impact tomorrow?
        - They write: A goal, a promise, an action
    - Post and make these visible
- Senior reflections or leadership talks
    - "What I Wish I Knew"
    - "How KAY Impacted Me"
- Goal-setting activity for students
- Recognition ceremony for KAY members
    - Highlight KAY members, leaders, active participants, etc.
- End-of-week celebration
- Create a "Future Wall":
    - Students write goals or impacts they want to make
- Students write "Letter to Future Self"
    - Goals for the year
        - Seal letters and return at the end of the year
- School-wide announcement and "Pause and Reflect" moment
    - "Take one minute to think about how your actions today can shape your future."
- Daily Action Commitment
    - Students choose one action they will follow through on throughout the day.
- Dress-Up Day
    - Dress up as the 'future you' - career goals, college gear, etc.

Social Media + Visibility - Daily Post Idea:

"Today is KAY Motto Day. Everything we do today shapes who we become tomorrow. What action are YOU taking today to make a difference?" **#KAYCitizenshipWeek #TodayForTomorrow #KSHSAAKAY**

> Visual Idea: Post pictures of students holding posters that say, "My future starts today by…." or with ready-made posters: "My future starts now!" "I am building my tomorrow." "Today matters!"

KAY Citizenship Week

November (SCW #20)

KAY Citizenship Week is a time to celebrate the values of KAY and encourage students to lead through service, leadership, kindness, and positive citizenship. Throughout the week, students participate in activities that promote school involvement and remind them that their actions today help shape a better tomorrow.

MONDAY

Pledge Day

The KAY Pledge

Sample Activities

- Positive Influence Challenge
- 'Live the Pledge' Wall
- Teacher Shout-Outs
- 'Caught Being Kind' Slips
- 'Be The Example' Campaign

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TUESDAY

Slogan Day

Laugh • Love • Lift

Sample Activities

- Sticky Note Kindness Campaign
- Funny Photo Booth
- Help-a-Friend Challenge
- Make Someone Smile Challenge
- Compliment Chain

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WEDNESDAY

Privileges Day

Grow • Serve • Lead

Sample Activities

- Privilege Reflection Wall
- Games During Lunch
- Mini Service Project
- 'Do The Right Thing' Challenge
- School Pride Activity

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THURSDAY

Objectives Day

Develop the Whole Person

Sample Activities

- 6 Objective Stations
- Color Theme Day
- Leadership Lesson
- Objective of the Hour
- Objectives In Action

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FRIDAY

Motto Day

Today for Tomorrow

Sample Activities

- Future Wall
- Letter to Future Self
- Dress as Future You
- Senior Reflections
- Recognition Ceremony for KAY members, leaders, etc.

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