IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY STAR CAMPS RESIDENT ASSISTANT (RA) APPLICATION

The STAR Program: STAR is an acronym for Science Teacher Attraction and Retention. ISU's Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education is in the process of establishing STAR Clubs for high school students potentially interested in science education as a career. This includes both prospective secondary science teachers and prospective elementary teachers that would like an emphasis in science. Funding comes from a U.S. Department of Education grant. Dr. Tom Andre is the P.I. for this grant.

Club activities will include science and education components and could include for example, tutoring, serving as a lab assistant, developing WebQuests, and organizing a district science fair. Club members and advisors will be invited to attend a STAR summer camp.

Camps: We plan to offer two camps this summer:

1) Skunk River Navy
   Biological, chemical, and earth science aspects of the Skunk River watershed will be the focus of this camp. Our goal is that students will return to their home districts as a valuable resource for studies on their local waterways. Housing will be in ISU dormitories.

2) Wyoming Adventure
   Students will study the geology of the northern Big Horn Mountains and Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, including topics such as paleontology (including dinosaurs), mountain building, and stream flow studies. The camp will be based at ISU's semi-primitive Geology Field Station.

An educational component will be important in both camps. Participating school district needs related to the camp topics studied will be determined before camp. Students will return from the camps with lessons and activities that they have developed to help teach these topics that they have experienced in their field work.

Dates of employment: Employment will be approximately mid-June to mid-July (5 weeks total). Your employment may include some work with the CY-TAG program during dates not covered below:

   Training -- approximately June 12-14
   Skunk River Navy -- June 23-June 29
   Wyoming Adventure -- July 8-17

Pay: $400/week, plus room and board. (RAs will live in ISU dormitories except during Wyoming Adventure.)

Duties and Responsibilities: The Resident Assistant (RA) for STAR Camps will serve as a liaison between STAR Camp staff and program participants. You will be the direct representative of STAR for the participants and will have the role of helping participants have a meaningful educational experience. For STAR Camps based on the ISU campus, RAs will also serve as a liaison between Department of Residence staff and program participants. The RA position is a challenging one. RAs may be called upon at any time by students and staff. Situations will arise that require the full abilities of the RA. The RA will need to recognize his/her limitations and seek the help of other staff when needed. An outline of RA responsibilities follows:

1. Attend training. Also complete Human Subjects Research training, available on the web.
2. Provide leadership to the STAR program. Be a good role model.
3. Assist in fieldwork; assist students with educational activities, plans, and lesson plans.
4. Be alert to student needs, both physical and mental.
   a. Be a good listener.
   b. Encourage individual growth.
   c. Help students learn problem-solving and conflict management skills.
   d. Appreciate diversity.
5. Communicate
   a. Communicate concerns to appropriate program staff.
   b. Respect confidences.
   c. Use discretion in all communications.
6. Intervene in the event of rule violations.
7. Be prepared for emergencies such as illness, fire, tornado and be sure students in your charge are familiar with emergency procedures.

Visit our web site at www.public.iastate.edu/~mstar

RA Application
1/02
Application Form

Name: ________________________________________________

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Male __  Female __                  Birthdate: ____________________

Local Address: _________________________________________

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Permanent Address: _____________________________________

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E-Mail: ______________________

Classification: Undergraduate ___  Special Student ___  Graduate ___

Major: _____________________  Minor: ____________________

Total ISU credits: _____  Cumulative ISU G.P.A.: ______

Other credits, if any: _____ Where earned: ____________________________ Overall G.P.A.: _____

If you hold a bachelor's degree:

Degree: ____________________  Date received: mo ___ yr ___  Major: ___________________

Institution: ____________________________  G.P.A. ______

If an education major:

Teaching level: PK-3 ___  K-6 ___  7-12 ___  K-12 ___

Endorsement areas: ______________________________________________________________

Advisor's Name: _____________________________

Expected date of graduation: ___________________

Number of semesters in ISU residence halls: ___

Number of semesters in residence halls of other universities and colleges: ___

Background Check -- Self-Reporting

1. Have you ever had an education-related license revoked or suspended? *Yes ____ No ____
2. Have you ever been disciplined by a university disciplinary system? *Yes ____ No ____
3. Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than parking or traffic violations? *Yes ____ No ____
4. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? *Yes ____ No ____
5. Are you or have you ever been on the child abuse registry? *Yes ____ No ____
   *If you answer "yes" to any of the above, please attach an explanation on a separate sheet of paper.
Attach a separate page if necessary when responding to the following:

Why do you want to be an RA?

Experience working with youth -- include brief descriptions of each event/activity, age of youth, dates, and your responsibilities:

What leadership experiences, volunteer and/or paid, have you had?

What personal qualities do you feel will make you an effective RA.?

What special talents do you possess that would enhance our program?

How would you maintain control of a group of 12 high school students?

What do you see as the most challenging aspect of this RA position?

What relevant training or experience have you had?(CPR? Experience with ESL students? Certifications?)

All application materials must be submitted by March 1, 2002, to
STAR Camp -- Attn.: Kathy Megivern
N157 Lagomarcino Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

A complete application file includes:
1) This 2-page application form
2) Three recommendation forms

Hiring is contingent upon sufficient student participant enrollment. 
Upon selection, a criminal record history check will be conducted. (The fee will be paid by the STAR program.)

The statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant __________________________________________ Date ________________________