



The First Star Celebration

2026 Sponsorship Guide

*Celebrating California's
Champions of Foster Youth*

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ABOUT FIRST STAR

First Star was founded in 1999 to build strong, lasting pathways for youth in foster care to post-secondary education and successful, independent adult lives. In 2011, that mission took root in California when First Star launched its flagship Academy at UCLA – a four-year, university-based program pairing academic support, life-skills training, and mentorship for high-school-age foster youth.

Fifteen years later, that single Academy has grown into a statewide model. First Star's California Academies now span UCLA, Cal Poly Humboldt, and UC Riverside – and the approach pioneered here has expanded to university campuses across the country.

Nationally, only 3% of foster youth ever earn a bachelor's degree, and just 10% pursue higher education at all. First Star scholars beat those odds by a wide margin: 92% enroll in post-secondary education, and 96% of scholars engaged for two or more years graduate high school on time.

- 15 years of the Academy model in California, since its UCLA launch in 2011
- California Academies at UCLA, Cal Poly Humboldt, and UC Riverside – part of First Star's national network of university-based Academies
- 94% of First Star scholars believe college is achievable for them; 87% report having a concrete plan for their future

Please help us make a difference in the lives of the next generation of First Star scholars.



ABOUT THE FIRST STAR CELEBRATION



WHEN

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

6:30 PM – Cocktails, dinner, awards, and entertainment

WHERE

The Mountaingate Country Club

12445 Mountaingate Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90049

Cocktail or Business Festive – no formalwear needed. *It's a Tuesday night!*

WHO

Guiding Light Honorees



Monroe Gorden, Jr., J.D

Vice Chancellor UCLA Student Affairs

Chancellor S. Jack Hu

University of California, Riverside



Brilliance Award



Rachel Kist

First Star ASU Academy

Additional Guiding Light Honoree and Peer Mentor Award to be announced

Host Committee

Peter Samuelson
Isael Andrade
Alex Ballantyne
Michael H. Cook
Brian Gray, CPA
Judy Hackett
Philip Hong, PhD
Anna McGibbons

Ariela Moskowitz
Venus Ranieri
Adrien P. Sebro, PhD
Stephanie Sperber
Vince Thompson
Lyndsey C. Wilson
Robin Winston León

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since 2011, visionary leaders — our Guiding Stars — have helped build First Star's Academy model from a single UCLA classroom into a statewide movement. The 2026 First Star Celebration honors that legacy and raises the funds needed to carry it forward: **Strong Futures Start Here.**

Your sponsorship will:

- Sustain the academic instruction, test prep, and education advocacy First Star scholars receive throughout high school
- Fund the residential summer sessions and monthly workshops that keep scholars on track for four consecutive years
- Support life-skills training in financial management, housing, and health so scholars are ready for independence
- Help expand the Academy model to reach more youth in foster care across California and nationwide
- Recognize your organization alongside California's Champions of Foster Youth, with visibility on event materials, the program, and First Star's website

First Star is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Your sponsorship fuels college readiness, life skills, and personal growth for youth and young adults from foster care, providing the love, stability, and opportunity they deserve. Together, we're building a future where all young people can thrive.



PRESENTING SPONSOR – \$25,000

Honoring the legacy built over 25 years of impact

- Two premium tables with preferred placement (20 guests)
- Recognition from the stage during the event
- Name/ Logo listed as Presenting Sponsor on invitation materials
- Name/ Logo listed as Presenting Sponsor in all print/ electronic media when possible
- Incorporation of your company logo on event signage, the First Star website, and social media channels
- Presenting Sponsor ad in digital program



VISIONARY SPONSOR – \$15,000

Celebrating the bold vision that continues to guide our work at First Star

- One premium table with preferred placement (10 guests)
- Recognition from the stage during the event
- Name/ Logo listed as Visionary Sponsor on invitation materials
- Name/ Logo listed as Visionary Sponsor in all print/ electronic media when possible
- Signage at the event/ incorporation of your company logo on the First Star website
- Visionary Sponsor ad in digital program



GUIDING STAR SPONSOR – \$10,000

Recognizing those who illuminate the path in the foster care space

- One table (10 guests)
- Name/ Logo listed as Guiding Star Sponsor on invitation materials
- Recognition on the event page within the First Star website
- Signage at the event/ incorporation of your company on the First Star website
- Guiding Star Sponsor ad in digital program



RISING STAR SPONSOR – \$5,000

Supporting youth and young adults as they grow, achieve, and rise into their potential

- One table (10 guests)
- Name/ Logo listed as Rising Star Sponsor on event materials
- Recognition on the event page within the First Star website



POSSIBILITY SPONSOR – \$2,500

Fueling the future with hope, opportunity, and sustained support

- Half-table (5 guests)
- Recognition on the event page within the First Star website

DIGITAL AD SPECIFICATIONS



Ad Submission Instructions

Thank you for supporting The First Star Celebration! Please use the following guidelines to prepare and submit your advertisement:

Ad Levels

- Included with Sponsorship
- Digital Gold Advertisement – \$3,000
- Digital Silver Advertisement – \$2,000
- Digital Full Advertisement – \$1,000

Ad Specifications

- Layout: Full-page, landscape orientation
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- Size: 10 x 5.63 inches (default in PowerPoint and Google Slides)
- Format: High-resolution PDF or JPEG

Submission Deadline

All ads must be received by October 10, 2026

Where to Send

Please email your completed ad file to: Celebration@firststar.org

Need Help? If you have questions or would like assistance creating your ad, please contact:

Robin Winston (310) 882-5810 robin.winston@firststar.org

The First Star Celebration

For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities including ticket, table and ad sales please connect with us by:

- Purchasing sponsorships or tickets: [Event Page](#)
- Visiting our website: firststar.org/celebration,
- Sending an email to celebration@firststar.org,
- or following us on social media instagram [@firststarinc](#)

First Star Inc.

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