

Best place to send a future rock star girl

It's all good and well to send kids off to learn swimming, archery, and arts and crafts each summer, but why not give them a skill that they'll really cherish? Since many public schools' music department funds have been slashed, a worthwhile alternative might be a session at **Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls**, which is now in its second year. In the week-long sessions, eight- to 18-year-old campers gather into small bands and pick an instrument (bass, drums, guitar, keyboards, vocals, DJ). After naming their bands, they get musical instruction, self-defense courses (since the camp encourages all aspects of strength and confidence), and band practice sessions. At the end of the week comes a concert where each band shows off its stuff. Though many campers choose rock (it is rock camp, after all), girls have also formed bands that play r&b (Phonetik Soul), pop with a French horn (Elora), hip-hop (DJ Freka and DJ Akio), and punk (Petritified Toenalls). Not only has the camp recently included a weekend "Camp for Adults" but it has also signed up some of the bands to perform for a BAM Next Wave dance piece. It may also have the coolest temporary tattoos of any summer day camp: a girl holding a mic in the air. 718-534-3412, williemarockcamp.org. *Gross*