Empowering Skaters Through Education

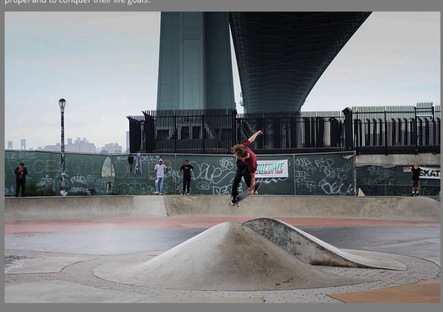
October 18, 2016 | By Danny Fedkenheuer/Photo Editor Maya Minhas

The Collegiate Skate Tour is truly making a difference

Every year, Collegiate Skate Tour Founder Keegan Guizard makes it out to New York City for one of four different events in the tour's annual circuit. This year's stop in Astoria, Queens was more inclement than expected, but served its purpose nonetheless: to encourage higher education for skateboarding youths.

Before the event, Guizard and I were able to chat before the rain to learn a bit more about how the tour started and where it is going. After a college career at North Carolina State, Guizard started a successful skateboarding club. It was praised for its support to the local community and Guizard sought to expand this positivity. As a result, the Collegiate Skate Tour was born as the first national contest circuit aimed at promoting college and skateboarding.

As an alumni himself and a full-time employee in the skateboarding industry, Guizard has seen that the opportunity for skateboarders to be successful in the professional workforce is present. With that end goal of success in mind, the Collegiate Skate Tour helps promote the idea that college is not only accessible but achievable. From there, the tour helps youths in pursuit of higher education realize the potential for college to propel and to conquer their life goals.



By the same token, Guizard is also aware of the financial hurdle posed by higher education and seeks to use the tour as an answer for that as well. Plans for the immediate future include a non-profit scholarship offered to dedicated, college-bound skateboarders.

Under an ominous looking sky, hundreds of skaters in both student and non student divisions descended upon a slick park to put on a show. With NYC local Billy Rohan on the mic, skaters hailing from Oakland University to UMass Amherst to all across New York, made the best of the wet conditions.

Over the course of the afternoon, skateboarding's potential college proteges tore up several heats of jam sessions and a best trick contest, greeted in the end by product tosses and prize packages. On top of that, all left with the message that higher education is both attainable and achievable through skateboarding on the Collegiate Skate Tour.

A video recap of the event:

Next up is Carlsbad on November 12

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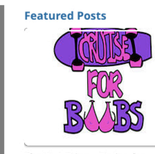

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