

CITIZENS BANK AND STARFINDER FOUNDATION

Partner to deliver

Learning Through Soccer Summer Camps



The Starfinder Foundation continued to engage Philadelphia's youth during the summer months through professional soccer instruction and character building lessons at the Lighthouse Fields in North Philadelphia. For two weeks in August of 2005, one hundred and ten children ages 5 to 12 participated in the camp. Through a diverse group of partners, including the Freedom School, The Lighthouse, Congreso de Latinos Unidos Beacon Center, Department of Recreation Summer Food Program and local soccer clubs, the Starfinder Foundation and camp sponsor Citizens Bank Foundation were able to serve an equally diverse group of promising young soccer players.



2005 Camp Participants

Character of Champions

The eager campers began each day with a nutritional breakfast as well as some food for thought.

- Daily character lessons were presented each morning in an effort to help the children develop strong minds and bodies and to emphasize the importance of possessing a strong moral character.
- Each day a different core value of the Starfinder Foundation was presented, including teamwork, persistence, integrity and respect.
- Each value was integrated into the skills sessions and other activities in order to reiterate their importance.

Nine-year-old camper Melisa Mora put the lesson on teamwork into practice when she offered to serve as an interpreter for another young participant who only spoke Spanish. Melisa was one of many bilingual

children that attended the camp, along with children from neighborhoods throughout the city.

Endless Enthusiasm

Each morning the campers were divided into small groups and given the opportunity to work on their soccer skills. After lunch they utilized these newly-learned skills during small team games of three or four players. This was followed by the highly anticipated afternoon scrimmages where each camper participated in an experience similar to a regulation game with coaches and referees. Not surprisingly, most children rated this as their favorite activity at camp. Their passion for soccer shone through by their enthusiasm on the field and eagerness to participate. With the help of camp partners and sponsor, Citizens Bank Foundation, these two weeks were a fun-filled and engaging experience for all of the participants.

"We have found the combination of academics, character education and soccer skills to be highly successful with our students, who really enjoy Starfinder's programs."

-Nick Torres
Executive Director, Congreso



Campers from the Anderson Monarchs Soccer Club get ready to play

If you are a parent, coach, teacher, corporation or organization interested in this program or any other offered by the Starfinder Foundation please contact Mike Sheridan at (215) 772-5062 or e-mail mike@starfinderfoundation.org.

Visit us on the web at www.starfinderfoundation.org