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Ice Rink in National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Opens November 14; Free Hot Chocolate on Opening Weekend; Wide Range of Skating Classes for All Ages and Levels



National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink
National Gallery of Art, Washington

Washington, DC—The 2015–2016 ice-skating season at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink will begin November 14 and continue through March 13, weather permitting. Located on the National Mall between 7th and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW, the ice rink is a favorite Washington, DC destination, each year attracting thousands of visitors and residents.

The experience of ice-skating in the Sculpture Garden, surrounded by the grand architecture of national museums and monuments, is enhanced by splendid views of large-scale sculptures by modern and contemporary artists, including Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Tony Smith, Roy Lichtenstein, Roxy Paine, and others from the Gallery's renowned collection. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink is managed by [Guest Services, Inc.](#)

To celebrate the opening, visitors who purchase skating time on November 14 and November 15 will receive a coupon for a complimentary cup of hot chocolate from the Pavilion Café on those dates.

Ice Rink Hours and Fees

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (Open for GROUP "LEARN-TO-SKATE" LESSONS ONLY)

11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Skating fees for a two-hour session (beginning on the hour) are as follows:

\$8.50 for adults

\$7.50 for skaters age 50 and over, children 12 and under, and students with a valid school ID

The skate rental fee is \$3 (ID required as a deposit); lockers are available for \$0.50 (\$5 deposit required). Season passes are available for \$195. Call the ice rink office at (202) 216-9397 for additional information. The Gallery and Sculpture Garden are closed on December 25 and January 1. During the evening, when the Gallery and Sculpture Garden are closed to the public, access to the ice rink is restricted to the entrances at Constitution Avenue near 7th Street and on Madison Drive near 9th Street.

NOTE: The ice rink will be closed when it rains or when the temperature dips below 20°F.

Tips for Visitors to the Ice Rink

Layered, warm clothing that does not restrict movement and gloves are recommended. Helmets are required for students in the "Learn-to-Skate" program and are recommended for all beginners.

Free parking is available on Madison Drive on Saturdays and Sundays, with a three-hour limit on weekdays beginning at 10:00 a.m. Parking meters are located on Constitution Avenue and 7th Street surrounding the rink.

The nearest Metrorail stops are Judiciary Square on the Red Line, Archives–Penn Quarter–Navy Memorial on the Yellow/Green Lines, and Smithsonian on the Blue/Orange/Silver Lines. Metro bus stops are located on 4th Street and 7th Street NW.

Skating Lessons and Registration

This season, Guest Services offers skating lessons for all ages, directed and taught by Emme Porter, Bruce Porter, Jr. and their Washington Elite Skating School team of instructors. Emme Porter has more than 15 years of skating and coaching experience in all disciplines of skating and is a national and international ice dancing competitor. She has also danced in and choreographed performances for the NHL Washington Capitals' Red Rockers for five years. Bruce Porter, Jr. has more than 20 years of teaching experience in hockey, ice dancing, and field moves. He is a national and international competitor in ice dancing and competed in the European Figure Skating Championships in 2008 and 2009. Emme and Bruce represented Azerbaijan in international competitions and retired from competitive skating in 2014.

Washington Elite Skating School classes will be offered for different ages and abilities through the U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program. Classes are separated into age-appropriate categories and consist of a comprehensive lesson and evaluation structure that is exciting, rewarding, safe, and fun. For the first time this season, we will offer specialty group skating classes for adults, and feature Happy Hour skating lessons and Coffee Club skating lessons beginning in February 2016.

Class Descriptions

Mom/Dad/Me: This class is for young students who have not had any organized skating instruction. Students work on falling and getting up properly, standing and marching in place while moving. Adult guardians attending the class must be able to skate without assistance in order to help the student in the learning process.

Snowplow Sam: Classes introduce children ages three to six to the basics of skating through interactive on-ice games. Skaters will learn the basics of balance, marching, and gliding.

Basic Skills 1–8: Classes teach the fundamentals of skating and basic skills, and are designed to help children master fundamental moves, such as skating forward and backward, as well as more complicated maneuvers including crossovers, turns, beginning spins, and hops. There are a total of eight levels that create a strong foundation for more specialized areas of skating, such as freestyle, ice dancing, and hockey.

Free Skate: Each Free Skate level is divided into four sections: moves in the field, spins, dance/footwork sequence, and jumps. The Free Skate levels are designed to give skaters a strong foundation on which to build their skills. This is the point at which the skater can choose whether to pursue a recreational or competitive approach to the sport of figure skating.

Adult: Four adult levels are condensed versions of the Figure 8 Basics classes, allowing adults to progress in their choice of skating discipline.

Hockey: This introductory class is designed especially for beginning players. Skaters will work on all the basic skills necessary to become a competent hockey player.

