
“Help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us. This is what I do.
And I do it with all my heart”.

- Pope Francis



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

How to Start Your Own Kino Teens Club

Yanula Avila Kyriakis

OUR VISION: Humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico

What is a Kino Teens Club?

Kino Teens is a group of students who work to raise awareness of the migrant issue going on at the border and beyond, and seeks to promote social justice for them.

Goals and Vision of Kino Teens:

1. To befriend migrants and listen to their testimonies so we can make their voices heard in advocacy efforts and to humanize their stories.
2. To promote humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico
3. To educate people about the issue of migration, why people migrate, what they face when they seek to migrate, and what can be done to ease the situation.
4. To participate with other networks that also research and advocate to transform immigration policies toward greater justice and compassion.
5. To create education and awareness around migration issues within your school and community.
6. To support the KBI in providing for deported migrants.
7. To affirm that Christ is present in everyone—migrants, government workers, helpers, and students!
8. To affirm the role of the Catholic faith in forming these humanitarian, educational, and advocacy goals in a way that is inclusive and respectful of all beliefs.



Why join Kino Teens?

1. Kino Teens is a way to make a positive impact on your community.
2. Help raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis going on at the US/Mexico border.
3. To practice living out your faith.
4. To see first-hand and to relate personally to immigration, an issue that affects our history, our generation and future generations.
5. It is a great way to get your service hours done, and to meet other people who are really committed to justice for migrants.



Steps to forming a Kino Teens Club:

1. Gather Enough People!

To start a Kino Teens club, there should be at least five students who are interested.

There also needs to be one adult who is willing to take charge of the club and is well-informed on migration issues.

- You will also need at least one other teacher who is willing to chaperone on trips to the comedor, if that is something your club decides to and is able to do.

2. Hold your first informational meeting

- Make an announcement at your school inviting students to come and learn what Kino Teens is. Think about the best ways to reach lots of people at your school and get the word out to as many people as possible.
- In the meeting you should explain what the goals and purpose of the club are. For people who have not been to KBI before, you might begin by explaining a little bit about current border realities, how KBI responds to them, and how this connects to issues that are present in so much of the country and world.
- It would be helpful to play an impactful video of what the migrants are going through. Some examples include:
 - "Can You Imagine?" <https://youtu.be/9H-i-ygk6rl>
 - "The Church Without Frontiers" <https://vimeo.com/206180020>
 - "El Deportado," <https://vimeo.com/184690922>

- Pass around a list so people can sign up for updates and reminders about club meetings, field trips, and other events. Have them include their email as well as phone number.

3. Prepare for a second meeting and create a buzz!

- Send out texts and emails to those who signed up letting them know about the meeting. Encourage them to invite friends or classmates, as well.
- Make a school-wide announcement and put up posters all around campus. Again, it's great to reach diverse audiences of students, so think about ways you can do this that will reach as many people as possible.
- Post on any relevant social media accounts about Kino Teens. You might consider putting up informational videos and pictures of other Kino Teens clubs as a way to encourage interest and connections.

4. The first official meeting: establishing a structure and leadership

- Hold your first official Kino Teens meeting with all members present
- It is helpful to have a structure of leadership. You may wish to consider electing people to be president, vice president, secretary, social media officer, and contact person. This can be very useful as you plan activities, visits to the comedor or other immigrant-rights organizations, and facilitate meetings.
 - Pro tip: students at your school might be so enthusiastic about Kino Teens that a lot of people want to be in club leadership. It

is good for club members to have a sense of ownership and roles. But it is also very helpful to have a clear president and vice president so that when people get busy or events need to be planned there are a few students who know they are definitely responsible!

- As a group, and with your teachers, you will want to decide how you will determine who holds positions of responsibility. Will you hold elections? How and when will these happen? If not via elections, what are other ways of doing this that make sense?
- You will want to decide what the specific responsibilities of each office are. For instance, the social media officer may be in charge of the club's Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. The contact person may be in charge of reaching out to KBI or to other organizations working for immigrant rights in your area.
- Make sure everyone feels welcome at the meeting! You might want to do icebreakers and other get-to-know-you games so that people feel comfortable with each other.
- It is important for people to feel that their time at meetings is well-spent and valuable. Think about some ways you can do this. Some groups talk briefly about important things going on in the world of immigration that they want to be informed about. Others read articles or watch movies of interest at every meeting. What are ways that make sense for your group to do this?

