

The First Star Kent State Academy



A foster youth college enrichment program by:





The First Star Kent State Academy

We are delighted to invite you to recommend a talented, rising 9th grade foster youth to participate in the First Star Kent State Academy.

The First Star Kent State Academy is a free, comprehensive four-year college access program for youth in foster care. The Academy offers a 4-week residential summer academy where youth receive academic support, enrichment, and encouragement needed to assist them in becoming competitive college applicants. Unfortunately, as a result of COVID-19, the Academy is being held virtually and will not be in-person until further notice. Nonetheless, the First Star staff are committed to creating an enriching and engaging experience for our scholars.

The program engages a cohort of up to 30 students in a variety of engaging and active learning opportunities that include academic support, career exploration, social and cultural activities, field trips, service learning and recreational activities. While the method of engaging the students has changed to a virtual format, the same opportunities are given. In addition to the summer immersion program, students and their families will receive individual support throughout the academic year through monthly Saturday Academies, education advocacy, and caregiver workshops.

To recommend a student or apply, please follow these steps:

- 1. Ensure your student meets the following eligibility requirements:**
 - a. *Currently in foster care and must have an open case in: Cuyahoga, Portage, Summit, Stark, Ashtabula, Tuscarawas, Geauga, Columbiana, Mahoning/Trumbull counties*
 - b. *Currently enrolled in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grade*
 - c. *Able and willing to participate in the 4-week summer academy component and monthly Saturday sessions, during the academic year, at Kent State University or virtually*
 - d. *At least a 2.3 GPA and 90% attendance in current and previous school year, unless there is a reasonable explanation for participation*
 - e. *Demonstrates maturity and potential to thrive in a college-prep setting*
- 2. Ask your student to complete and return to you the background form and student responses of the application.**
- 3. Complete the Adult Recommendation portion of the application.**
- 4. Obtain student's most recent transcript, attendance record, and discipline log from current school.**
- 5. Submit the entire application packet electronically to the email address below (student application, adult recommendation, school records). Applications will be accepted from October 1, 2020 through February 26, 2021: firststarinfo@kent.edu**

In the subject line, please address the application as follows: FS Scholar Application- Insert Scholar's Last Name

Selection process: Acceptance will be on a rolling basis, so once a Scholar's application has been received and accepted, the new Scholar will be immediately invited to begin participating in the virtual Saturday Academies.



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Background Form

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Student Name:	Current Grade Level:
Preferred Pronoun: <input type="checkbox"/> He <input type="checkbox"/> She <input type="checkbox"/> They <input type="checkbox"/> No preference	
Caregiver Name:	Phone #:
	E-mail:
Mailing Address:	Apartment #:
Street Address:	Zip Code:
City:	State:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
Gender:	Date of Birth: / /
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	Youth has been impacted by Opioid Crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ethnicity:	
<input type="checkbox"/> African-American/Black	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian
<input type="checkbox"/> Latino/a	<input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Name of CFS Social Worker:	Phone #.:
	Email:
Name of Network Case Manager or GAL:	Phone #.:
	Email:
Placement:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kinship or Relative	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-relative Foster Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Custody	<input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive Parents
	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential Treatment (Unlocked)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION	
Middle School Name/District:	High School Name/District:
Cumulative Middle School GPA:	Most Recent GPA:
Is Student Receiving Special Education Services?	Most Recent Attendance Rate:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	
(If yes, submit most recent IEP)	# of Suspensions/Expulsions in Last 2 School Years:



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STUDENT'S RESPONSES

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Name of Club or Organization	Number of Years of Participation	Required Summer Participation?

Give Something Back (Give Back) Scholarship

By checking the box below, I grant First Star permission to share the information in this application with Give Something Back, and to automatically apply for the Give Back Scholarship.

*All applicants are subject to eligibility requirements for acceptance of the Give Back Scholarship.

ESSAY RESPONSES (1-2 Paragraphs)

Imagine you are turning 100 years of age and your friends and family want to throw you a birthday celebration! You have accomplished everything you wanted in life and everything you tried was **AWESOME!** As a tribute to you on this special day, several of your admirers want to say a few words about your accomplishments. What is it that they are going to say in celebration of you? (Feel free to have fun with your answer!)



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Share what will be the biggest challenge (if any) that you will face in trying to get into college? Provide one suggestion on how you might overcome that challenge.

Signature

The information I have presented in my application is accurate, honest, and has been solely written by me.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____





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Adult Recommendation Form

This section should be completed in confidence by any adult involved in the student's life (e.g., teacher, counselor, social worker, mentor, pastor, attorney).

Student's Name	Date of Birth:
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To the Recommender:

Thank you for taking the time to provide your confidential insight and thoughts regarding this student who is applying for the First Star Kent State Academy. The Academy is an intense, highly supportive and personalized college access program designed to provide youth in foster care with the academic support, encouragement and enrichment needed to assist them in becoming competitive college applicants. Your insight will help us ensure the program is the right fit for your student.

Once you have completed the recommendation please email or your recommendation directly to: firststarinfo@kent.edu

RECOMMENDER'S INFORMATION			
Name:	Phone #:		E-mail:
School/Organization:	Title:		
Relationship to student:	How long have you known the student?		
I recommend this student for the First Star Academy:			
	Do not recommend	Recommend with reservations	Enthusiastically recommend
Academic potential			
Character and maturity			
Ability to work well with others			
Overall recommendation			





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Please answer the following questions (attach extra pages if necessary):

Why do you believe this student is a good candidate for the First Star Academy? What behavior has this student demonstrated to you that shows he/she will benefit from this opportunity?