



Vacationland Figure Skating Club

Learn To Skate Parent Handbook

Learn To Skate Parent Handbook

Welcome

Welcome to the Learn To Skate Family!! We are so excited that you have made the choice to enroll your skater in our program. We focus on teaching the fundamentals of skating to participants of all ages and abilities. The following handbook will highlight key components to our program. All of the classes are endorsed by Learn To Skate USA through US Figure Skating. All of our coaches are certified through Learn To Skate USA, complete annual background checks, complete annual training through Learn To Skate and complete Safe Sport Training. Please reach out with any further questions you may have about their certifications.

Programs

Our Learn To Skate (LTS) Classes take place on Sunday evenings between 4:45pm-6:30pm. All classes are held at the Essentia Health Sport Center in Brainerd in MN. We have two testing days throughout the season. Usually this happens right before holiday break in December and at the end of the season in February. We will move skaters up at different times during the season if they are exceeding the skills in their level. Your skater will receive an evaluation page after each test session and will be awarded badges for each level competed at the end of the season in March.

Snow Plow Sam - Our Snow Plow Sam program is for preschool aged skaters ages 3-5 years old. In this program we focus on getting skaters comfortable on the ice and teaching beginning skills through games and skill building. See attached sheet of specific skills for each level.

Learn To Skate Levels 1-6 - The Learn to Skate program focuses on skaters of all ages and levels. All skaters will start in Basic 1 and work their way through the different skill levels. This class is appropriate for all skaters who want to learn the basic skills of skating and would be appropriate for skaters interested in Figure Skating or Hockey skills. See attached sheet of specific skills for each level. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have regarding your skaters level.

FreeSkate Levels - Free Skate class comes after skaters have completed all the fundamental skating skills offered in Levels 1-6. This class will focus more on skaters who would like to learn more Figure Skating skills including jumps, spins, and footwork.

Adult Classes - The adult class focuses on the fundamentals of skating for beginning adults. We look at how each skater learns and accommodate classes to fit needs.

Aspire Class - The U.S. Figure Skating Aspire program is the bridge between learn to skate group classes and U.S. Figure Skating membership. Through the development of athleticism and artistry, skaters build a solid skill foundation that drives success on and off the ice.

Aspire offers skaters an affordable, comprehensive package program in a safe and supportive group training environment. Skaters will learn proper skill development and training techniques while sampling different skating opportunities and fine-tuning their fundamental skating skills. Programs are designed to help skaters learn to train like a figure skater. From edge classes to spin pyramids, you'll learn how to warm-up like a champion, navigate freestyle sessions and practice on your own.

All skaters who participate in the class are eligible to compete at our Skate Vacationland Compete USA Competition. Skaters must have passed basic level 3 to be eligible to join the Aspire class.

Private Lesson Opportunities

NEW THIS YEAR!! We will be offering private lesson opportunities for skaters in our Learn To Skate Program. The lesson will take place from 6:15pm-6:30pm on Sunday evenings. Once the season starts (10/16/2022) we will send out instructions on how to sign up your skater. Skaters who would like private lessons **MUST** be enrolled in our LTS program. If you are interested, follow the instructions on the email that comes out. Skaters who are interested will be assigned a coach and date. If you would like multiple lessons you can request that and we will make accommodations as time allows. **The cost of the lesson will be \$10 per 15 minute lesson that must be paid prior to the private lesson.**

Volunteer Hours

Our program depends on help from our members. There are many different ways you can volunteer to help our club and enhance your skater's time in lessons. VFSC requires that each LTS family complete 5 hours of volunteer time throughout the season. If you do not complete your hours you will not be able to register for the following season of LTS until these hours are completed.

NEW THIS YEAR. Aspire class parents will need to complete a total of 10 hours of volunteer time. At the time of registration we will be collecting a \$200 check that will be held until your hours are complete. If you do not complete your hours by the end of the season your check will be deposited. VFSC has some large events that you can volunteer at throughout the year. Example, if you have skaters in more than one group your family requirement will be the higher numbers of required hours. If you have a skater in LTS and Aspire you will be required to complete 10 hours.

When you have completed Volunteer hours please email skatevacationland@gmail.com with the number of hours you have completed. Please include Volunteer Hours in the subject line. Make sure you put your skater name in the body of the email so we are able to track hours. Below are some events you will have an opportunity to complete volunteer hours.

- **Holiday Show** - Usually last Sunday in December before holiday break.
- **Skate Vacationland Compete USA** - this usually happens on President's Day weekend.
- **Annual Ice Show** - This happens in early March at the end of the season.
- **Board of Directors** - Monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. VFSC is always looking for new members to help with running the day to day club operations.
- **Show Committee** - Are you creative? Do you love putting on productions? Have ideas for show themes or decoration? This is the place for you!!! Every year we need help planning and executing our annual show. Please consider joining our team to make it a fun and memorable experience for our skaters.

Fundraising

The Annual Fundraising Requirement (May 1 - April 30)

All Learn To Skate families are required to complete \$50 in fundraising per season. Aspire class students are required to complete \$100 in fundraising per season.

We offer multiple chances for fundraising each year. This helps keep the cost of lessons affordable to all skaters. *If you have multiple skaters in the program you are only required to complete \$50 (LTS) or \$100 (Aspire) for the entire family depending on what the highest level of your skaters.* If you have a skater in Jr/Sr Club you will only be responsible for the fundraising requirements for Jr/Sr Club. The Board selects fundraising events each year for the club to participate in. This will be updated on the VFSC website yearly and part of your Fall contract. Some examples of past fundraisers:

- Heggies Pizza
- Sootacular
- Candy Bars
- Raffle Tickets
- Other opportunities may be offered as approved by our Board of Directors.

* A sponsorship does not count towards your skaters annual fundraising requirement.

* Any missed sessions of skating cannot be used towards fundraising costs.

If you do not complete the fundraising requirement or use the buyout option your skater will not be able to register for further sessions.

Spring Ice Show

All skaters who skate the entire season October-March are eligible and encouraged to participate in our annual spring ice show. There is no additional cost for your skater to participate in the ice show. All skaters will get a costume for their group number at no additional cost to the parent. This is a great opportunity for skaters to show off their skating skills and create memories.

Skaters are grouped by the level they are in at the time of costume measuring. [Due to shipping concerns we are not able to switch groups after costumes are

ordered. This will not affect your skater's ability to switch levels in the classes for the season.]

Below is a timeline for preparing for your spring ice show.

- October - we are in the planning stages of our spring show, skaters will be measured for their costumes and placed into show groups.
- November - Costumes are ordered for the show, we do this early to ensure we can get the costumes and make size exchanges if needed.
- January - Costumes are distributed and pictures happen towards the mid-end of the month.
- March - Show week begins!! The weekend of the show is set by October and can vary from year to year depending on when the ice is out of the arena.
- **Show Week** - this is an example of the schedule the week before the show.
 - Sunday thru Wednesday - Skaters will have a 30 minute practice daily between 4:45 pm-7:00 pm
 - Thursday - Full Dress Rehearsal at 6pm
 - Friday - Show 7pm
 - Saturday - 1pm show and 6pm show

ALL skaters will participate in all three shows. We encourage you to invite family members and friends to the show. We often will bring a "Guest Skater" to enhance the excitement at the show. **All Families are required to sell 10 pre-sale tickets to the show.** This helps cover the extra ice costs during show week. If you do not sell all 10 of your tickets, you will need to cover the difference.