

EarlyAct FirstKnight™ Program Information



Description. Based on the theme of gallant knights and Rotarian values, EAFK is a curriculum-based character education program for elementary and middle schools that puts Rotary into daily mainstream public education for the FIRST time ever. This proprietary program is sponsored by Rotary Clubs for local campuses and teaches kids how to become noble, service-oriented people along with why it is important for them to do so. EAFK is amazingly effective, with 100% of participating schools crediting the program with significantly increased academic scores, decreased behavioral issues, more teaching time and happier faculties and parents. To learn more about EAFK, visit www.eafk.org.

Scope. 36 out of 50 states in America have now enacted legislation that either mandates or strongly encourages character education in public schools. This is because people are beginning to realize that the traditional values, ethics and civility that define a great society are increasingly eroding among children today. Our future, therefore, depends upon reversing this trend on a broad scale. EAFK provides Rotary with an effective solution to the problem by bringing excellent character, morals and ethics to the forefront of public school classrooms, right along side math, science and social studies. Combining strong academics, Rotarian mentorship, and live-action motivational support, EAFK is building tomorrow's leaders today during the most formative years of their lives.

Method. EAFK is comprised of a combination of 5 integrated components:

1. **Student Orientation:** Annual outdoor 45-minute campus presentation in which students are introduced to EAFK in an unforgettable way. Featuring a live dramatic performance by our team of knights and horses who illustrate the spirit of service, this media event acquaints students with Rotary, their Rotarian sponsors, the Four Way Test, and the benefits of working hard in the program.

2. **Curriculum:** Comprehensive, age-appropriate studies that examine monthly core values and Rotary International history through daily, teacher-friendly 10-minute lesson plans. Each school day begins with a campus-wide recitation of the Four Way Test. Research shows educators gaining up to 30 minutes of teaching time per day through using our curriculum as directed.

3. **Reward:** Every 4-6 weeks, elaborate school-wide knighting ceremonies are held on campus that acknowledge teacher-selected students who have best exemplified the EAFK value taught over the previous grading period. Led by our knights in armor, student awardees are called to the stage to receive beautiful medallions and the rankings of Page, Squire, or Knight in the presence of their peers, parents, and families. Research shows schools building stronger trust relationships with parents as a result of these special functions.

4. **Service:** Campus service club, meeting bi-monthly and led by Rotarian advisors, faculty members, student club officers and class representatives. Students learn how to facilitate one local and one global service project per year, respectively, and recruit the involvement of their classmates. Average student body participation in these projects is over 90%.

5. **Adult Education:** Annual campus seminars teach parents how to conduct EAFK at home, along with why and how to become more involved with the character-building process.

Program cost. About \$10 per child, per year*

* - average estimate based on a campus population of 700 students