



Just One Starfish

What is Just One Starfish?

Just One Starfish is a youth mentoring organization that focuses on training high school students to be one-on-one mentors for at-risk upper elementary/middle school students. The organization was named for the modern day starfish parable, and the basic concept that, although we cannot solve all of a community's problems, we can empower young people to make a positive difference in the community one person at a time.

Vision Statement

The vision of Just One Starfish is to transform communities and positively change lives through creating one-on-one mentoring relationships between local high school students and at-risk upper elementary school students.

How it works

Just One Starfish high school students are paired with local 5th/6th graders in order to create a mentoring relationship that lasts during the challenging time of preadolescence. Following a training curriculum, Just One Starfish mentors are coached in student leadership and in being positive role models. Unique to Just One Starfish, high school mentors receive continued coaching and follow-up during the mentoring process. The vision is to have mentors meet with their mentored "stars" regularly over a period of one to two years - establishing trust and encouraging positive life decisions. While we cannot solve the problems of the entire community, Just One Starfish mentoring seeks to positively impact one student at a time, creating a ripple effect in our schools and communities.

How to become a Just One Starfish Mentor

To get started, Just One Starfish Mentors need to complete the attached application. Completed applications can be emailed to erinjackso@yahoo.com or mailed to: Just One Starfish, Attn: Erin Jackson, 2319 Denham Dr., Arlington, TX 76001.

Once the application is reviewed, potential mentors will be contacted to schedule mentor training. After training, mentors are matched up with their local "star" – an upper elementary school student of the same gender. Mentors and their "stars" meet afterschool 2-4 times a month during the school year at the elementary school campus for one-on-one getting to know each other.

Have questions?

You can visit our website at www.justonestarfish.org, or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/justonestarfish. Contact us at erinjackso@yahoo.com or call (817) 371-1127.

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VOLUNTEER MENTOR APPLICATION AND CONTRACT

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____ Birth Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail Address: _____

School: _____ Grade (2012-2013): _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information – Name(s): _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Parent Phone No. _____ E-mail Address: _____

Language(s) You Speak: _____

Please List prior Volunteer Experience

Application Questions

Your responses to the following questions will help us determine whether you are a good fit for Just One Starfish's program and match you with a mentee "star." You may complete the questions here or attach an additional sheet if necessary.

1. What qualities, skills, gifts, talents or other attributes do you feel you have that would benefit a younger student? Please explain.

2. What do you think will be most challenging about being a mentor?

3. What do you hope to gain from becoming a mentor?

References

Please list three (3) references who you have known for at least one (1) year. **One of these references must be your youth director or youth pastor, if applicable. Relatives or family members cannot be used as references.** Please give complete phone numbers. References will be contacted by phone. The information furnished to us by your references will remain strictly confidential.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number of Years Known: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number of Years Known: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number of Years Known: _____

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MENTOR CONTRACT

By initialing each item and signing below, I agree to the following:

I agree to participate in all required trainings.

I will complete my commitment to work with the program at least four hours per month for a full school year, unless otherwise agreed with Just One Starfish.

I consent to the use of my oral/written statements and the use of my photograph(s) by Just One Starfish for any non-commercial purpose associated with the program including, but not limited to, newsletters, news media coverage of Just One Starfish and its programs and fund-raising.*

I will NOT take my mentee off-site in an unsupervised setting unless I have obtained parental consent and coordinated with Just One Starfish leadership.

I will contact my Site Coordinator or Just One Starfish Program Manager if I will be absent from a mentoring session and **I understand that excessive absence will result in removal from the program.**

I will contact my Site Coordinator or Just One Starfish Program Manager if I have any problems or concerns about my mentoring relationship.

I understand that I may be required to complete a Student Volunteer Application/ Background check with the local school district in order to participate.

I have read this application and agree to abide by the commitments made in it. The information I have provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* You have the option of not consenting to this particular clause by drawing a line through it and initialing on the side.

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PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT & LIABILITY WAIVER
(required for mentors under age 18)

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: _____
BIRTH DATE: _____ SEX: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____
HOME ADDRESS _____
PARENT PHONE: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

I, (name of parent or guardian) _____, grant permission for my child (name of child) _____ to participate in the Just One Starfish mentoring program.

As parent, and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named young person ("participant"). I agree on behalf of myself, my child's other parent if known or living (name of parent) _____, my child named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to hold harmless and defend Just One Starfish, its officers, directors and agents, and sponsors or representatives associated with the event with respect to any and all actions, claims or demands that may be made or brought against its officers, directors and agents, and sponsors or representatives associated with the program, arising from or in connection with my child's attending the program or in connection with any illness or injury or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and I agree to compensate the program, its officers, directors and agents, and the sponsors or representative associated with the event for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses arising in connection therewith.

Signature _____ Date _____

Just One Starfish MENTOR APPLICATION

Getting to Know You Questions

The questions below are designed to help us get to know you and your personality a little bit better. There are no right or wrong answers, the answers just help Just One Starfish to pair you up with the best mentee “star.”

Using only 3 adjectives, describe how you see yourself.

Using only 3 adjectives, describe how others see you.

What is your greatest strength?

What is your greatest weakness?

Tell us one quirky/weird/interesting thing about you.

Briefly describe your faith journey.

What are a few ways you show your faith without saying it?

What are you most passionate about?

What are your aspirations or plans post-high school?

What do you believe are the characteristics of a good mentor?

Why do you think you would be a good mentor?

Describe a time when you inspired someone.

The vision of Just One Starfish is to transform communities and positively change lives through creating one-on-one mentoring relationships between local high school students and at-risk upper elementary school students.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. We believe that students like you can positively change the world through mentoring younger students. We are excited about the lives you will help transform.

IMPORTANT:

Applications are due Wednesday, September 12th for the first round of training.