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**Teen DJ camp thrown into the mix**

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Teens who want to learn how to be a disc jockey can pick up basic skills this summer at camps the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department plans to offer.

The With These Hands Mix Academy is aimed at teens ages 13-17. Industry professionals from Salt Water Music will teach DJing basics, scratching, mixing and how to use the turntable as an instrument.

The youths will use iPods, Mp3 and CD players, and take field trips to radio stations and teen clubs. Guest speakers from the industry also will visit.

Fifteen sessions will be offered July 9-20, July 23-Aug. 3 and Aug. 6-17.

Each two-week program costs \$110, and scholarship applications are available. Teens will need a letter of recommendation from a teacher, community leader or pastor, and will have to write a short essay about why they want to attend the camp.

Park and Rec is considering holding the academy at 10 recreation centers based on the way teens rank the sites on their applications. Sites being considered: Bette Rae Thomas, Greenville, Phillip O. Berry, St. Paul "Ray of Hope," Hickory Grove, Sugaw Creek, Methodist Home, Tuckasegee, Naomi Drenan and West Charlotte.

The academies -- 14 teens per session -- and are filling up fast on a first-come, first-served basis, said Terri Stowers, a Park and Rec facility manager.

Stowers said she believes it's important to offer camps other than sports camps, and hopes this one will reach kids through music and expose them to other cultures.

She said the inspiration for the camp came from the N.C. Music Factory, which includes a year-round DJ academy in an uptown entertainment district being developed in and around a 100-year-old mill complex near Graham Street and Interstate 277.

Teens will show off their newly acquired skills at a celebration at the end of the summer, from 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 18 at Eastover Park.

**Want to Apply?**

The application for With These Hands Mix Academy is online at [www.charmeck.org/Departments/Park+and+Rec](http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Park+and+Rec). Click on "DJ Training" and then "Application."

Teens will be notified by June 15 if they've been accepted to the academy.

For details about the program, e-mail Terri Stowers at [Terri.Stowers@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Terri.Stowers@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).