Coffee Club: This is an opportunity for adult ice skaters to get together for skating practice, exercise, and social interaction. Formats vary depending on instructors, but the idea is to have a 1-hour adults-only skating lesson during a weekday morning. Coffee, hot chocolate, and lunch will be served afterward. Skaters will have an opportunity to learn new skills and practice their techniques during the session with supervision and instruction from one of our coaches. The Coffee Club is different from the Basic Skills adult classes as they are more free-form and social and include skaters of various levels and abilities.

Happy Hour Skate: The Happy Hour Skate is an opportunity for adults to learn to skate, practicing their skills in a social and relaxed atmosphere. The instructor will work with students one-on-one and in small groups throughout the hour. New students will learn to stand up, skate, and fall properly, while more experienced students will be challenged with new skills appropriate to their abilities. Hot wine and snack specials will be available before and after class at the Pavilion Café.

Registration

Session 1: November 14–December 19, 2015

Session 2: January 5–February 6, 2016

Session 3: February 9–March 12, 2016

Registration for group classes will be available online in late October at www.pavilioncafe.com, or www.pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons.html, in-person at the Skate Admission and Rental Booth after November 14, via email at ngaicerink@guestservices.com, and at 202 216-9397. Skaters may also register 15 minutes prior to an ongoing group lesson, as long as space is available. To reserve a space, contact Guest Services, Inc. at (202) 216-9397 or ngaicerink@guestservices.com. Please note: weekend group lessons have a five-skater minimum. Weekday group lessons have an eight-skater minimum.

Lesson times will be assigned after all registrations have been received and students have been grouped by age and/or ability level. You may select your day of class; only the time slot is assigned. We cannot guarantee your lesson time until the class rosters have been finalized approximately one week prior to your first class meeting. Please note that your space is not confirmed until payment has been received.

Group Lesson Schedule

Session 1: November 14–December 19, 2015

Five 30-minute lessons

(includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and 1 hour practice time before or after lesson)

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

Saturday Classes: 10:00–10:30 a.m. and 10:30–11:00 a.m.

All levels and ages are offered.

Mom/Dad/Me (preschoolers 3–5 with an adult; helmet required)

Snowplow Sam 1 (ages 3–6; helmet required; no experience)

Snowplow Sam 2 (ages 3–6; helmet required; some experience)

Basic 1 (ages 6 and up; helmet required; no experience)

Basic 2 (ages 6 and up; some experience)

Basic 3 and 4 (all ages)

Basic 5 and 6 (all ages)

Kids Free Skate (all ages; must have completed basic skills)

Adult 1

Hockey 1 and 2

Session 2: January 5 – February 6, 2016

Five 30-minute lessons (includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and 1 hour practice time before or after lesson)

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

Saturday Classes: 10:00–10:30 a.m. and 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Mom/Dad/Me (preschoolers 3–5 with an adult; helmet required)

Snowplow Sam 1 (ages 3–6; helmet required; no experience)

Snowplow Sam 2 (ages 3–6; helmet required; some experience)

Basic 1 (ages 6 and up; helmet required; no experience)

Basic 2 (ages 6 and up; some experience)

Basic 3 and 4 (all ages)

Basic 5 and 6 (all ages)

Kids Free Skate (all ages; must have completed basic skills)

Adult 1

Hockey 1/2

Tuesday Classes: 6:30–7:00 p.m. and 7:00–7:30 p.m.

Basic 1 (all ages; helmet required; no experience)

Basic 2 (all ages; some experience)

Basic 3 and 4 (all ages)

Kids Free Skate (all ages; must have completed basic skills)

Adult 1, 2, and 3

Session 3: February 9, 2016–March 12, 2016

Five 30-minute lessons

(includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and 1 hour practice time before or after lesson)

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

Saturday Classes: 10:00–10:30 a.m. and 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Mom/Dad/Me (preschoolers 3–5 with an adult; helmet required)
Snowplow Sam 1 (ages 3–6; helmet required; no experience)
Snowplow Sam 2 (ages 3–6; helmet required; some experience)
Basic 1 (ages 6 and up; helmet required; no experience)
Basic 2 (ages 6 and up; some experience)
Basic 3 and 4 all ages
Basic 5 and 6 (all ages)
Kids Free Skate (all ages; must have completed basic skills)
Adult 1
Hockey 1/2

Tuesday Classes: 6:30–7:00 p.m. and 7:00–7:30 p.m.

