

A SKATE CHURCH MOVEMENT RESOURCE

5 steps.

TO LAUNCHING A SUCCESSFUL SKATE MINISTRY





Dear friends,

Never has it been said that reaching out to the skate community is an easy task. Skaters are by far one of the toughest groups to break through and share the Truth with that we have encountered. There is a reason why the skate community worldwide carries a bit of a rough reputation and has been given so many negative labels. In our experience we have found that many of the youth attracted to and involved with skateboarding come from an environment involved with drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse. More times than not skateboarders generally don't want anything to do with the "church" and sadly it's because most churches don't want anything to do with them.

But on the contrary to the negative aspects found within the skate community, there are countless positives. The skateboard community represents and embraces "family" probably better than any other community we've encountered. Skateboarders are among some of the most creative individuals in the world. They are extremely disciplined, authentic, hard workers, risk-takers, and driven to succeed. If a child can successfully learn to discipline themselves to learn to skate, they can learn anything!

As we look at the life of Jesus, we see him meeting people right where they are, going to the needy and spending time with those whose lives were truly broken. He says it perfectly himself in Mark 2:17, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, it is the sick." Jesus came to call the sinners and reach the lost.

As skateboarding is growing rapidly worldwide, the skate community is becoming more and more of an UNREACHED people group. This is the very reason Skate Church Movement exists.

We love the skate community. We are a part of it, value it, and see so many amazing and positive aspects that are often times overlooked. Our hope and prayer is that this too is your heart and you have recognized a need and an open door to combine your faith alongside this passion. Our hope is that this simple resource will inspire you to reach out to the skaters in your hometown, as we believe them to be one of the groups that are probably being reached out to the least.

At the end of the day, all we desire is that you keep Jesus at the center of all you say and do, and we have no doubt that whatever ministry He is calling you to lead, that it will be more effective than you ever imagined. We are stoked for your desire to reach the skate community, and we look forward to pushing alongside you in any way that we can. We are for you and thankful for you as well.

- The Skate Church Movement Team



step one ●

DETERMINE YOUR RESOURCES VS. NEEDS

Once you have established what resources you have available and what your needs are, you now have a place to start and begin planning.

This is critical as the first step to successful planning.

questions to ask.

- What do you have available that can be used? What are your resources?
- What are your needs? Leadership? Location? Etc.
- Do you have a committed leader and/or is there currently leadership in place? Are they a skater?
- Do you have facilities and resources that can be used? City skatepark? Ramps? Skateboards?
- Are there other individuals/ministries/churches reaching out to the skate community in your town? If so, our advice to you is to partner together to more effectively reach out to your local skate community.
- If your goal is to get more kids to come to your programs, youth group, etc. then we suggest you do it another way. BUT if your goal is to reach the SKATERS with the Good News of Jesus Christ, then we suggest working together as the body of Christ to do this both effectively and successfully. We believe this is most effective when partnered with a local church.

step two.

ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP

Establishing quality leadership is, in our opinion, the most important step in this whole process. It is extremely critical to have a leader that is spiritually sound, a strong leader, a qualified teacher, committed to this ministry, and very focused. Without good leadership, you're going to have a tough time establishing a successful ministry right from the beginning. Listed are some questions and suggestions we have put together to help find a solid leader for the ministry.

questions to ask.

- Do you plan on having one leader or a group of leaders heading up this ministry?
- Is he/she committed solely to this ministry or is he/she involved and committed to other ministries that may take precedence over this?
- Is he/she available to lead on a regular basis? Weekly? Bi-Weekly? Monthly? We greatly recommend meeting on a weekly basis.
- Is he/she committed long-term? Summer months? 1 Year? 2 Years?
- Does he/she have credibility? Is he/she a skater/surfer/etc...? This is not 100% necessary, but is definitely a bonus and helps with the relationship building process. If not, we definitely recommend someone who is knowledgeable and involved in the action sports culture. If your leader isn't at least willing to learn how to skate, you might want to keep looking for another leader.
- Most importantly, does he/she have the ability to lead spiritually? Is he/she sound spiritually? With mentoring, discipleship, and leading Bible studies this is very crucial.



step three ●

ESTABLISHING A LOCATION AND TIME

Once you have established leadership, your next step is probably the easiest; choosing a location for ministry. This can be as simple as a public skatepark, church parking lot, or someone's driveway. You might only have access to a few ramps/rails or you might have a private indoor skatepark, but choosing where you are going to meet is critical to help establish the next steps, Consistency and Relationships. Listed are some suggestions for choosing a location for your ministry.



suggestions and tips.