5. Plan out your year!

Decide on if you will hold some kind of fundraisers to benefit KBI (clothes drive, shoe drive, etc.). It may be helpful to check in with KBI to see what current needs are, and also to inform the club members and supporters about why the fundraiser is so important.

If you are close enough, talk about the possibility of taking a trip down to the comedor. If not, you might consider proposing an immersion trip to KBI. And you will also want to remember that there are migrants in just about every part of the U.S.—how can you connect with work that is happening in your own community?

Decide on a regular meeting time and place. You should be meeting at least every two weeks, and it is helpful to have an idea for one productive activity or discussion at every meeting so that people feel that their time is well-spent.

You might talk about making some uniform polos, t-shirts or hoodies for the club. This will get club members excited and help your club grow!

It is important to be organized. You might want to pull out a calendar and plan one activity each month, and then work towards that. For instance, you might say, "In September, we are going to hold a meeting with another Kino Teens group and brainstorm together. In October, we are going to hold a fundraiser. In November, we are going to plan a visit to the comedor/immigrant shelter/etc. In December, we are going to participate in this school-wide event to inform others of immigration issues."

Another aspect of being organized is writing everything you decide on as well as everything discussed in the meeting. Then, make sure you have a format with which to share it!



FUN FACT:

There are currently only 12 schools with a Kino Teens Club. With your help, that number can increase dramatically—and students from all over the country can continue to work with immigrants and a more humane border reality!

Ok, so you started your own club...now what?

Think of ways to share, accompany and defend immigrants! Sharing means telling the stories of immigrants in a way to raise awareness.

Accompaniment means being present to immigrants, so they do not feel invisible or alone. And defending means working for change on a broader scale to promote more humane and just laws and government policies.

Some ideas from past Kino Teens clubs are:

1. Attend a court hearing

- This is a great activity to plan because students get to see first-hand part of the immigrant's experience. It will likely look a little different for students in different parts of the country. In Tucson or Nogales, you will probably attend "Operation Streamline." In other parts of the country, you may accompany someone you know to their immigration court date.
- The officers of the club created a sign up meet for those interested: you will need to find out beforehand how many people can go into the courthouse, how many seats are in the van, who is eligible to attend, etc. (GPA, grade in school, is priority given to people who have been before or those who haven't, etc.).
- You will need to plan the logistics of the day with the teachers/chaperones: meeting time, lunches, permission slips, return time, etc.
- Think about how to debrief what you saw and did.



2. Trips to the comedor—or other place serving migrants in your community

- This is a highlight for Kino Teens clubs. It is definitely easier for those who are local but it is totally possible for national schools as well to come for a weeklong immersion.
- Before even announcing the trip, the club officials or leaders should get in contact with **Joanna** to express their interest and to see what date is best to go down. She will then work with you about logistics and timing.
- The limit for the number of students who go is eight people, and you will have to think about who gets priority. You will also need two adult chaperones. A passport is required to cross the border.
- You will help with serving the meal to migrants, and listening to their stories while you are there.
- If possible given schedules, it may be worth contacting Lourdes High School in Nogales, AZ, to see if you can meet their Kino Teens groups to compare notes and share ideas.
- If you are further from the comedor, you could look into another place that serves migrants in your community. For instance, is there a center for migrant workers? A place that teaches English to refugees and immigrants? A shelter that focuses on the needs of people in migration? If so, see how you can connect with them to learn about their work and needs—and then follow through on your commitments!
 - ★ **Hearing first-hand from migrants, whether through a trip to the comedor or otherwise, are a classic activity for Kino Teens and it is a priceless opportunity for these students. It is critical for students to hear the struggles these migrants face and hear why they are wishing to cross the border. Listening to migrants gives students a sense of compassion, open their eyes and inspire them to advocate for migrants and their cause.**

3. Have a Jeans Day!

- This is an easy activity to do and a great way to raise money! Some high schools do this because students are not usually allowed to wear jeans to school. However, your club can adjust it to your own dress code and school culture.
- Club officers will want to consult with the school's student council and principal to request permission and find a date that works.

