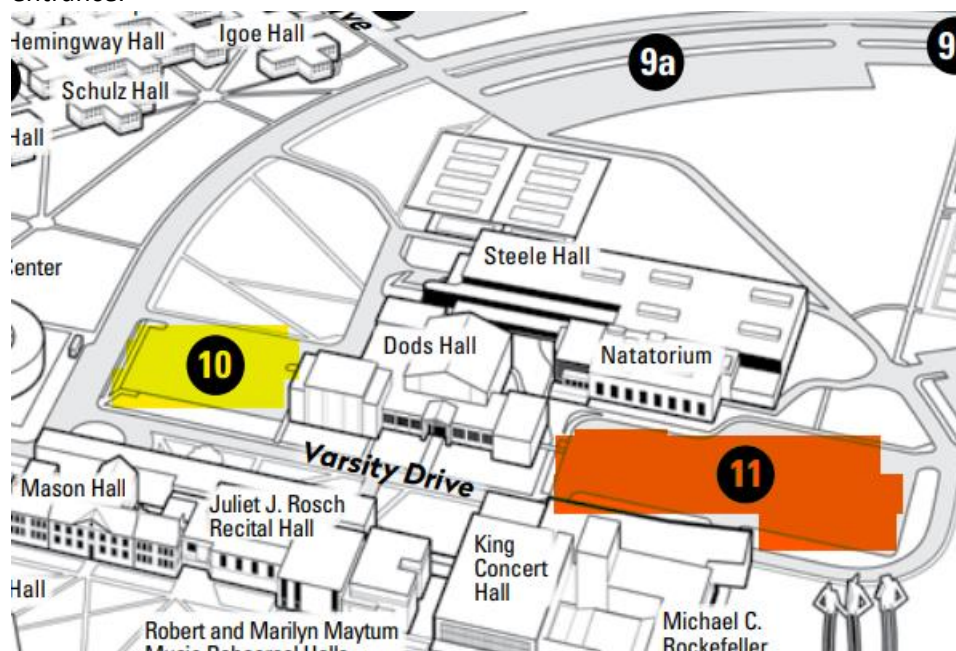


2023 – 2024 DFT Communications Learn to Play Hockey Program



Where to park

The best lot to use is lot # 10. If that is full, it is suggested to park in lot # 11 and use the Natatorium entrance.



Where to sign in and get skates and equipment

At the end of the hall, close to the field house, we will have tables setup. We will have you sign your child in and get them the equipment needed.

Equipment needed

It is required to have skates and a helmet to go on the ice. It is highly recommended for them to also have elbow pads, knee pads and gloves (winter gloves will work, but let's face it, hockey gloves look cooler). We can equip your child with the proper gear. If you filled out what you needed as far as equipment when you registered, we should be all set. If you didn't, forgot we can handle it at the first session.

How does all the gear go on?

It looks like a lot, but there isn't too much to it. We will be there to assist putting it on. If you want an idea of what is involved beforehand, check out How to Dress a Hockey Player from USA Hockey @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGp1PHRNX60>.

How important is proper fitting equipment?

Quite important. If gear is too loose, it could slide or twist and not provide the protection it is supposed to. If it's too big, it could hinder your child being able to skate properly.

Will there be equipment to help them skate?

Yes, we have plenty of skating assistance equipment. But, we really encourage them to not use them for long. It will be better for them to be on the ice without using the equipment.

Won't they fall?

Yes, a lot. We still tell our high school players it's ok if you fall, we care how long it takes you to get back up. Falling means you are doing something that you aren't completely comfortable with and trying to improve. We expect them to fall, in fact one of the drills will be to fall to get them used to it and to fall properly and to teach them how to get back up. You might even see a coach or two fall.

When should you get there?

We anticipate quite a few kids being there this weekend, so please arrive around an hour early. That should give us plenty of time to get everyone outfitted and on the ice.

What if my child doesn't want to go on the ice?

We will encourage them to be on the ice as much as possible. But, we will not force them to be out there. This is supposed to be a fun activity. We know it can be frustrating when they start crying and keep coming off the ice or not going on at all. If you can, just have them watch, maybe even just hanging out right along the boards. They'll see the other kids having fun and hopefully want to join them.

What is the next step after Learn to Play Hockey (LTPH)?

We have our Mites division of 6 & under and 8 and under. We are lucky to have Coach Whitcher coaching both LTPH and Mites this season. If your child is over 8, we have 10U and 12U as well. Eligibility for those age divisions is based on birth year. If you are interested in continuing with hockey in those age divisions, please contact Coach Whitcher or a board member. Will will deduct your registration fee with the LTPH fee and prorate the season fees.

What is the full schedule for the October sessions of LTPH?

Sat. Sept 23, 11:30 am
Sun. Sept 24, 11:30 am
Sat. Sept 30, 11:30 am
Sun. Oct 1, 11:30 am
Sat. Oct 7, 11:30 am
Sun. Oct 8, 11:30 am

Sat. Oct 14 12:15 pm

Sun. Oct 15, 11:30 am

Sat. Oct 21, 11:00 am

Sun. Oct 22, 11:30 am

Full calendar is listed at <https://www.nccyha.com/learntoplay>

Will there be another session of LTPH?

Yes, we are offering another session starting on January 6th. ** The Fall and Winter sessions are separate registrations. **

What should you do with the borrowed equipment at the end of the October session?

If your child will be continuing on with Mites, they can keep the equipment through the end of the season. If you are going to do the January session, you can keep the equipment until the end of that session. If they won't be continuing for the season, please return the equipment, with the bag, to a coach or board member after the last skate.

Can you go out on the ice with your child?

No and yes. Without the proper registration, parents or guardians are not allowed to go onto the ice or go into the players bench area. If you would like to go on to the ice as a coach, you will need to register for USA hockey, pass a background check and complete a SafeSport class. If you are interested, please see Coach Whitcher or a board member.

We're looking forward to a great season of Learn to Play Hockey! See you on the ice!