



November 2018

Dear Student and Parent/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Dreamcatchers Program. Dreamcatchers is a 9-year mentoring program focused on helping young people build resiliency, discover their passions, and learn the critical life skills they need to be successful in the future. Beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students are surrounded by staff and other caring adults who are invested in all aspects of the students' lives – academically, emotionally, socially and physically – helping the students value learning as a way to achieve their long-term goals.

Enclosed you will find information about the Dreamcatchers application process. If you are interested in participating in the program, please complete the entire application and return it to:

**Dreamcatchers**  
**Attn: Kristina O'Hern**  
**1400 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Immokalee, FL 34142**

**Application Mailing or Drop-off Procedures and Deadline:**

Applications can be returned to *Mrs. Gallegos* at Immokalee Middle School or *Ms. Quintero* at RCMA or dropped off or mailed to the Dreamcatchers office on or before **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**.

You will be contacted by phone or email about the outcome of our selection process by Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Should you have any questions during the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

Kristina O'Hern  
Florida Dreamcatchers, Program Director  
[kristina@floridadreamcatchers.org](mailto:kristina@floridadreamcatchers.org)

## **DREAMCATCHERS PROGRAM INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **WHAT IS DREAMCATCHERS?**

Dreamcatchers is a unique and comprehensive 9-year mentoring program. The program is rooted in a philosophy of inspiring personal growth for young people through the power of relationships with peer and adult mentors. Each year is structured around a series of planning meetings, a core program experience and peripheral programming that emerges based on individual and group needs.

### **WHEN WAS DREAMCATCHERS STARTED AND WHO DOES IT SERVE?**

Dreamcatchers was founded in 2018 as an offspring of the 1by1 Leadership Foundation. While the commitment of 1by1 to the community of Immokalee continues to grow, the 1by1's Board of Directors decided to start a new organization dedicated to creating a comprehensive, long-term youth development model. Dreamcatchers serves students living in Immokalee from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their post-secondary experience – whether that is college, career or credential.

### **WHAT IS THE DREAMCATCHERS PROGRAM MODEL?**

Twenty students a year enter the program in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and participate in annual program activities designed around our four pillars:

1. Relationship Building
2. Experiential Education
3. Social and Emotional Development
4. College and Career Readiness

### **WHAT DOES A *DREAMCATCHER* DO?**

With the support of caring adult and peer mentors, Dreamcatcher students will be stretched outside their comfort zones as they join their peers in helping to plan, design, and implement educational expeditions. These multi-day adventures will be designed around wilderness experiences, community service, cultural awareness, environmental education and college and career readiness opportunities. All Dreamcatchers experiences will be offered to help students build resiliency, discover their passions, and learn the critical life skills they need to be successful in the future.

### **WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR PARTICIPATING IN DREAMCATCHERS?**

Each year, Dreamcatchers will have 20 openings for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are attending school in Immokalee. During the fall of each new school year, Dreamcatchers will offer preview activities for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in getting a feel for what the program is like. In November, all interested students and their families will be invited to attend an information session. If a student is then wanting to apply, they will be required to submit an application by the last day of school before the December holiday break. Dreamcatchers staff will then meet individually with all interested students and their parent(s) or guardian in January which could take place at the student's school, their home, or the Dreamcatchers office depending on the family's preference.

### **WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE APPLICATIONS THAN YOU HAVE SPOTS FOR?**

If, after all individual meetings with interested students are complete, there are more than 20 students interested in the program, Dreamcatchers will implement an inclusive and random lottery system to select the students. The lottery

system will be designed to produce a gender balance of students who can participate. Please note: Neither the content of a student's application or the outcome of the interview process will be a factor in determining a student's eligibility for the lottery.

**WHAT IF DREAMCATCHERS RECEIVES 20 OR LESS APPLICATIONS – DOES EVERYONE GET SELECTED?**

If there are less than 20 applications, all students who go through the family meet and greet process will be selected to participate in the program.