- Once the day is decided, the club president will give an all school announcement to inform the students of the jeans day and explain where all the money will go to.
- Another great idea to make the cause more known to your student body, is having the priest talk about it at the end of an all school mass!
- On the jeans day, Kino Teens officers will go around to classrooms and collect \$1 from anyone who is wearing jeans.
- ★ **Officers will count all the money they collected and then either send it to the KBI or if your school is national, you can use it to fund for a trip to the comedor**

4. Hold a Prayer Vigil

- There are many ways to do this. Some schools will choose a group or individual to remember—for instance, migrants who have died in the desert, or one individual person whose life you would like to remember—and set aside some time to prayerfully honor them.
- Some schools have constructed crosses with the names of people who have died in the desert and put them in a visible place as part of this.
- You may wish to collaborate with religion teachers at your school to think of ways to incorporate multiple aspects of faith and spirituality.

5. Conduct an “immigration simulation” at your school

- Many of the immersion groups do this while in Nogales. It is a role-play that invites participants to take on the role of someone on the border (an economic immigrant, Border Patrol agent, a well-educated immigrant, etc.). This gives people a sense of what it is like to try and come into the U.S. legally.
- KBI has instructions for the simulation, as well as all the roles you will need for different sized groups. You will want to familiarize yourself with the purpose and structure beforehand, but it’s also an activity that changes a lot depending on who is participating. Feel free to ask KBI staff for help and advice!
- Plan on about 1.5 hours for the activity and debriefing. You could do it in a class, in your club, or even a bigger setting.
- This is a great way for students and others to understand a little bit about how complicated it is to migrate legally to the U.S. It also helps humanize the people at the border, from government agents to migrants.

Other activity ideas:

These are a few ideas for the more dedicated members of your club as they will take a little bit more work and planning. The end results are completely worth it, as they will surely inform others in your community.

1. Bring a guest speaker from the KBI to your school. This could be helpful in teaching students about the realities of immigration policy and advocacy. Contact KBI staff with your ideas and to see if this is possible.
2. Do a legislative visit to a lawmaker promoting immigration reform and/or the Dream Act. You will want to do some homework before the visit so you know what your talking points will be, and how to get the group in a shared space of immigrant advocacy.
3. Find out if there are any local migrant detention centers. If there are, you could think about partnering up with a local visitation program to meet with people in detention. If it is far away or hard to coordinate, you can write letters and be a penpal to people in detention instead. (This is often a great way to practice Spanish, too.)
4. Plan collaborative days and activities with Kino Teens from other schools.
 - A. Salpointe once hosted a day long activity and invited other Kino Teens clubs from Tucson and Nogales. The whole day was filled with talking about ways to improve our clubs and comparing stories. There were multiple stations that were led by student officials which included making posters, talking about how to get more people interested in joining, acting out skits of the journey immigrants of through, etc. The day was ended with a mass at Salpointe led by one of the priests from KBI. If you are
 - B. If you are far away from another Kino Teens group, think about Skyping another school during a meeting, and doing a well-planned brainstorm together.
5. Engage in advocacy letter writing and phone calls. This is a good way to learn more about the civic engagement process, too! There is power in numbers and it is important even for people who can't vote to be part of this process.
6. Research the politics related to immigration in your city or your county. A great way to do this is to connect to other immigrant rights organizations in your area. Maybe there is an opportunity to limit police collaboration with immigration enforcement or provide city funds for legal defense for immigrants. Once you learn about the issues, go to your city council or county board meetings to speak out about why you think supporting immigrants should be a priority locally.

7. Present information sessions in your school or beyond. There are lots of ways you can do this: do you want to go to Spanish classes or religion classes? Is there an all-school event you can tap into? A local gathering of youth? A community event that welcomes your perspectives and experiences? Think creatively about your school and town, and the resources you and your group have.

