

DOES KAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

YOU BET IT DOES!

Lilly Beckwith, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Olathe Northwest High School

Being a part of KAY club has benefitted me immensely. Not only does it teach its members how to serve others, being involved has taught me how to be a great leader. KAY has also taught me that it is perfectly fine to not be the typical “creative” and “outgoing” leader, which has helped me discover that I’m a leader that loves to work behind the scenes with planning services projects and events. I know that I will be able to use the skills I’ve learned through KAY Camp and my involvement in KAY Club in the future. Personally, I think my favorite part of being involved in KAY is that I am able to see the exact moment when a volunteer stops focusing on themselves and enjoys serving others people, especially if it’s a fun activity. Beyond the “feel good” benefit that serving brings, I personally think that serving others shows a person’s true character because they know how to treat others.

Brady Beougher, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Stockton High School

Leadership is a valuable skill and through experience you learn how to be an excellent leader and build communication skills as you encourage people to work together and find the best way to achieve a common goal. I wanted to join an organization like Kansas Association for Youth (KAYS) because I knew it would give me great opportunities to improve my leadership skills, to work together with my classmates, and to help others. I believe the experiences I have had with KAYS during the last 4 years have helped me as well, because you are leading and serving you are learning and growing and becoming a stronger and more confident person.

Raegan Boden, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Kensington-Thunder Ridge High School

As a youngster, I could not wait to join KAY in high school. I joined KAY because I wanted to help people that live in my community and also those people that I don’t even know. The aspects I most enjoy about being in KAY is meeting new people, establishing lasting friendships, and seeing the positivity become a reality. KAY has helped me prepare for my future by building my leadership skills, teaching me responsibility, and helping me learn to show compassion to others through service. Attending KAY Leadership Camp and KAY Conferences have enhanced my leadership skills. There are sessions at each to teach us and let us practice being better leaders. KAY has allowed me to have many opportunities for involvement that helping others now seems second nature. The experiences and friendships I have gained through KAY will always be with me.

Brailyn Carlgren, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Scandia-Pike Valley High School

I will always hold the KAY organization close to my heart for years to come. The Kansas Association for Youth has prepared me to live my best life with an emphasis on helping others. I always tell myself that perspective is key. It may seem little to you, but the person you take the time and write a letter to or the elderly person you rake leaves for, appreciate it more than you will ever know. At first when I joined KAY I was not sure how involved I wanted to be, but I wanted to try different

organizations and see what I liked. Not only did I learn the importance of leadership and service; I also learned the importance of enthusiasm.

Kourtney Davidson, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Quinter High School

Before I was in high school, I always looked up to those in KAY because of their dedication to serve others. I have been active in KAY for all four years of my high school career, where I experiences many traditions, service projects, laugh and fun times. However, the thing that I enjoy the most about KAY were the smiles on people’s faces after we complete a service project for them. Service project helped individuals in the community, but they also showed me that the little things in life mean the most. Through my KAY involvement, I became more outgoing, and I am able to talk to individuals that are unfamiliar to me. I believe that I have become a better person by being involved in KAY because I am willing to give up my free time in order to help a family member, community member or friend. My involvement in KAY helped me grow into a leader that knows when to listen and when to share ideas. We are an organization that won’t stop at anything because we work together as a family to accomplish any task that is presented to us.

Nicole Dowell, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Maize High School

The Kansas Association for Youth has played a huge role in shaping who I am today as a person and as a leader. Every year, I look forward to the new and exciting experiences within KAY. KAY has prepared me for my future in a multitude of ways. Two of the most prominent skills I learned through KAY are self-confidence and leaderships. Because the activities force me out of my comfort zone, I have learned to be confident in front of my peers as well as my superiors. KAY is an important part of my school and my community because it brings students together for community service, and the community benefits from our club’s activities. Getting the school involved in community service increases school pride and relationships between the students and the surrounding community. KAY Club maintains to be a priority in my life, and I value every moment I give to the organization.

Madison Lueger, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Centralia High School

Going into high school, I was most excited for all the extracurricular activities offered, including athletic and clubs, especially the KAY organization. I chose to be an active member in KAY by volunteering for every service activity throughout my four years as a member and three years as an officer. Through this organization, I have developed my skills as a positive leader by taking action in my community, leading the club to better horizons, and encouraging younger students to become involved. KAY has been essential to the growth of our community and school. My experience in this organization equipped me with the skills and heart to branch off and volunteer in the community on my own time.

Allisan McGowan, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Pratt High School

Leadership can be shown by many different qualities. A great leader needs to be resourceful and dependable. In order to be a great leader, one must have great character. Service allows me to give back and help people in need. It is an act of kindness that I try and promote by giving a helping hand. KAY has taught me the importance of scholarship. In order to stay in good standings a member of the Pratt High School KAY club needs to hold a GPA of 3.5. KAY club has shown me what it takes to be successful. Through hard work and determination anything can be accomplished.





