



May 8, 2023

To: All Players
2023 Rocky Mountain District Player Evaluation Camp

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the 41st Annual USA Hockey - Rocky Mountain District - Player Evaluation Camp. Your selection means your state has determined that you are in the top 3% of the players of your birth year in the District. This is quite an honor that each of you should be proud of. We have assembled a staff of volunteers from across the country. They have lived the "dream", so we encourage you to take full advantage of such an opportunity and learn from some of the best- both on and off the ice. Our staff comes from the former US Olympians, National Team Members, NHL, Stanley Cup Winners, Division I colleges, Division III colleges, Juniors and USA Hockey. There are three staff coaches who have gone through the same process in the Rocky Mountain District that you are experiencing now. Talk to them and ask them questions. They are here to help. Many have played professionally, but, most of all, they love the game and love being around those who play the game. They are knowledgeable and more than willing to help. Please ask questions and develop new relationships.

We are going to communicate any changes or updates through Twitter (information will also be posted at the Rink and e-mailed out). You can find us on **Twitter** at "@rmdpdc".

ALL events are at the rink. Please consult the schedule to make sure you understand where and when you need to be. If there are any schedule changes they will be posted at the rink and on twitter @rmdpdc.

All rosters/team assignments will be posted on the Rocky Mountain District web site by May 13th.

You are going to be on and off the ice with the best players in the District, so again, you should take the time to make new friends and develop relationships. If you leave the camp without having made additional friends from across the District, you simply will not have taken advantage of the entire experience.

The District does not have many rules for this camp, but they can be boiled down to the following:

1. Be on time (i.e., be ready at the scheduled time. It's better to be 5 mins. early vs. 5 mins. late).
2. Listen, be respectful and pay attention to all staff when you are here.

3. You are here to learn, play hockey, and have fun. Leave the trash talk and all other inappropriate behavior at home.
4. Do not do anything that will embarrass yourself, your parents, your association, your state, the District or USA Hockey.
5. We require full USA Hockey protective equipment – this means mouth guards IN your mouth.
6. All bags, while at the rink, should be either in a locker room or in the designated bag storage area. Please do not leave bags or sticks anywhere else as they will be removed and put OUTSIDE.
7. Do not exchange jerseys. This is the way the coaches and evaluators will identify you. The only person in the camp who can change a jersey is **KAREN YOUNG**.
8. Please always dress in your team locker room as the coaches will come in prior to games for instructions...

You will be on the ice four times. The games will be competitive play. During competitive sessions, we expect each of you to compete hard all the time and to respect each other. Sticks are for pucks. They are not for use against opponents. The competitive sessions will be a round robin tournament for the boys with team 1 playing team 2 and team 3 playing team 4 on Sunday morning. There will be a small prize for the members of the winning teams. Coaches will be looking not only for individual skills but also for team play. It will be very important to communicate with your coaches so that you know what time you will play on Sunday. We will have the times posted at the rink as soon as we know. The best way (besides your coaches) to find out what time you play on Sunday is on our twitter account - @rmdpdc. Please check it as we will update it as soon as we know the times.

Some of you have been here before. Some are new to the camp. We know all of you would like to advance to the National Festival Camps. It is very important to note that our studies and statistics show that we will have about 50% turnover each year for those who advance to the National Camps. In other words, if you have made it before, do not think that you have it made. If you have not made it before, you should not think that it is impossible to make it now. Last year, 50% of the selected 17-year old players did not make the National Camp the year before as 16-year olds. Change is inevitable, and everyone gets a clean slate each year. Players advancing to the national camps will be notified by the district by Thursday May 25. At that time we will expect a commitment from you either to attend or not. If you are selected, we expect you to represent yourself and the district appropriately. USA Hockey is using the same online registration system we have used this year. After accepting your invitation, USA Hockey will send the online information. We will post all of the district selections on the Rocky Mountain Hockey District web site (www.rockymountainhockey.com) as soon as possible but, hopefully, by May 25. Please do not call. We will find you if you have been selected.

Qualifying for the National Camps is not only about the most skilled players advancing. We look at character, desire, behavior and coachability. Unfortunately, we have had some very skilled players who did not advance because of unacceptable behavior. No one has a right to go to the National Camps. It is a privilege. Please do not put yourself in a situation that, as a hockey player perhaps you could have earned a spot, but because of your behavior, it did not happen.

A few housekeeping items:

1. Water bottles will NOT be provided on the bench. Bring your own.

2. We will have on site trainers to handle any injuries, etc. Their decision on your ability to continue skating if you are injured is final.
3. Players only please to check in to get jerseys, no parents. Also, leave your bag and stick outside when checking in as the room is small.
4. Check in times are by age group and noted on the top of the schedule found at the link below. Check in area is at the front of the building, left hand side.

Have fun, play hard, make friends, measure yourself, get feedback, and enjoy the experience!

Doug Ritter – Camp Director ritterdoug1@gmail.com

Schedule https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/403c-2940747/2023_RMD_Camp_Schedule_-_FINAL.pdf?_gl=1*wehtlw*_ga*MTY4MzI4MDc2OS4xNjc0MTU0Mzg1*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY4MzU5MTE0NC4xMC4xLjE2ODM1OTEyMzguMC4wLjA.#_ga=2.120185288.1703978117.1683591145-1683280769.1674154385

FAQ's https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/c79f-2871154/2023_RMD_PDC_FAQ-revised_1_17_23.pdf?_gl=1*czro30*_ga*MTY4MzI4MDc2OS4xNjc0MTU0Mzg1*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY4MzU5MTE0NC4xMC4xLjE2ODM1OTEyNDcuMC4wLjA.#_ga=2.19129336.1703978117.1683591145-1683280769.1674154385

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