

Touchstone Youth Project
P O Box 643
OKC, OK 73101
405-606-1818
cmgilman@touchstoneyouth.org



TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING CLUB

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 includes 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. Touchstone recruits volunteers who possess complete understanding of climbing safety and whose primary responsibility is to supervise and ensure that participants follow all safety procedures. In addition, the participants will complete a safety certification class and receive thorough and continuous training in all safety measures.

SCHEDULE, LOCATION, TRANSPORTATION, EQUIPMENT:

Touchstone Climbing Club meets once a week, 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 receive the necessary climbing equipment at no cost. *Touchstone requires a two week notice for groups wishing to schedule or cancel during the operation of non-business hours at Rocktown.*

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. *Under no circumstances are youth participants charged a fee to climb, neither through Touchstone, nor the Partner Organization through which they attend.*

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 the first time they are given
- Adhere to climbing safety rules
- Arrive on time, attend 80% and remain until session is complete, contact Touchstone Climbing Club coordinator 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

Remember that all of your interactions with the students are opportunities to mentor, from learning to put on the harness to interacting with gym staff, cleaning up after meals, communicating with one another, encouraging them as they climb and much more.

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

MENTORING:

How Does Touchstone Work?

Youth participants are selected from applicants and enter the program. On a weekly or one time basis, the participants and volunteers climb at Rocktown Climbing Gym. Each session includes a group discussion and focuses on the Touchstone Life Skills: 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.

Typical Mentor Day At Touchstone

- Arrive at Rocktown, check out shoes and harness at front desk, and check in with Courtney - she will share with you instructions and news.
- Greet students as they arrive, direct them to check in with Courtney and check out their equipment.
- Assist students with harnesses while teaching them how to do it themselves, lead students to begin climbing.
- Supervise climbing safety and behavior of students. Address safety problems and correct inappropriate behavior of youth. When you are not belaying, please circulate. Feel free to get to know other mentors but please remember mentoring and supervising the students is our priority.
- Eat and help supervise youth while they eat. Ensure that youth clean up after themselves.
- During discussion time sit among the students and take part. Show the students how to participate by example. Help Courtney keep order. We will do a small group discussion on most days and break into groups of approximately 3 students to 1 mentor.
- Resume climbing. Supervise safety and behavior of students. Address safety problems and correct inappropriate behavior of youth. When you are not belaying, please circulate.
- See that students finish climbing and return their equipment to the front desk by the appointed time.
- Return your equipment and report any problems or observations to Courtney as you leave.

Please return to:
Touchstone Youth Project
P O Box 643
OKC, OK 73101



TOUCHSTONE PARTNER ORGANIZATION APPLICATION

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Partner Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Apt # _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____ Email Address _____

Primary Contact Person _____ Title _____ Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Secondary Contact Person _____ Title _____ Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Please briefly describe the mission of your organization: _____

What is the population of youth served by your organization? _____

How will the youth of your organization be impacted by participating in Touchstone Youth Project? _____

Is there a fee associated with participation in your organization? _____ If yes, how much annually? _____

If a school, what percentage of youth participate in the Free Lunch Program _____? Reduced Lunch _____?

Number of anticipated climbers: _____ Age range of youth: _____ Number of anticipated mentors: _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, SIGN AND RETURN

All information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the organization is not obligated to accept my application. In the event of the organization's determination of my ineligibility, the reason will not be provided. I further agree to allow the program manager of Touchstone Youth Project to elicit additional information as part of the interview process. In the event that I am selected, I agree to participate and uphold all expectations to the best of my ability. I understand and accept that if I do not maintain expectations that consequences will be implemented.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____