



**TUESDAY  
JUNE 14 WILL  
BE THE LAST DAY OF  
PROGRAM AT JEFFERSON  
AND NORTHEAST.**

If you still need a place for your teen to hang out after school on June 15th & 16th they can come to The Underground at GMCC.

Call Lacey for questions call 989.835.2542

# NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2016

Teens amaze me every day. Do you realize that the adolescent brain experiences a high level of plasticity second only to the first few years of life? That means there is a dramatic remodeling of the brain and adolescents are exceptionally receptive to incentive processing, emotional experiences, and social cognition. The teen years should be approached as years of opportunity not storm and distress. Celebrate and embrace the opportunities these years provide and enjoy your summer!

Beverlee Wenzel | Executive Director

### ROCK BUCKS PROGRAM

Jacob, a 7th grader at Jefferson, took full advantage of the ROCK Bucks program this past year. He has saved 160 ROCK Bucks and will use them to go to Cedar Point with The ROCK.

**Why did you save ROCK BUCKS?**  
At the beginning of the year I had a lot of homework. I just wanted to get my homework done and it turned into a routine. I probably spent about \$50 at The ROCK BUCKS store and saved the rest.

**What do you think your parents think about you being able to pay for the Cedar Point Trip?**  
They are proud of me for getting my homework done. It's like a reward.

**What are you looking forward to at Cedar Point?**  
The Iron Dragon!

**What would you tell students for next school year about saving ROCK BUCKS?**  
GET YOUR HOMEWORK DONE!  
If you don't have homework read a book for an hour. You get ROCK BUCKS for reading.

**Anything else you would like to say about the ROCK BUCKS program?**  
I get all of my homework done at The ROCK. There are people there that can help me if I have questions. When I get home I have free time to do what I want.

**Congratulations Jacob!**

### SUMMER ADVENTURES

Plan your summer around The ROCK's summer adventures! All summer activities are geared toward middle and high school students including graduating 5th grade students.

**Summer Adventures –All Adventures are from 8:00am-6:00pm | \$65/week breakfast, lunch & snacks included**

- |                           |                                   |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 27-30 Minecraft Week | July 18-21 Fear Factor Week       | August 15-18 Zombie Survival Week |
| July 11-14 Wizards Week   | August 1-4 Pirates vs Ninjas Week |                                   |

**Summer Excursions –8:00am-6:00pm | Admission, transportation, breakfast, lunch, & snacks included**

- |                         |                                  |                              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 1 Detroit Zoo \$40 | July 15 Bay City Tall Ships \$30 | August 19 Sanford Beach \$20 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|

August 23-25 Lazy Turtle Ranch Camping Trip \$130  
Three days and two nights of kayaking, outdoor games, outdoor education, fishing, campfires, archery and more. Drop off at the camp 8:00am on August 23. Pick up from camp 5:00pm August 25. Lazy Turtle Ranch is located in Sanford. Transportation arrangements can be made if needed. For more information please call Lacey or Tyler at 989-835-2542.

**June 23 Cedar Point \$125**  
\$125 includes all day supervision, park admission, unlimited drink bracelet, lunch, snacks, t-shirt and a safe, relaxing trip on a Blue Lakes Charter bus. **T-shirt size needed by JUNE 3.**

### SENSATIONAL SUMMER OF SUN AND SUCCESS

Sign up for these FREE fun experiences!

- June 20—GameFest!** Enjoy a fun-filled day of teambuilding games & activities, while developing skills in communication, problem solving, and more!
- July 25—Take Action Midland!** Learn about community engagement and volunteerism through fun projects and guest speakers!
- August 22—In Charge!** Attention future leaders—experience an exciting day of games and activities on the topic of leadership!

Each opportunity is an intentional day of activities designed to be both fun and inspiring to middle and high school students. Programs are held at The Greater Midland Community Center and run from 8:30AM-1:00PM. These FREE programs include breakfast and lunch.

- YOUR STUDENT WILL:**
- Gain valuable skills in ROCK Youth Development programs
  - Make friends and have a blast!
  - Receive giveaways at each program. Those who attend all three get a bonus prize!

Pre-registration form required and can be found on our website. For questions, contact Tyler or Kylie at 989.835.2542, tyler@therock4yd.org, or kylie@therock4yd.org.

EXPOSURE • GROUNDED • UNPLUGGED  
989-835-2542  
PO Box 2143, Midland, MI 48641  
Offices located at GMCC  
rockon@therock4yd.org  
www.therock4yd.org



### EVENTS

Check out what we have planned!

Feel free to tear off this section of our newsletter to help keep yourself informed of all of our upcoming events. We hope to see your teen there!

