

# **TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING CLUB**

## **Information and Guidelines for Youth Applicants**

You are eligible to apply to take part in Touchstone Climbing Club if you: **return signed application, parental agreement and Rocktown waiver.** If you have any questions, feel free to call 606-1818 or e-mail at [info@touchstoneyouth.org](mailto:info@touchstoneyouth.org)

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Touchstone Climbing Club is operated by Touchstone Youth Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Touchstone Climbing Club takes youth rock climbing on a weekly basis in an effort to cultivate vital life skills. Each session focuses on one of the following life skills and is followed by a group discussion: take care of myself; be respectful; think positive; aim for success; manage emotions; do the right thing; never stop learning; be a good friend; help others; and lead by example. Students who maintain expectations will be eligible to continue participating in Touchstone Climbing Club, at no cost, until they graduate from high school.

### **SAFETY:**

The safety of participants is our top priority. Participants will complete a safety certification class and receive thorough and continuous training in all safety measures.

### **SCHEDULE, LOCATION, TRANSPORTATION AND EQUIPMENT:**

Touchstone Climbing Club meets once a week after, except school holidays, at Rocktown, our local indoor rock climbing gym. Students must be able to transport themselves or arrange transportation to and from Rocktown. Students participate and use necessary climbing equipment at no cost.

### **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Although we would like to provide this opportunity to all interested students, Touchstone does not have the financial resources to do so. Applications are accepted and considered on a first-come first-serve basis. Priority is given to applicants in need.

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

Taking part in Touchstone Climbing Club is a privilege and participants are expected to follow the guidelines below in order to stay in the program:

- Follow instructions by manager and mentors the first time they are given
- Adhere to climbing safety rules
- Arrive on time, attend 80% of scheduled sessions and remain until session is complete, contact Touchstone Climbing Club program manager in advance if you will be late or unable to attend
- Maintain appropriate behavior at all times
- Be responsible for own climbing equipment
- Take part in weekly activities and discussion
- Retain eligibility at school

### **CONSEQUENCES:**

Failure to maintain the above expectations will result in:

- Step 1 Verbal warning
- Step 2 Conference with participant
- Step 3 Sitting out a session
- Step 4 Suspension from program
- Step 5 Expulsion from program





ROCKTOWN, LLC (DBA ROCKTOWN CLIMBING GYM)/TOUCHSTONE YOUTH PROJECT, INC.  
**Acknowledgment & Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability**



<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>		<b>Member #</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>		
<b>Emergency Contact</b>	<b>Emergency Phone</b>		

There are significant elements of risk in any adventure sport or activity associated with a "rock gym": climbing wall, bouldering area, lead climbing, challenge course, slacklining, and/or incidental fitness training regimens and equipment (referred to herein as the "ACTIVITY"). We have taken reasonable steps to provide you with appropriate equipment and/or skilled instructors so you can enjoy an activity at which you may or may not be skilled; however, we wish to remind you the ACTIVITY has foreseeable and unforeseeable risks and certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique and exciting character of the ACTIVITY. The same elements that contribute to the unique and exciting character of the ACTIVITY can be causes of serious injury to persons, death, and/or loss of or damage to equipment and can occur by accident, through negligence, or even intentionally. It is important for you to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the inherent risks.

**PARTIAL LISTING OF RISKS:** Some, but not all of the risks, foreseeable or unforeseeable, associated with the ACTIVITY follow:

1. Slips, trips, falls and/or collisions while using the climbing walls, bouldering areas, landing areas, work-out areas, floors below climbing walls, bathroom facilities, stairs, exits and entrances, and other facilities or equipment existing now or in the future;
2. Misuse of equipment or facilities, or failure of equipment and facilities, including but not limited to: loose or damaged holds, worn or defective ropes, and worn or defective safety devices;
3. Your physical strength, coordination, sense of balance, and ability to follow or give directions while climbing, belaying, or working out;
4. Abrasion from or entanglement with ropes or equipment; and
5. Bad decision making by you or your belayers, and the presence, actions (including mistakes), or falls of other climbers, belayers, observers; and
6. Falling objects including concrete pieces, rock, holds, bolts, climbing gear, and other related hardware.

Initials

**EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISKS:** You hereby acknowledge that participation in the ACTIVITY is purely voluntary. In recognition of the inherent risks of the ACTIVITY in which you may engage, you confirm that you are physically and mentally capable of participating in the ACTIVITY and/or using all facilities and equipment situate at Rocktown. You participate in the ACTIVITY willingly and voluntarily, and you assume the risk of any and all personal injury and/or damages to or loss of your personal property that occurs while at Rocktown or while participating in any off-premise RCG/TYP-sponsored activity. You assume such risk even if the injury or damage is caused by the negligence of others, including but not limited to: members, visitors, RCG/TYP employees, officers, directors, agents, instructors, belayers or spotters. You further assume such risk whether the ACTIVITY in which you are participating is organized or unorganized, part of a class or instructional, supervised or unsupervised. You are aware of the meaning of the terms "unroped climbing" (bouldering), "Top-rope climbing", and "Lead climbing", and you understand the differences between the activities. You assume the risk(s) of personal injury, accidents and/or illness, including but not limited to: sprains, torn muscles and/or ligaments, fractures or broken bones, eye damage, cuts, wounds, scrapes, abrasions and/or contusions, dehydration, exposure and/or altitude sickness, head, neck, and/or spinal injuries, shock, paralysis, and/or death.

