

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 it will allow you to determine what needs you have before you start planning.

This is critical as the first step in the process of launching a skate church.

questions to ask.

- What do you have available that can be used?
- Are there other individuals/ministries/churches reaching out to the skate community in your hometown? If so, our immediate advice would be to partner together. We are all better together.
- If your hope is to target skaters with the goal of trying to get them to attend other programs or your youth group, this might not be the most effective way. But if your desire is solely to reach the skaters in your community with the Gospel, then we suggest working together as the body of Christ to do this successfully. We believe this is most effective when partnered with a local church.
- If there is no one currently leading anything in your community, are you willing to commit at least one evening a week to reach your local skater? Do you have other committed leaders that are willing/able to partner and serve alongside you?
- Do you have a public skatepark in your city or another facility that could be used on a regular basis? If so, we have found that it is always most effective to go to where the kids already are.
- If your city doesn't have a skatepark, is there a place where you could build some ramps and skate together?
- Does your community already have an established skate scene? Are there skaters? If not, is your plan to introduce kids to skating? If so, you'll probably need some extra boards.

step two.

ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP

Establishing quality leadership right out of the gate is, in our opinion, the most important step in this whole process. It is extremely critical to have strong leaders that are spiritually sound, qualified to teach, committed to the vision, and very focused on the big picture. Without good leadership, you're going to have a tough time establishing a skate church program 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.

- For the majority of individuals leading skate churches, this is NOT a full time job. With the vision of seeing skate churches established in every community where skateboarders exist, this is only possible through a multiplication of leadership.
- Are you planning on leading this vision individually or do you have other leaders committed to serving alongside you? Are you/they committed solely to this ministry or are they involved and committed to other ministries that may take precedence over this?
- Do you skate? Are you or the other leaders involved in the skate community already? What do you know about the culture? Being a core skater is not 100% necessary, but is definitely a bonus and helps with the relationship building.
- Do you and/or the other leaders have the ability to lead others spiritually? How long have you been walking with the Lord? Are you spiritually sound, understand the fundamentals of Christianity, and are you willing to practice what you preach? Setting up leadership that might have poor theology, or the inability to teach others, or even worse, those that are living hypocritical lives, could lead to more damage than good in the end.
- Finding Godly leaders who truly love the Lord and love skateboarding is critical in establishing a skate church in your local community.



step three.

ESTABLISHING A LOCATION AND TIME

Once you have found, identified, and locked down committed leadership, your next step is probably the easiest: choosing the place you plan on meeting. 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 of consistency and intentionality. 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. Many times our first instinct is to try to invite others to come to us. But in the end, we have seen leaders spend far more time building and establishing facilities vs. going to the facilities that are already established and the places the kids already hang out. Remember, it's always easiest to go to where the kids already are.
- 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 have seen that the most kids tend to be at the park between 5:00-8:00pm during the week.
- 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 having to cancel if other things come up. If you can commit to being available every weekend that would be awesome but if not, choosing a week night might be a better choice.
- Create an accountability system. We highly recommend sharing this vision with your local church. Ask them to pray for you and to keep you accountable. The goal of skate church is to build a bridge between the lost and the local church. Finding a local church that believes in this vision and will rally around you to help accomplish this mission is critical and super important.
- Get ready to step out of your comfort zone and step into the mission field.



step four.

CONSISTENCY

Once you have established a location, a day of the week, and time you're meeting, 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 local ministry presence. Especially with starting something new and as you are trying to gain the trust of the kids, let your yes be yes and your no be no. The skate church you're leading may start small, but don't give up. Keep going, stay consistent and focused on the Lord, and we believe it will grow. But even if it does stay small, remember that Christ left the 99 to go after that 1. One kid makes it worth it to be there. 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....and as a result relationships will continue to grow, and as a result we believe the ministry will as well.

suggestions and tips.

- If you can't make it out to teach or lead one week, find someone to cover for you. This is where it is super helpful to have a co-leader or a group of individuals helping to lead this vision together. Remember, your goal is to try to meet on the same day and time each week.
- We would encourage you to meet on holidays as well; just because it's a holiday doesn't mean you should take a "holiday" from the ministry. If it's a major holiday, maybe you could make an exception, but remember, for some of these kids, you might become the only family they have. When you're celebrating Christmas, they might be hanging out at the skatepark by themselves.
- Try to never cancel a skate church. If you cancel the Bible study too many times, kids begin to become uninterested and it loses its routine.
- It's not a bad idea to acknowledge and reward kids for coming consistently, paying attention, memorizing scripture, etc. Honor those who are faithful and make sure they notice.
- Remind the local skaters constantly. Many kids tend to NOT remember things, so reminding them on a regular basis about the weekly Bible study is so important, even up until a couple hours beforehand.
- 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.

step five.

SINCERE INTENTIONALITY

Once you have leaders in place, you have a location to meet, and you are meeting on a regular basis, our final advice is to be sincere and be intentional. Remember why you started the skate church and make it a point to keep Jesus at the center. The gate to heaven is narrow and very few find it. The hope and prayer is that God will use you as a conduit to lead these kids to Christ. Spend time talking with the kids and building intentional relationships. Be sincere and really take the time to listen and let them know they are heard. Be intentional to read the Bible together each time you meet and work to teach them how to read the Word for themselves as well. Keep things simple. Sometimes 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. Focus on the quality over quantity.



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 give you a time where you can sit and share a message. It also makes it easy to invite others to come!) Make sure pizza is not the main attraction though. It should be a BIBLE study with pizza....not the other way around.
- Remember, the vision is to be a bridge between the skatepark and the local park. As the Lord leads you or as you begin to see the lives of others changed through the power of the Gospel, begin to encourage others to come with you to church. Skate church should 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 His!

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**