Basic 1 (all ages; helmet required; no experience)
Basic 2 (all ages; some experience)
Basic 3 and 4 (all ages)
Kids Free Skate (all ages; must have completed basic skills)
Adult 1, 2, and 3

Thursday Happy Hour Skate, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (beginning February 4)

Five 60-minute lessons (includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and 1 hour practice time before or after lesson) for adults of all levels

Friday Coffee Club Skate, 11:00 a.m.–noon (beginning February 5)

Five 60-minute lessons (includes complimentary skate rental, ice time, and 1 hour practice time before or after lesson) for adults of all levels

When ice resurfacing or cleanings occur, group classes and private lessons may start or end approximately 10 to 15 minutes later than scheduled. Because we use an uncovered, outdoor facility, weather can impact our classes. We DO NOT offer make-up classes due to weather closures. Our goal is to keep classes on schedule as much as possible, even in light rain and snow. Our first priority is the safety of our skaters, instructors, and Gallery staff. Any additional class time will be at the discretion of the instructor and management. Please keep this in mind when registering. Follow [@WashingtonElite](#) for latest weather updates affecting group classes.

Class Fees

Group Lessons:

\$145 for a single season session (five 30-minute lessons)
\$385 for a full season (three complete sessions [15 lessons], November through March)
\$35 for a single 30-minute, walk-in, group lesson (register 15 minutes before lesson)
\$290 for a single session specialty class (five 60-minute lessons)
\$70 for a single 60-minute, walk-in, specialty class (register 15 minutes before lesson)

There is an additional \$12 one-time charge per skater per season for group lesson registration for U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Membership. When you register for the U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program, you will receive:

- An official U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills membership card
- A brightly colored record book with stickers to track your progress through the lessons
- A membership year patch
- Basic Skills Edition of SKATING magazine

The class fee includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and one hour of practice time before or after the lesson. Tuition must be paid in advance to reserve a space in the group classes.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are \$50 for 30 minutes, \$75 for 45 minutes, and \$100 for one hour. Skaters may schedule a private lesson by appointment seven days a week. Contact Emme Porter at ngaicerinkits@gmail.com or www.pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons.html.

Convenient prepaid lesson cards are also available. Admission to the rink and skate rental (if needed) must be purchased separately.

Special Events and School Groups

The fee for school groups is \$14 per child for thirty minutes, with an eight-child minimum. Lessons are Saturdays 11a.m.–noon; all other days and times are by appointment. Reservations must be made a minimum of seven days in advance. Admission to the rink and skate rental (if needed) must be purchased separately. Group rates are also available for other types of special events based on instructor availability.

Pavilion Café

The café has panoramic views of the Sculpture Garden from its floor-to-ceiling picture windows. Visitors may enjoy the recently installed interior sound system while dining indoors. The menu features freshly made dishes such as soups, salads, sandwiches, pizzas, and gourmet tarts. Beverages include coffee, tea, hot chocolate, wine, and beer. A children's menu for ages 12 and under is also available. Managed by Guest Services, Inc., the café seats 98 people inside and 64 people outside on its north and south terraces. Hours for the Pavilion Café during the skating season are Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

NOTE: The Pavilion Café will be closed for renovation during the month of January.

For general information and announcements about openings and closings, call (202) 216-9397 or visit [Guest Services](#) or www.pavilioncafe.com. More details are available at www.nga.gov/skating.

Ice Rink and Sculpture Garden

The skating surface of the ice rink, which measures approximately 135 feet long and 90 feet wide, can accommodate more than 200 skaters at a time. A state-of-the-art music system delights skaters, diners, and spectators without distracting other visitors to the Sculpture Garden. At night, lights encircling the rink illuminate the ice, contributing to the festive atmosphere and the skating experience.

Designed to offer year-round enjoyment to the public in one of the best locations on the National Mall, the 6.1-acre National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden opened on May 23, 1999. The richly landscaped setting provides a distinctive backdrop for works of post-World War II sculpture by world-renowned artists. Visitors may enjoy spacious seating and walking areas amid the native American canopy and flowering trees, shrubs, ground covers, and perennials.

The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden was given to the nation by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

The Sculpture Garden is located on the National Mall between 7th and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW, in the block adjacent to the West Building of the Gallery. There are six public entrances to the Sculpture Garden, from four corners and at two sides; and the area is accessible to visitors with disabilities. Admission is free. More information is available at www.nga.gov/exhibitions/sculptureinfo.htm.

Groups and Tours at the Sculpture Garden and in the Gallery

To arrange a special guided tour of the Gallery's permanent collection for 20 or more adults before or after a visit to the ice rink during regular Gallery hours, call (202) 842-6247 at least three weeks (up to four months) in advance. Information about other Gallery programs, exhibitions, restaurants, and shops, is available at (202) 737-4215 or www.nga.gov.

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:
Department of Communications

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Press Release

Contact:
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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit www.nga.gov for more information about the [National Gallery of Art](#).

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