Initials

**RELEASE:** In consideration of being permitted to engage in the ACTIVITY and to use the facilities, equipment and services provided by Rocktown and Touchstone Youth Project (RCG/TYP), you, on behalf of yourself and any minor children for whom you are the parent, legal guardian or otherwise responsible, your spouse, your heirs, personal representatives or assigns, do hereby release RCG/TYP, its parent company, subsidiaries, principals, directors, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers, and each and every land owner upon whose property the ACTIVITY is conducted, from all liability; and you waive any claim for damage arising from any cause whatsoever, including negligence. In addition to signing the Helmet Waiver, you have read and understand this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks and Release of Liability. You understand that by signing this form, you are waiving valuable legal rights.

Initials

**CAPABILITIES-HEALTH-INSTRUCTION:** You recognize that RCG/TYP may find it necessary to refuse or terminate the participation of any person judged to be incapable of meeting the rigors or requirements of any ACTIVITY. You accept RCG/TYP's right to take such actions for the safety of yourself and/or other participants. You will not engage in the ACTIVITY beyond your capabilities and will not cause any third party to be endangered by any of your actions during the ACTIVITY or while using the facility or equipment. You understand that indoor/artificial climbing is not the same as outdoor climbing, which requires additional skills. You represent that you are in good health and have no physical or mental limitations or problems that would affect your safe use of the facilities or equipment. You agree to abide by all RCG/TYP rules as they currently exist and as they are amended, and will immediately comply with all instructions and requests from RCG/TYP staff.

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**HELMET WAIVER.** You acknowledge a UIAA approved helmet may help prevent head injuries. You are refusing this safety precaution against the advice of RCG/TYP and its insurance company, and you hereby waive and release RCG/TYP, its officers, directors, shareholders, employees, and agents from any and all liability associated with your voluntary refusal to wear a safety helmet. (Helmets are provided free of charge upon request.)

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**MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PHOTO AUTHORIZATION.** You hereby authorize any medical treatment deemed necessary in the event of any injury or illness while participating in the ACTIVITY. You either have appropriate insurance or, in its absence, agree to pay all costs of rescue and/or medical services as may be incurred on your behalf. You agree that any film or photographs of you, as participants, become the property of the RCG/TYP and may be used for promotional or commercial purposes.

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**INDEMNITY-ATTORNEY'S FEES-JURISDICTION-VENUE:** In the event of any litigation involving any actions covered by this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability, should RCG/TYP prevail in whole or part, you shall pay RCG/TYP's reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and you agree to indemnify and hold RCG/TYP harmless from any claims, demands, or causes of action which are related to participation in the ACTIVITY. You agree that if any portion of this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks and Release of Liability is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. You agree that sole jurisdiction and venue for any litigation involving any actions covered by this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability shall be in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. In the event that I file a lawsuit against RCG/TYP or any other Releasee, I agree to do so solely in the state of Oklahoma, and I further agree that the substantive law of that state shall apply in the action without regard to the conflict law rules of that state. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Initials

**SAFETY GUIDELINES/RULES FOR RCG/TYP:** **Please read each of the following guidelines and initial in the box provided at the end of this section.** *If you have any questions please inquire with RCG/TYP staff. RCG/TYP requires that parents or legal guardians of participants under the age of 18 initial for that participant, after thoroughly explaining the guidelines.*

- I acknowledge and understand that, as a user of RCG, I have a responsibility to conduct myself and any and all persons under my supervision, including minor children, in a proper, courteous, and safe manner.
- I acknowledge and understand that no one may use the equipment and/or facilities at RCG while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or controlled substances.
- I acknowledge that NO STREET SHOES are allowed when rock climbing, climbing shoes are required.
- I acknowledge and understand that all Visitors and Members must be Belay/Safety Certified in order to climb at RCG (Belay Orientation/Safety Class and Private Group participants will receive the necessary instruction before their session begins).
- I acknowledge that use of any auto-belay device are required to receive special instruction by RCG/TYP staff prior to use.
- I acknowledge and understand that all climbers must wear a helmet or sign a Helmet Waiver.
- I acknowledge and understand that in order to belay at RCG I must be Belay Certified.
- I acknowledge and understand that in order to lead climb at RCG I must be Lead Certified.
- I acknowledge and understand that only RCG/TYP staff are permitted to teach belay skills on the premises.
- I acknowledge and understand that RCG/TYP has the right to deny access to its facilities to any person, permanently or for a specific period of time, for any failure to adhere to the Safety Guidelines and Regulations, or for any conduct that is viewed as unsafe, inappropriate, or unhealthy, including but not limited to: horseplay, foul or rude language, or defiance of a RCG/TYP staff request.

Initials

I certify that I have carefully read, clearly understand and have had sufficient opportunity to read this entire document and the terms and conditions stated herein. Further, I agree to be bound by its terms and acknowledge that this Agreement shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate and for all members of my family, including minor children. I understand that this Agreement is a contract. I sign it of my own free will.

Signature

Date

**PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN FOR ANYONE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE**

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Relationship to Minor

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date