**HOW WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DREAMCATCHERS?**

All students will be notified by mail, phone or, email (according to parent/guardian's instructions in the application) by February 1, 2018 and programming will begin later in the month.

**WHAT IF MY NAME IS NOT SELECTED FROM THE LOTTERY?**

If a lottery system for the selection of students is required, the students not selected will be put on a waiting list.

**WHAT IF YOU RECEIVE MY APPLICATION AFTER THE DEADLINE?**

All applications will need to be postmarked by the designated cut-off date. If a student returns the completed application after the deadline, their application will not be eligible for the lottery, and their name will be put on the waiting list.

**WHAT IF A STUDENT CANNOT ATTEND THE PREVIEW PROGRAMS OR MAKE ONE OF THE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS?**

If a student cannot make the preview activities or one of the informational meetings, they still may call or email the Dreamcatchers office and request an application during the open enrollment process. Applications will also be available to download from our website.

**DO I HAVE TO MAKE A NINE-YEAR COMMITMENT?**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who complete the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Dreamcatchers program will be invited to participate in every other program offered to their Dreamcatchers cohort for the remaining 8 years. Students who wish to un-enroll will have the option to do so by completing an opt-out form made available by Dreamcatchers staff.

**CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE DREAMCATCHERS PROGRAM IN ADDITION TO BEING IN AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM?**

Yes. The Dreamcatchers program is not an after-school program and therefore all students are encouraged to continue participating in other programs and activities.

**IS THERE A FEE REQUIRED TO BE IN THE PROGRAM?**

There are no fees required to be involved with Dreamcatchers.



# DREAMCATCHERS APPLICATION

Please fill out the entire application and return by Friday, December 21, 2018 to:

**Florida Dreamcatchers  
1400 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Immokalee, FL 34142**

<b>Full Name:</b>	<b>Preferred Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	<b>Gender:</b>
<b>School You Attend:</b>	<b>Student Cell (if applicable):</b>
<b>Student Email:</b>	

## Parent/Guardian #1 Information

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Email:</b>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Home Phone:</b>	<b>Work Phone:</b>	<b>Cell Phone:</b>
<b>I prefer to be contacted by (circle one):</b> mail              phone              email		

## Parent/Guardian #2 Information

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Email:</b>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Home Phone:</b>	<b>Work Phone:</b>	<b>Cell Phone:</b>
<b>I prefer to be contacted by (circle one):</b> mail              phone              email		

## **We Want to Get to Know You Better!**

**In the space below, please tell us why you would like to participate in the Dreamcatchers program.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What do you hope to gain personally from participating in the Dreamcatchers program?**

---

---

---

---

---

**Please share with us the strengths that you will contribute to the Dreamcatchers program.**

---

---

---

---

---

# Dreamcatchers Agreements & Releases

## I. Dreamcatchers Partnership with Schools

Dreamcatchers aspires to work closely with our local schools. As we develop the core programming, it is our goal to build long-lasting relationships with school staff as a way to provide greater support for your child during possibly difficult academic, social and behavioral times. Dreamcatchers staff will serve as an added layer of support for your child in helping them work with school administration and teachers and helping them learn how to be their own best advocate. Part of the Dreamcatchers program expectations will be drafted by the participants who will set academic and behavioral expectations for the group. Please sign below to grant Dreamcatchers staff to check in with teachers, principals, administrators, guidance counselors and coaches at their respective school (Immokalee Middle School, Immokalee Community School, PACE Center for Girls, or other). By signing below, you grant permission to Dreamcatchers staff to check academic grades and behavior reports for your child.

## II. Chemical Free Policy

I agree to abide by the chemical free policy of Dreamcatchers while participating in any and all programs and expeditions. As a student participant, I will not use and/or take drugs, alcohol, or tobacco of any kind. I agree not to come into any program under the influence or in possession of any of the above-named substances, I understand there will be serious consequences for my behavior, including the possibility of being sent home at the expense of my parent/guardian and the possibility of not being invited to participate in future Dreamcatchers programming.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student (Applicant)