**THE ROCK'S EDGE**  
WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHERE: GMCC  
WHEN: Monday –Thursday  
June 27-30 Minecraft Week  
July 11-14 Wizards Week  
July 18-21 Fear Factor Week  
August 1-4 Pirates vs. Ninjas Week  
August 15-18 Zombie Survival Week  
Time: 8:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Price: \$65/Week  
(Breakfast, lunch and snacks included)

**SUMMER EXCURSIONS**  
WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHEN:  
JULY 1 Detroit Zoo \$40  
JULY 15 Bay City Tall Ships \$30  
AUG 19 Sanford Beach \$20  
For more information on these summer activities, see above.

**SENSATIONAL SUMMER OF SUN AND SUCCESS**  
WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHERE: GMCC  
WHEN:  
JUNE 20- Game Fest!  
JULY 25- Take Action Midland!  
AUGUST 22- In Charge!  
Time: 8:30 AM- 1:00 PM  
Price: FREE  
(Breakfast and lunch included)

**ROCK WALL!**  
The ROCK's 24 foot portable ROCK wall is out of storage for the season and ready to be rented! The ROCK climbing wall is great for a wide range of events .  
Non Profit Rate \$150.00/ Hour  
For Profit Rate \$200.00/ Hour  
If you have interest in renting our ROCK wall for an event call our office at 989.835.2542



## WAYS TO HELP

We encourage you to participate in these on-going fundraisers.

While you are utilizing The ROCK programs, please keep in mind that great programs like these require your support. We understand that not everyone is able to donate financially, so we found some ways you can help just by going about your everyday life. Please check out these programs we have utilized and see if it is something you could implement.

**SCRIP:** Scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. Pick up a Scrip order form from a ROCK staff or download an order form on our website to place an order.

### AMAZONSMILE.COM:

If you shop at Amazon.com, switch over to AmazonSmile, choose "Reaching our Community Kids" as your charity and AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of your total to The ROCK!

**KROGER REWARDS:** If you shop at Kroger, pick up a rewards card and pick "Reaching Our Community Kids" as your charity. The ROCK receives a percentage of what you buy.

**GOODSHOP.COM:** If you do your online shopping through Goodshop they will donate a percentage to The ROCK. Go to [www.goodsearch.com/goodshop](http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop), pick "Reaching our Community Kids" as your charity then shop from the stores you love.

**STAPLES:** Give our phone number (989.835.2542) during checkout and The ROCK will put your reward points to good use.

## DONATE

We can't do it without your financial support.

When you make a donation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation will match it 2 to 1 so your donation will go three times as far. Your gift will make a lasting impact, we promise you. On behalf of the teens we serve, thank you so much for your help. Please visit our website to donate. [www.therock4yd.org](http://www.therock4yd.org)

## GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are critical to The ROCK.

We welcome volunteers with a wide range of skills and interests and we have opportunities for both adult volunteers and youth volunteers. If you want to volunteer your time and talent where you can make a difference in the community, visit our website under "Give" and fill out an application, or email [kylie@therock4yd.org](mailto:kylie@therock4yd.org).

# CALL FOR BANDS!

Do you know a teen band that would like to compete in this year's Battle of the Bands?

Battle of the Bands 2016 will be a TEEN SHOWCASE. This year's battle of the bands will feature teen bands whose members are no younger than 6th grade and no older than 19 years of age. If you or some teens you know fit into this category, The ROCK is taking the first 6 eligible bands that enter as this year's performers who will compete for prizes. Any kind of music can be played however, lyrics MUST be family friendly. The entry fee this year is \$50/per band.

Thanks to Timbrel and Harp Productions for their sound and stage support The ROCK has been bringing this great event to Midland for the past 13 years. In 2006, Shelterhouse joined The ROCK to make Battle of the Bands a great event for the entire family by providing fun, free family activities. After listening to the community and our own hearts, it was decided that we needed to change up this event in order to more closely fit The ROCK's mission and vision.



Shelterhouse and The ROCK Center for Youth Development have partnered again this year to provide fun family activities on Main Street during the Gus Macker. Come check out the basketball as well as the 24' mobile ROCK climbing wall, face painting, games, inflatable and activities for families starting at noon on Saturday, August 13th! Saturday evening will end with some great music while the bands battle for a 1st place prize of \$250, 2nd place prize of \$150, and a 3rd place prize of \$100. There will also be \$50 prizes for two outstanding artists.

For more information or to enter your band in The Battle of the Bands, contact Ginger at The ROCK: [ginger@therock4yd.org](mailto:ginger@therock4yd.org) or 989-835-2542.

