



# Future Leaders Program

Starfinder's **Future Leaders Program** is a unique soccer and leadership program for **elementary school youth** from underserved communities who are **passionate** about learning the game of soccer and who **aspire** to a higher level of performance as students, athletes, and citizens. Starfinder believes in the power of collaboration between sport and education as social instruments of change.

**What it is:** The Future Leaders Program combines soccer training with a variety of enrichment activities that help the youth succeed on the field, in the classroom, in their communities, and in life. Program components include:

- Core Value Concepts
- Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles
- Passport to Excellence
- Teamwork
- Current Events
- Soccer Training  
*(details on following page)*

**Who it's for:** The program is open to youth in 1st through 5th Grades from underserved communities in the Philadelphia area who want to be active, have fun, and learn something new.

**What it costs:** Starfinder programs are FREE to registered participants and their families.

**When it happens:** Our programs run throughout the year. Please check our website for up-to-date information on program schedules

**Where to go:** Our fall and spring programs take place at the schools that we work with, Starfinder's Urban Promise Center and the sites where the soccer clubs practice. The winter programs take place at Starfinder's Urban Promise Center, 4015 Main Street in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. Summer programs will be held at several recreation centers within the City of Philadelphia.

**Get in touch:** For more information and to register for the program, contact: Steve Jackson, Program Development Director, at (215) 499-2974, [stevej@starfinderfoundation.org](mailto:stevej@starfinderfoundation.org) or Nicholas Chrisanthon, Program Implementation Director, at (215) 435-1383, [nicholas@starfinderfoundation.org](mailto:nicholas@starfinderfoundation.org).

**Starfinder...** helping youth discover the star in themselves

Founded in 2002, Starfinder is a nonprofit organization serving young people in the Greater Philadelphia region. Our mission is to enhance the personal growth of underserved youth through soccer and learning experiences that engage, inspire, and motivate. We help young people discover the "star" in themselves and become agents of positive change in their communities. For more information, visit: [www.starfinderfoundation.org](http://www.starfinderfoundation.org)





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## Program Component Details

### Core Values

Starfinder has a set of 8 core values that are woven into all aspects of the program. They include: Respect, Pride, Integrity, TEAM, Leadership, Persistence, Caring and Communication. These core values guide all activities in Starfinder's programs. By increasing the youth competence in these values, we feel that they become more confident, become leaders within their communities and continually strive to a lifetime of distinction.

### Teamwork

Teamwork activities are a critical component to our programs and are constantly used to teach youth the value of a support system. Youth learn how to work together to achieve a common goal and they learn importance of tolerance, communication and persistence. They begin to understand that there are other opinions and ways of doing things. The opportunities to collaborate with their peers prove to be invaluable and a strong building block for their futures.

### Passport to Excellence

Starfinder's Passport to Excellence program will be used for our 1st through 3rd Grade youth and focuses on expanding their knowledge of the world. We will talk about other countries, their customs and read a story about someone from the country that exemplifies our core values. In addition, the youth will take part in an activity that is representative of that country.

### Current events

The 4th and 5th Graders in Starfinder's program will be reading and talking about current events. The discussions will allow youth to express their beliefs about topics. More importantly, the youth will understand that their beliefs and feelings are allowed to be expressed and that they are viewed as legitimate.

### Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles

Starfinder's nutrition and healthy lifestyles enrichment program focuses on the food that youth eat and the effects it has on their bodies. We teach them about healthy eating and make healthy snacks with them. In addition, we focus on the importance of physical activity in developing and maintaining healthy lifestyle choices.

### Soccer Training

Starfinder employs highly talented, dedicated coaches who use proven youth development principles in their approach to working on the field.

