

NorthStar Navigator Award

A 'NorthStar Navigator' is one who trains, mentors and guides youth to help them develop the knowledge, skills, moral character and faith commitment to find their own Christ-honoring path in life. The award is intended to recognize individuals who have demonstrated a deep commitment to mentor youth over many years of service. The individuals honored with this award have demonstrated by their lives that mentoring youth is a high priority for them. They have each given extensive time through the programs NorthStar Soccer Ministries *and* given extensive time mentoring youth through other organizations as well.

For 2022 we are recognizing two new NorthStar Navigators:

Ryan Leib – Coach Ryan Leib is the Director of the Briarwood Soccer Club and also the Head Coach for Briarwood Women's High School Soccer Team. In those capacities Ryan has spent decades mentoring youth through the game of soccer. Ryan has also been a friend and support to NorthStar Soccer from its beginning in 2002. Ryan supported our fledgling teams with shared coaches and even shared players. NorthStar teams participated in Briarwood U6 and U8 leagues in those early years. NorthStar players have participated in Briarwood camps – Holiday Camp in December and Summer Camp in June – off and on for all those years. Briarwood has provided generous scholarships on an as needed basis. Last summer NorthStar coaches joined the summer staff and for the past two summers NorthStar players have made up close to half the summer camp program. We often register NorthStar teams at the State League level through Briarwood in order to be able to player share to maximize the potential for our teams *and* to foster relationship building among the players. Briarwood High School girls typically volunteer with the NorthStar Intramural League (U6/U8/U10) in the Spring season. Ryan's commitment to NorthStar is of great value to the organization and to the kids we serve. That commitment, as strong as it is, is only an extension of Ryan's commitment to mentor youth and encourage them in their faith and life development. We are very pleased to welcome him into the ranks of officially designated NorthStar Navigators!

Cleon Rogers -

Cleon Rogers has been a NorthStar Soccer coach since the beginning of our partnership with Cornerstone School in the Fall season of 2015. He started out as a U6 coach for his oldest child, Sarah Grace. Over the years he has bounced around coaching assignments within the NorthStar Intramural program. Coaching the first year of U6 for each of his soccer playing children. Moving up to U8 or U10 some seasons according to the biggest needs of the program. Not only has he coached each of his kids – Sarah Grace, Cleon, Luisa and Vivianne at U6 and sometimes U8 and U10 levels but he has been a devoted and loving coach to so many other NorthStar players along the way.

In addition to coaching at NorthStar, Cleon is a doctor on staff with Christ Health Center and serves kids and families in the Woodlawn and Center Point areas through that position. His children attend Cornerstone School and he is an active volunteer there. Cleon regularly recruits new coaches to come impact the kids through NorthStar Soccer. A year ago he was invited to serve on the Board of Directors of NorthStar Soccer Ministries and graciously agreed to service. The ministry of NorthStar Soccer has benefited greatly from Cleon Rogers. He truly is a NorthStar Navigator and we are pleased to be able to recognize him as such!