Why have a Mini- STAR in your Area?

With Texas being so large the idea of only one STAR event was never the intention of the creators. Their hope was that other STARS would dance their way around the State.

In 2018 Area 3 planned and kicked off the first area Mini STAR in the Lone Star State. Since that time STAR3 has been held including an online STAR during 2019 when in person was not an option and the our next one is planned for April 1, 2023.

Are you thinking an Area STAR might be a good idea for your Area? We hope so and we want you to know that we are here to help you choreograph every step in creating your own Area/Local Mini-STAR.

It takes just a few simple steps.

Step 1- form a committee- If helps if some have been to the statewide STAR at Camp Allen. Having your Area Coordinator apart of the committee is a good idea. They are a great communicator to the chapters.

Step 2- decide on what you want your STAR to look like. We decided on an all-day-one-day format with breakfast, lunch, snack and all supplies provided.

Step 3- find a location. This is a must as this will drive the cost you will need to charge each participate. Look for a free place, if possible.

Step 4- logistics- secure location, plan date and time, how many sessions to hold, opening/closing session, etc.

Step 5- food—what will you serve? We provide breakfast tacos and fruit, a catered sack lunch, and an afternoon snack, with drinks throughout the day. This needs to be considered in your fee and is a major consideration as it is often the most expensive cost you will have.

Step 6- secure instructors – who can teach and what will they teach. We strive to not repeat sessions done at STAR the year before. If you need instructors, we are willing to volunteer and I am sure Brenda Pearson WIA Chairman and some of the STAR creators would be willing to too.

Step 7- set the price We charge $30. We had to go up in 2022. It had been $25 but food cost went up as you know. We have a very lean budget with little carryover.

Step 8 – advertise and take registrations. We encourage you to promote this at your area workshop during odd numbered years by having a break-out session. Everyone did a craft to take home. Get your AC involved in this process.

Step 9- The Big Day has arrived. This includes setting up, having specific duties for each committee member, hosting your guests, cleaning up, paying bills to instructors and vendors, reading the evaluations, scheduling a debriefing meeting of the committee, and resting!

Step 10 – Pat yourself on the back for providing a day of “genuine fellowship.” Then get ready for your Second Annual STAR.

Now to make things even easier, we can send you information, forms, notes, and more. All can be adapted and changed and will save you time by not having to recreate the wheel. Contact Barbara Derrick at [BLSDerrick@aol.com](mailto:BLSDerrick@aol.com) or contact Brenda Pearson, WIA Chairman, or Cathy Burke, STAR Chairman.

We hope you will join us in two- stepping across the State as you debut your own Mini-STAR event in your Area.