Tatem Schreppel, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Oswego High School

When hearing about KAY club, I signed up immediately, my excitement driving me to keep an active role for the past size years. Becoming actively involved in my club and becoming an area president has prepared me for my future by teaching me how to inspire others and working with them to accomplish common goals we set for our club. My character and self-confidence has blossomed extraordinarily throughout the past six years, and it's all thanks to the wonderful ways of KAY club. KAY Club is the epicenter of our school and community. Every local business and nursing home recognizes our club's smiling faces and thanks us for our service with each visit. And, upon returning back to school, our club remains close-knit, always looking for a new and simple ways to serve. Without KAY club, our school would not know the true value of how powerful one act of kindness can ripple through our little community.



Kinsey Stuewe, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Alma-Waubunsee High School

Through KAY I have enjoyed seeing how creative students can be to help the community in so many different ways. Seeing the teamwork and leadership that is developed with KAY is also amazing. One of the best parts of the club is all of the incredible people that I've meet and the lifelong friendships that I have created through camp conferences. My involvement in KAY has helped me understand myself and my capabilities much more. I have become a stronger leader that finally understands the line between leading by example and delegation. The KAY club is an important part of our school because we are always looking for ways to improve it and make each student realize their importance and worth. KAY is so great because it is applicable throughout members whole lives and what it teaches us will be with us forever. I can not thank KAY club enough for everything that it has given me.



Zoe Thompson, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest High School

When I first joined KAY club, I had no idea how important it would become to me. I joined because I had just started high school and was looking for a fun way to incorporate my interest in service into something I could do through the school, where I might meet new people and make friends. KAY has prepared me for my future by instilling withing me the leadership qualities that universities and employers look for, as well as helping me grow more confident in my abilities as a leader. By gaining new insight into myself, I can better work with others, and leader by example and respectful communication. The leadership role I have assumed in Kay has taught me to trust my instincts because I do know what I am doing. KAY taught me that I am a good leader and I am now more confident in other areas of my life; I know I will be able to stand up to opposition and persevere through criticism. The KAY club is important in my school and community. When we serve together, we are able to build stronger relationships which lead to a stronger community, and this is something KAY has taught me. KAY has brought something special to my life, and I am glad I have had that opportunity to participate so fully in this organization.



Taegan Walter, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Sylvan-Lucas Unified High School

The thing I have most enjoyed about being in KAY is the positive atmosphere that surrounds the club. Across ever meeting, activity, project or conference, every student brings forth their own energy and motivation. When you have a room full of kids all willing to accomplish one common goal, the results are often astonishing. When I attended KAY camp this past summer, I was brought out of my comfort zone a number of times. I am thankful for this because it allowed me to meet new friends and connections that I would not have otherwise met. KAY camp was definitely an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. From dawn to dusk, the entire Rock Springs atmosphere was chilling because of how much of a positive environment all of the students, counselors and directors brought. The club is important to the school because it is a group that is welcoming to anyone who wishes to join. We make it a focal point to give back to the teacher

throughout the year for all they do for us. This year all of the members of the club pitched in to provide a large breakfast buffet for the teachers before school. The KAY club is overall important, because it teaches the youth to have a will to serve others, without expecting anything in return.

Liza Ward, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Hoisington High School

I'm not sure if there is anything I haven't enjoyed about being a KAY. I love being able to see people's reactions as we present them with a check, or hand over truck loads of canned goods. Knowing that I helped make a difference in those people's lives is what encourages me to do it again and again. Helping someone find their passion for making a difference is something that I will always love being a part of KAY. While I grew from my first year in KAY, I think I grew the most after my first week spend at KLC. I was always a shy kid, who never really believed she had what it took to become something. After five days with over 250 leaders and 30 wonderful staff members, I was a completely different person. That week I realized that if you want something in life, you need to go for it. Overall KAY has been one of the biggest influences in my life. Being part of the KAY family has been the best part of my high school career and I can't wait to continue to make a difference in my school, community, nation, and world with KAYAN.

Allison Weishaar, KAY Member & 2019 Graduate, Olathe East High School

Laugh like there's no tomorrow. Love with all your heart. Lift up others in everything you do. I heard the motto of the Kansas Association for Youth the first time at a KAY Regional Conference in 2017, but it did not truly stand out to me until I attended camp going into my senior year. Deciding to attend camp and emerge from my comfort zone was one of the best decisions I have ever made to become a better leader and improve the Olathe East KAY Club. Something that stood out to me from KAY Leadership Camp was that presidents should be the CEO of their clubs. I love the twist that CEO actually means constantly elevating or empowering others. This acronym now affects the way I lead because I know there are so many people in my community and around the world that need to know how important they are and need to be supported and encouraged. KAY club in an important part of Olathe East because it give students a place where they will always belong and can improve their own leadership skills. When new membership join our club, I become excited because I know they will all have the chance to grow and develop into confident leaders the same way I did.