- Choose a location that will be available that same day/time each week. Ideally a location that is close to your home and not too far away. If you have a public skatepark in your community this is where we'd definitely recommend you starting.
- Pick a time of the day to meet that is ideal for the greatest number of people to come each week. Keep in mind that the time you choose needs to stay consistent and your leaders will need to be available during that time as well. Afternoons are great during the week. We recommend a time around 5:00-8:00.
- Are you picking a day that you're committed to being available every week? The weekend is bound to overlap with other activities and you want to avoid conflicting schedules and you having to cancel if other things come up. If you can commit to being available every weekend that would be awesome.
- Use the resources you have available. Are there public parks that no one is going to? If so utilize those for the Kingdom!
- Don't be afraid to GO to the kids. Many times our first instinct is to bring the kids to us, but we end up spending more time building and establishing facilities vs. going to the facilities that are already established and the places the kids already hang out.
- Get out of your comfort zone and step into the mission field.



step four.

CONSISTENCY

The best advice we can give you is to be consistent! If you say you'll be there....be there! This is critical with building relationships and growing a ministry, especially with individuals with whom you are trying to gain trust. Let your yes be yes and your no be no. Your ministry may start small, but don't give up. Keep going, stay consistent and focused on the Lord, and we believe it will grow. Once you have established a location, a day of the week, and time you're meeting, try your best to keep it the same. Kids need consistency, especially in our day and age, and so do their parents. After a couple of months of meeting at the same place, on the same day, at the same time, it will become a routine, and the kids and their parents will begin to remember the Bible study....as a result the ministry will continue to grow.

suggestions and tips.

- Find someone to cover for you if you can't make it, or if you are going to miss a week. This is where it is helpful to have a co-leader. Try to meet on the same day and time each week.
- Meet on holidays as well; just because it's a holiday doesn't mean you should take a "holiday" from the ministry. If you cancel the Bible study too many times kids begin to become uninterested.
- Don't be afraid to reward the kids for coming consistently, paying attention, memorizing scripture, etc.
- Remind them constantly. Many kids tend to NOT remember things, so reminding them on a regular basis about the weekly Bible study is very important, even up until a couple hours beforehand.
- Don't be afraid of "bugging" the kids too much.
- Start a Page/Group on social media or even a text group. This is a great way to remind them about the day and time you're meeting, invite them to skate trips or events, encourage them to invite others, etc. This is also a great way to post prayer requests, pictures, upcoming events, videos, weekly Bible studies, etc...

step five.

INTENTIONAL SINCERITY WITH A PURPOSE

Once you have leaders in place, you have a location to meet, and you are meeting on a regular basis, our final advice is be purposeful and intentional. Don't forget the root of the ministry and why you started this ministry. Make it a point to put Jesus at the center. Spend time talking with the kids and building intentional relationships. Read the Bible together each time you meet, teaching the kids how to read the Word for themselves. Keep things simple, quick, and straight to the point. Quality over quantity.

If you try to share too much information, you risk a loss of attention. Many times it's not the quantity of information you share that matters, it's the QUALITY. Remember that we are ALL lost without a relationship with Jesus Christ. The gate to heaven is narrow, and very few find it. Your goal and focus should be entirely on leading these kids to Jesus.



suggestions and tips.

- Be real.
- Be open.
- Be authentic.
- Build relationships.
- Share Jesus ALWAYS.
- Consider bringing food. It never hurts! (Pizza is cheap and it will grow your ministry quickly!) Make sure pizza is not the main attraction though. It should be a BIBLE study with pizza....not the other way around.
- Encourage the individuals that are apart of your ministry to join a local church or plug into a body of other believers. We exist to build up the local church.
- Keep Jesus at the heart of everything you do. Let your love for Him and your love for others set the example.
- Let your light shine before ALL the kids, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify the Lord.
- ALWAYS give Christ the glory, for without Him, we are nothing and our ministries are no longer God's!

keep pushing. ●

**"AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY
OF DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE
SEASON WE WILL REAP, IF WE DO
NOT GIVE UP." - GALATIANS 6:9**

We hope that you will find these suggestions helpful and beneficial to your ministry. We have found that skate ministry doesn't have to be complicated, stressful, or incredibly time consuming; but more than anything, it does have to be PURPOSEFUL. If you are committed to seeing your community impacted through skate outreach and you are willing to give up even one night a week to reaching out to the kids in your community, we have no doubt you will see lives changed through the power of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions or thoughts, or if you need advice or prayer, please don't hesitate ask! That's why we're here and that was the purpose of this resource.





**learn more at
skatechurchmovement.com**