



Junior Leaders Program

Starfinder's **Junior Leaders Program** is a unique soccer and leadership program for **middle 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 Junior 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
 - Soccer Training
 - Teamwork
 - Decision Education
- (details on following page)*

Who it's for: The program is open to youth in 6th through 8th 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 or Nicholas Chrisanthos, Program Implementation Director, at (215) 435-1383, 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





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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.

Decision Education

The Decision Education Foundation has created a curriculum aimed at improving decision making and conflict resolution skills in middle school students. The program is fun, engaging and active and introduces some basic elements of good decision making, such as decision power, frame, values, alternatives, information, sound reasoning, and commitment to follow through. The purpose of introducing decision education to our Junior Leaders is to give them the power to deal with and make informed decisions with the tough issues that arise in their pre-teen and early teen years.

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.

