



Soccer is our hook!

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## Save-the-Date



**March 4, 2017**

Starfinder  
4015 Main Street  
Philadelphia PA 19127

The annual Starfinder Cup is a charity indoor soccer tournament that brings together soccer players, co-workers and friends for an exciting half-day of soccer. Whether you play for the prestigious CUP or just for fun, your participation gives Philadelphia kids access to meaningful programming during the high-risk after school hours.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Can I get a Wah-boo?



At Starfinder, we express our appreciation with a *Wah-Boo!* Keep an eye on this spot. As the year progresses, we will send our shout-outs to those who have supported Starfinder youth in an extraordinary way.

## Their Journey so far

Over the next few months, we're going to take you on a journey through a year in the Senior Leaders Program. Come travel with us to find out what young people experience here at Starfinder.

September kicks off recruitment for our Senior Leaders Program. Starfinder staff fan out across the city to visit high school soccer programs, talk up the program, and distribute recruitment packets. We hold Open Houses at Starfinder for parents and candidates to visit the facility, meet the staff, hear about our program in depth, and, of course, play a little soccer.

## January 2017

## Happy New Year!

With the new year come some changes here at Starfinder, starting with the fresh look of our now monthly newsletter. There are more changes ahead, and we look forward to sharing our news along the way!

I hope 2017 is off to a great start for you and your loved ones. If you want to stop in for a tour or see our programs in action, please give our

October is application and interview month. The candidate interview is an important threshold into the Senior Leaders Program – it's all about ... *fit*. Is Starfinder the right fit for the student, and is the student the right fit for the program?

Soccer is the hook, and the candidates do talk about their soccer hopes during the interviewing stage: *"I want to improve my skills"*, *"I just love the game"*, and *"I want to become a professional soccer player."*

But there's the life of the game and the game that is life ... and so we ask: *Why Starfinder? Why our program?* Some teens come prepared for these questions. Some have to be reminded that there's more to Starfinder than soccer. Slowly, we hear not only about hopes, but about dreams as well:

*"I need to find my voice. Not only for myself, but to help my younger sisters as well. There's no way to do that in my neighborhood."*

*"Every Sunday I go to the library and apply for scholarships. I need help figuring all of this out."*

*"I want to be captain of my soccer team. Who teaches you how to do that?"*

*"In order to get into the Marines, I have to learn to make good choices... now."*

*"I need to start getting straight A's. I want to get into a good college. You tutor here – right?"*

*"I'm shy and terrified of speaking in public. I have to do presentations but I'm scared. Will you help me not be so scared?"*

Around 150 students applied this year. We only have room for 100 in our program, and so we have to choose. The answer to *Why Starfinder?* helps us make that selection. Soccer is the hook, but success in life is the goal. The teens we select into the Senior Leaders Program are the ones who show us that they have big dreams and the willingness to work hard to achieve them.



*Next: The Starfinder Experience*

Development  
Director, Amber  
Adamson, a call  
at 267-251-5009.  
We'd love to meet  
you.

Thank you for  
interest in and  
support of  
Starfinder,  
*Heidi Warren*  
Executive  
Director

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