



fosterclub
the national
network for
young people
in foster care

The FosterClub 2011 All-Star Program

The FosterClub All-Star program was founded on the belief that youth who have successfully transitioned from foster care to responsible young adulthood are best suited to impact the transition of their younger peers. For the past several years FosterClub has been providing a way for young leaders to reach out to other youth through conferences, trainings and events.

This year, up to 24 young people from the foster care system will be chosen as FosterClub All-Stars. They will be provided with intensive leadership and public speaking training, and then sent to teen conferences and foster care-related events across the country. In addition to motivating, educating and empowering foster youth across America, the FosterClub All-Star's will raise awareness about the 530,000 children in foster care and the 24,000 youth who transition from foster care every year, mostly without the support of a permanent and stable family.

Program Overview

The All-Star Program provides leadership and service opportunities to young people ages 18-24 that have spent their formative years in foster care. For these young adults who have beaten the odds and thrived in spite of difficult circumstances, the All-Star internship is an opportunity to communicate their unique perspectives and resilient spirits with their younger peers still in foster care. In addition to participating in a large number of nationwide events for youth and child welfare professionals over the summer, the FosterClub All-Stars will provide trainings, advocate for system improvement and promote public awareness nationally throughout the year.

As an important part of their training, FosterClub works with the All-Stars to shape their personal foster care stories and to connect these stories to important national foster care issues. Youth participants learn to reframe their foster care experiences as relevant expertise and to use that expertise effectively to motivate their peers, child welfare staff and the public to action on behalf of children and youth in care.

FosterClub provides a modest stipend to each All-Star and covers all housing and travel expenses for the first three months of the internship. All-Stars will stay in duplex-style housing in the ocean resort community of Seaside, Oregon, their training location city and summer home base.

From Seaside, All-Stars will be dispatched in teams along with FosterClub staff to trainings and events across the country. During the month summer portion of the program All-Stars will participate in events ranging from speaking events and workshop presentations to complete teen conference planning and facilitation.

In the remaining months of the internship, the All-Stars will return to their home states, and with support of FosterClub and their sponsors, will continue to spearhead state and local efforts to raise awareness about foster care, advocate for system improvement, and train youth and child welfare professionals. All-Stars may also be commissioned to participate in national events or team-up to conduct regional trainings. The FosterClub team will act as an ongoing support network for the All-Star Program participants.

Each year, the momentum gained by the FosterClub All-Stars demonstrates the power of youth voice and is a testimony to the strength and resilience of young people in foster care. This year the FosterClub All-Star Program will present this opportunity to young leaders emerging from the foster care system. The 2011 All-Stars will provide inspiration and motivation to their younger peers and will help insure positive system changes as they forge a better, more hopeful future for themselves.

Program Goals

Provide a youth development opportunity for emerging leaders by:

- Building leadership and life skills
- Providing an opportunity to practice public speaking
- Developing professional proficiencies through intensive training

Improve outcomes for youth preparing to transition out of foster care by:

- Helping young people in foster care develop the skills and will to succeed through a training model which utilizes peer-led instruction and provides motivation through peer role models presented at live events and public awareness campaigns.

Increase public awareness and facilitate legislative action that will improve the foster care system by:

- Developing the public speaking skills of young constituents in foster care so that they use their voices and stories to compel the public to act.

Change public perceptions about youth in foster care and reduce the negative stigma attached to foster care by:

- Establishing a corps of young people from the foster care system who are trained, skilled, and effective public speakers and by showcasing their personal success stories in conjunction with relevant national foster care issues.

Program Details

Who are the FosterClub All-Stars?

Former or transitioning foster youth selected from across the country to serve a summer internship with FosterClub and assist in planning, facilitating and evaluating FosterClub's national teen conferences. Each FosterClub All-Star will demonstrate leadership qualities and an ability to connect with peers.

How will they participate in teen conferences and other events?

The All-Star youth will assist in facilitating the conference as Junior Staff. They will participate in registration, group activities, presentations, and will sit on youth panels. All-Star youth will lead workshops and interact with conference attendees throughout the event. They will also assist in preparing final conference evaluations. At all times, a FosterClub Adult Staff member will supervise Junior Staff.

Number of All-Stars:

- In 2011, up to 24 All-Stars will be selected. Sponsored positions will be available, reserving at least one position as "open National seats" which will be used to ensure that the All-Star Team is a diverse group of young people.

Term of Internship:

- Each All-Star will serve a year-long term. The internship kicks off with an intensive full-time summer assignment during which All-Stars, based in Oregon, participate in training and take part in events across the country.

Internship Location:

- The summer portion of the internship will be served at the ocean resort community of Seaside, Oregon. All-Stars will reside in a duplex-style house and will report to work daily at the FosterClub office. In addition FosterClub enjoys a relationship with Portland State University's Regional Child Welfare Partnership, which assists in providing training and support to the All-Star Program.

Eligibility:

- All-Stars applicants must be at least 18 years old and 24 years old or less at the time the internship begins. All-Stars must have permission to travel, be photographed for publication, and possess documents necessary for travel (government issued photo ID or driver's license). Applicants will be required to complete an All-Star application packet.

All-Star Sponsorship

States and Organizations have the opportunity to sponsor an All-Star position, which ensures that a youth from your state or organization will serve as an All-Star. In addition, the sponsoring agency will receive a commitment from the selected All-Star to fulfill certain ongoing obligations after the summer portion is over.

Cost of sponsorship: \$6,000.

Benefits to Youth: A majority of the \$6,000 sponsorship fee is passed on to the young person who is selected to be an All-Star:

- \$2,000 end-of-Summer honorarium
- \$150 per week living allowance
- Housing paid for youth during Summer portion
- All travel paid for youth during Summer portion

Selection Process: Sponsorship holds an “All-Star Spot” for a youth from your state or program. Any youth from your state or program should be eligible to apply to become an All-Star (applications are received through FosterClub). A selection committee, comprised of 3-5 individuals from your program, will review applications and make the All-Star selection. FosterClub will assist with the selection process.

Participation: After the Summer portion of the internship, past All-Stars have participated with their sponsoring organizations by serving on State Boards and Committees, assisting with training of child welfare staff and foster parents, presenting workshop to Judges, participating on or organizing youth councils, etc.

Benefits to Sponsor: Sponsors will receive regular updates from their All-Star regarding progress and activities throughout the internship. Once the summer portion of the internship is completed, the Sponsoring agency may outline specific tasks or projects that they would like to engage the All-Star in: public speaking events, youth advisory boards, public awareness projects, etc. For the months after the summer portion, the All-Star retains their commitment to the Sponsoring agency as well as to FosterClub.

Organizations considering sponsorship are encouraged to ask 2011 Sponsoring organizations about their impression of the impact of the internship on the youth they sponsored and about how sponsoring an All-Star has benefited their program and the young people it serves. Please call FosterClub for a list of references.

2011 All-Star Program Calendar:

All-Star Applications available on FosterClub.com:	January 1
Applications due	February 15
Winning applicants notified	April 1
Public Announcement (at Pathways to Adulthood Conference)	May
Arrive in Seaside, Oregon	(date TBD)
All-Star Training – intensive two week training	(date TBD)
Summer Program ends/All-Stars return home	(date TBD)
All-Star term ends	May 2012

For more information about sponsoring an All-Star position for a youth from your program, contact Gina Simone at 503.717.1552 or gina@fosterclub.com.