

Rogue Valley Afterschool Program

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The Rogue Valley is a farming and timber-producing region in southwestern Oregon located along the middle Rogue River and its tributaries in Josephine and Jackson counties. The valley forms the cultural and economic heart of Southern Oregon near the California border. The largest communities in the Rogue Valley include Medford, Ashland, and Grants Pass. The featured program is the Rogue Valley Family YMCA which is in Medford, Oregon a city with a 2009 population of over 77,000 residents in Jackson County.

The Medford School District is the largest school district of southern Oregon and includes 14 elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools in three cities: Medford, Jacksonville, and Ruch. The 2008-2009 district enrollment was 12,070 students. The Rogue Valley Family YMCA provides afterschool programs at 12 of the 14 Jackson County elementary schools. According to Afterschool Team Leader, Whitney Green, their YMCA programs are a "Safe and fun place for kids to go afterschool, where it doesn't feel like childcare."

Program Overview

At the Rogue Valley Family YMCA (RVYMCA) afterschool programs youth are viewed as assets to the community and the Y staff offer family-centered, values-based programs for kids at elementary schools in the Medford, Phoenix-Talent and Central Point School Districts. While under the guidance of positive role models, youth in the Afterschool Program learn the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The YMCA partners with parents, schools and other community agencies to provide a balanced program of age appropriate opportunities that build positive decision making skills, leadership and a value for community service.

The staff ensures that children are given a unique mix of activities that focus on Developmental Assets and engage children in a variety of fun learning opportunities. Program components include recreation, health enhancement, arts, science, snacks, character development and homework assistance. Working together with schools and families, staff strive to meet and help balance the needs of each individual child.

Fast Facts - The Rogue Valley Family YMCA

- Operates in 12 Jackson County elementary schools in 3 school districts
- Serves 312 youth weekly
- Programs are open every day school is in session
- Hours of operation: School dismissal – 6:00pm
- All Day Out and Day Camps offered during school breaks
- Program funding includes
- Parent Paid
- Department of Health Services (DHS)
- YMCA Scholarship
- Parks and Recreation Scholarships

Best Practices

- The YMCA strong partnership with the local school districts allows us to provide a space in the schools, making access to the program easier for parents
- Staffing afterschool sites is managed program wide allowing for better training and fewer transitions when covering staff that are out sick or leave the program during the school year

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