

We are the General Smallwood Middle School's Destination Imagination Team (The Little Rascals). We are 7th and 8th graders. We are contacting you about a project we are doing for Destination Imagination.

This year our team has decided to do the Project Outreach challenge in which the team finds a need within a community and creates a project based on that need. Our team has always competed in the Fine Arts challenge, but this year decided to take what we have learned and use it in the Project Outreach challenge!

We have decided to focus on the Town of Indian Head. We have created a project called "Create Our Community" in which we hope to work with local artists who will paint "store fronts" on our vacant buildings in town. (You can google "Bushmill Ireland - Painted Storefronts" for some examples of what we would like the artist to do.)

We also hope to have a "Create Our Community" Day in which the ribbon cutting of our project will take place. On this day, we will invite local artisans and local groups and organizations (such as boy & girl scouts, churches, Fire Department, Police Department etc.) to participate in our day to show what Indian Head has to offer. During our event the local artists will begin work on the store fronts. We are hoping to raise funds for our project by asking for donations for spots from the artisans selling their goods. Local groups and organizations would not be charged, we ask that they represent what Indian Head has to offer, maybe give out freebies & information involving their groups. Our Mayor has volunteered to have paint thrown at him so we may raise more money to fund our project! We would also have a table set up where the Town could have some information & signup sheets about opportunities to volunteer for the Town.

We have tried contacting one of the owners of a boarded up building but have not heard back from them yet. Should we not get a building owner to agree prior to our ribbon cutting then we will use the Old PNC property (they have given permission to use their parking lot). We would rather paint directly on the boards already in place because it will cut down our cost but if we can't then we will have the local artist begin painting on plywood that we provide, then at a later date if a boarded up building owner agrees they can replace their old boards with new beautiful painted store fronts. We are hoping our project helps brings businesses into our Town, makes our Town look better, brings our community together to express what they would like to see in our Town, and also shows everyone how great our Town is. Maybe a business owner could visualize his business being here then!

Our "Create Our Community" Day will be one of the following dates: February 18th, February 25th or March 4th. We must kickoff our project prior to the competition which takes place March 11th at North Point High School. We already have been in contact with a reporter who will be doing a story on our event.

Our team is allowed to bring in Community Partners to help with our project, we hope that you join us! We must do all the planning, according to DI rules. We need help with the following:

1. We need local artist who can paint realistic store fronts to donate their time and skill with painting the boarded up windows (or plywood). **-VERY IMPORTANT**
2. We need donated supplies and money to fund our project (paint, paint brushes, plywood, tables for vendors, tarps, any supplies used in painting)
3. We need artisan vendors (we plan to charge \$15 a spot)
4. We need local groups & organizations to be at our "Create Our Community" Day (spot is free)
5. Getting the word out and advertising our event