



**Afterschool
is OK!**

Concerts, Video Games, and Skateboards No Way!

Fall 2010

A “ROCK SOLID” INVESTMENT

While some believe that video games, skateboarding, and loud music can hinder a child’s education experience, On the Rock Ministries uses these activities to engage students in educational and cultural programs in order to stimulate their scholastic career. Using an 85 year old warehouse the Rock fosters a plethora of afterschool programs designed for students 3rd grade to 12th grade.



Who's ready to ROCK?!

Who?

On the Rock Ministries is a non-profit organization committed to providing a safe environment for children during out of school hours. On the Rock Ministries Assistant Director, Sam Johnson, boasts that the Rock hosts more than 500 students weekly. However, Johnson also stated that they would like to reach more students in the area, “eventually we would like to reach all 6,000 students in Bartlesville.” Holding true to their faith-based mission, the Rock is able to reach students, and make a positive impact on their lives.

What?

By providing a welcoming atmosphere the Rock is able to actively engage students in character building activities with the use of drama, videos, and games. Offering activities such as skateboarding, basketball, and video games, the Rock gives students the opportunity to play games in a safe environment.

FOCUS:

Belong – Believe - Become

The Rock provides young people with a place where they feel they **BELONG**, by providing them with the confidence to **BELIEVE** in themselves and provide them with the tools to **BECOME** whomever they choose.

How?

Belong – The Rock, believes that most learning takes place outside the classroom. So rather than use traditional education practices, the Rock creates a curriculum catered to the interests of the youth they serve. Using activities such as music concerts, skateboarding, and summer camps the Rock is able to provide a safe-haven for youth after school.

Believe- The idea for the Rock began in early 1998, when Youth Director Ken Dossett set out to create a place where youth could gather safely. By the spring of 1999 the warehouse was converted into a child's kingdom.

Become– The year 2011 may prove to be an exciting one for the Rock. Plans of adding several new activities such as the robotics club, laser tag, and a computer lab for a state of the art study lounge, may be the key to enticing more youth to join the Rock in after school learning.

Win!

AmeriCorps members and a team of volunteers, play a big role in the Rock's ability to provide three core programs for children after hours. Programs like Camp Rock, were created for children 3rd to 5th grade. The purpose of this program is to allow students to express themselves using drama programs, skits, video games, live music and skateboarding. For the 6th grade students, the Rock offers programs like "The Summit." Using large break-out groups the Rock incorporates an 8-step curriculum used to teach the students life skills. High school and college-aged students enjoy "Nitro," a program that incorporates drama, sports, and videos to encourage students to make positive decisions to better impact themselves and others around them.



Check out this awesome skateboard ramp!



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OKAN is a statewide initiative coordinated by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy.



Brought to you by Marissa Lightsey, AmeriCorps Member serving with the Oklahoma Afterschool Network.

The Million Dollar Question...

Johnson explained that if she had a million dollars for her program first she would purchase quality vehicles for the Rock, "It would be nice to have vehicles with air conditioning." Johnson also expressed the need for better office equipment, "as we plan for a new building we will have more space, but we are always in need of better equipment." Lastly, Johnson stated "I would love to be able to have a full staff and be able to pay them, offer them training, and benefits." The Rock is almost entirely staffed by volunteers and AmeriCorps members, "We love our AmeriCorps members, they are a great asset to our team."