## CAMPING TRIP

Listed below are the top 5 reasons why your teen should join us on The ROCK's Camping Trip

- 1. Learning Teamwork-** Working together for the benefit of something bigger than themselves: The Team. This takes attention away from "me, me, me," and turns it toward the value of investing in others.
- 2. Exercise and Stress Reduction-** Teens will have the opportunity to do things such as swimming, climbing the 24' mobile rock climbing wall, kayaking, hiking, fishing- all things to get them up and moving. Then in the evening they can sit around the campfire and tell ghost stories instead of thinking of the daily stresses of life.
- 3. Teens can learn new skills while camping-** Living in a tent, cooking food, and overcoming obstacles are life accomplishments young people can develop that build strength of character, courage, and determination. Through new experiences, teens are pushed to grow in life.
- 4. Reconnect to Nature-** It's time to unplug. Being outside isn't just about being in a different environment - it's about developing an appreciation for nature and respecting the world around us. Ridding ourselves of daily modern conveniences gives us a necessary escape from the daily grind. Kids might actually engage in a conversation as opposed to texting each other!
- 5. Memories-** The memories your teen will make in this 3 day adventure they will have the rest of their lives. Starry nights and campfires are something everyone should experience - especially with friends!

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Highlighting two great volunteer stories!

Recently, we had two great opportunities for our Underground students thanks to the efforts of volunteers!

Marcia Gage, mom to one of our students, donated science experiment kits to our program. One set included all of the ingredients to make homemade play dough! The kids had a blast mixing everything together, coloring it, and playing with it!

The ROCK Underground also recently had four volunteers from Meridian High school: Alec Boyer, Braden Moley, Damon Ellis and Ethan Lewandowski. For their American Studies class, the boys were tasked with doing a community service project on the topic of children's rights. They hung out with the students, helped out, and organized a kick ball game!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who help The ROCK! If you are interested in volunteering at The ROCK, please contact Kylie at 835-2542 or [kylie@therock4yd.org](mailto:kylie@therock4yd.org).



## FUNDRAISING

Online Auction Recap!

Thanks to all who donated and all who bid on our 2016 online auction. We raised over \$5,613! We cannot do all that we do for our area teens without you all!

Funds from the auction will go to support The ROCK programs such as the Grounded program which serves approximately 170 students a day, the Exposure program which provides developmental educational programs that foster character, build tangible life skills, provide relevant tools, and empower young people to create a vision and plan for their future, and the Unplugged program which are community-based teen events that create a sense of community awareness. These programs are provided at no cost to parents in order that any student who wants to or needs to can attend.

Please continue to help support these quality programs for Midland teens!

## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Randy Sherman and



for their very generous gift of a **\$5,000 Menards Gift Certificate**



## TYLER'S JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: WHAT KIND OF PICTURES DO TURTLES TAKE?

A: Shellies



### ROCK THE POINT

WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHERE: Cedar Point  
WHEN: **June 23, 2016**  
Time: 6:00 AM-12:30 AM  
Price: \$125

\$125 includes all day supervision, admission, unlimited drink bracelet, lunch, snacks, t-shirt and a safe trip on a Blue Lakes Charter bus. **T-shirt size needed by JUNE 3.**



### POOL PARTIES

WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHERE: Plymouth Pool  
WHEN: Wednesdays  
**July 13, July 20, July 27**  
Time: 8-10 PM | Price: FREE

Swim with friends, eat hotdogs and make a huge splash!



### CAMPING TRIP

WHO: 6th-12th Grade  
WHERE: Lazy Turtle Ranch, Sanford  
WHEN: **Aug 23-25, 2016**  
Drop-off 8:30 AM TUE.  
Pick-up 5:30 PM THU.  
Price: \$130

Put down the electronics and enjoy some quality outdoor time!



### FAMILY FUN STREET

WHO: Persons of all ages  
WHERE: Main Street, Midland  
WHEN: **August 13, 2016**  
Time: Noon- 9 PM  
Price: FREE

Join The ROCK and Shelterhouse for an afternoon of family fun during the Gus Macker basketball tournament.

## STAFF CONNECTIONS

Please tear off and save this section.

Team leads have their phones on them at all times during the program and check emails frequently.

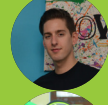
Feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns, or just to let them know you are on your way.



**LACEY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
989.835.2542  
[lacey@therock4yd.org](mailto:lacey@therock4yd.org)



**JAIMIE**  
TEAM LEAD AT NORTHEAST  
989.259.5842  
[jaimie@therock4yd.org](mailto:jaimie@therock4yd.org)



**AARON**  
TEAM LEAD AT THE UNDERGROUND  
989.835.2542  
[aaron@therock4yd.org](mailto:aaron@therock4yd.org)



**CHASE**  
TEAM LEAD AT JEFFERSON  
989.259.5841  
[chase@therock4yd.org](mailto:chase@therock4yd.org)