8. Think about ways you can use art or writing to advance the cause of migrant rights. Many schools use their voices, experiences, and perspectives to publish something in the school paper. Others create some kind of gallery with migrant stories and photos in a place a lot of students can see. (This will involve some planning ahead. Think about how to get stories, and also how to get consent and protect people's privacy if they want that guarded.) Yet other schools create art galleries with works about immigration that students have done. In other words, use the creative gifts of the people in your club to tell the stories of migration and the border in respectful and compelling ways!

Fundraising Activities:

Here are a few more ideas for everyone in your club, no matter their grade level or dedication to the club!

These can be good activities because they are a way to help out KBI and also bring people together around a common task. They do involve some planning and communication.

1. Have creative fundraisers where funds raised will be sent to the KBI:

Examples: Casino Night, Student Card Discounts, pie eating contests, marathons, bake sales, etc.

2. Collect personal hygiene items and put them in “blessing bags” (zippered plastic bags) to send to KBI to distribute to deported migrants who do not have even these basic personal items.

See the website <https://www.kinoborderinitiative.org/> to find a list of the items needs.

This is an easy and great way to get your service hours done!

3. There are also many companies that will work with you and give you a profit of the sales. For example, Salpointe has done this with local restaurants using student ID cards, and if you do research and/or talk to other student leaders, you will find out what these businesses are in your community.

A. **Krispy Kreme** is a great company that is willing to partner with organizations to help raise money:

<https://images.kktestkitchen.com/fundraising/FormsFAQGenericEnglishOrderForm.pdf>

B. **Boon Supply** is another cool way to raise money for your club! Set up an account at **boonsupply.com** and 50% of related sales are donated to your cause!

Where do the funds go??

So now that your club has started and have already done a few fundraisers , what do you do with all the funds you raised?

The funds are sent to the KBI where the money is used to serve meals, shelter people and supply first aid. This is important information to share with people during the fundraiser, too, so that they know where their supplies are going, and also to raise awareness about migrant issues!

Last year:

- 40,659 meals were served
- 360 people were sheltered
- First aid was supplied to 4024
- 56 immersion trips were hosted
- 98 talks about the migrant experience and immigration policy were given
- 83 people were visited in the Eloy Detention Center



What happens when I graduate?

There are a lot of motivated and committed Kino Teens members who wish to continue their work at college. While there are not any Kino Teens clubs at colleges yet, anyone can certainly start one!

Here are a few suggestions to bring Kino Teens to your college:

- Look for any political or social justice clubs that would be interested in joining Kino Teens
- Find a professor who would be interested in the cause. Many colleges have classes that focus on migrant issues, and this could be a good starting point. You can also talk to people in the political science, Spanish, religion, and community service/community engagement offices, for starters.
- Stay in contact with Joanna and the teacher from your high school was in charge of Kino Teens. Don't forget to send Joanna your new email in case your high school emails is deactivated. That way she can make sure you continue to receive KBI newsletters and updates!
- You can hold an information session in a setting that fits your campus to inform your peers about the cause and get people interested! This will involve learning the process in a new setting, but colleges are full of engaged, passionate people!



Sharing the Journey

Hope is the force that drives the hearts of those who depart, leaving home, their homeland, at times with their relatives and families in search for a better life which is worthier of them and their loved ones. And it is also the impulse in the heart of those who welcome: the desire to encounter, to get to know each other, to dialogue...

Hope is the force that drives us "to share the journey", because the journey is made jointly: by those who come to our land, and by us who go towards their heart, to understand them, to understand their culture, their language. It is a joint journey by two parties; but without hope, that journey cannot be made. Brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid of sharing the journey!

Pope Francis

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Important Contacts:

Joanna Williams: jwilliams@kinoborderinitiative.org

Father Neeley: nogalessj@gmail.com

Katie (KBI social media person):

ksharar@kinoborderinitiative.org

Mrs. McGarey-Vasey (head of Salpointe Kino Teens):

kmcgarey-vasey@salpointe.org