



Release Date: October 12, 2018

## Popular Ice Rink in National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Opens November 19; Skating Classes for All Ages and Levels



Sculpture Garden Ice Rink, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Updated November 16, 2017

Washington, DC—The 2018–2019 ice-skating season at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink will begin November 19 and continue through March 10, weather permitting. Located on the National Mall between 7th and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW, the ice rink remains a favorite DC destination, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

Surrounded national museums and monuments and large-scale sculptures by modern and contemporary artists including Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Tony Smith, Roy Lichtenstein, Roxy Paine, and others, skating in the Sculpture Garden is a favorite winter activity. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink is managed by Guest Services Inc.

### Ice Rink Hours and Fees

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Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m. (open to the general public); 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (open for Learn to Skate USA lessons only)

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Skating fees for two 45-minute sessions (beginning on the hour):

\$9 for adults and children age 13 and over

\$8 for skaters age 50 and over, children 12 and under, and students with a valid school ID

The skate rental fee is \$4; lockers are available for \$0.50 (\$5 deposit required). Season passes are available for \$195. Visit [pavilioncafe.com/ice-skating](http://pavilioncafe.com/ice-skating) or call the ice rink office after November 15 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.

### **Pavilion Café**

With panoramic views of the Sculpture Garden and a seasonal menu of freshly made soups, salads, sandwiches, flatbreads, and desserts, the Pavilion Café is a perfect complement to your ice rink visit. Beverages include coffee, tea, hot chocolate, wine, beer, and specialty coffee drinks with seasonal delights such as hot cider, mulled wine, pumpkin spice lattes with flavored whipped cream, and more. 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. The café also offers specials Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Pavilion Café closes two hours before the ice rink each day.

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

### **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.

Metered parking is available on Madison Drive (adjacent to the ice rink) seven days a week, with a three-hour limit, as well as on Constitution Avenue and 7th Street surrounding the rink. Please check all street signs, as restrictions vary daily and are subject to change.

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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. Metrobus stops are located on 4th Street and 7th Street NW, and the DC Circulator bus stops at Madison Drive and 7th Street.

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

### **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 20 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 has more than 10 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 Learn to Skate USA program. Classes are separated into age-appropriate categories and consist of a comprehensive lesson and evaluation structure that is exciting, rewarding, safe, and fun. Specialty group skating classes for adults, as well as Happy Hour and Coffee Club skating lessons, are also offered.

### **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 1–6:** 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.

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**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:** Three levels allow 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.

## Registration

Registration for group classes is available online at [pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons](http://pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons), in person at the Skate Admission and Rental Booth, and at (202) 216-9397 after November 18. To request additional information via email, please contact [ngaicerink@guestservices.com](mailto:ngaicerink@guestservices.com). 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](mailto:ngaicerink@guestservices.com). Please note: weekend group lessons have a five-skater minimum. Weekday group lessons have an eight-skater minimum. For all classes, participants must also register for a Basic Skills membership with [Learn to Skate USA](http://Learn to Skate USA).

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.

## 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–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 \$16 one-time charge per skater per season for group lesson registration and Learn to Skate USA Basic Skills membership, available at [learntoskateusa.com/LTSRegistration](http://learntoskateusa.com/LTSRegistration).

You will receive:

—An official Learn to Skate USA Basic Skills membership card

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- A brightly colored record book with stickers to track your progress through the lessons
  - A membership year patch
  - Basic Skills Edition of Learn to Skate USA *Skating* magazine

The class fee includes complimentary skate rental, ice time during lesson, and one session 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 [ngaicerinklts@gmail.com](mailto:ngaicerinklts@gmail.com) or [pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons](http://pavilioncafe.com/skating-lessons). Convenient prepaid skating lesson gift 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 group lessons is \$14 per child for 30 minutes, with an eight-child minimum. Admission to the rink and skate rental must be purchased separately. Lessons are Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; all other days and times are by appointment. Reservations must be made a minimum of seven days in advance. A deposit of 50 percent is due at time of booking. Group rates are also available for other types of special events based on instructor availability.

### **Group Lesson Schedule**

#### **Session 1: November 17–December 15, 2018**

Five 30-minute lessons

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

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

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

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

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## **Session 2: January 5–February 2, 2019**

Five 30-minute lessons

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

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

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

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

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–March 9, 2019**

Five 30-minute lessons

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

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

Basic Skills Learn-to-Skate All Levels

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

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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

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 makeup 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.

**Press Contact:**

Christina Brown, (202) 842-6598 or [cm-brown@nga.gov](mailto:cm-brown@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](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt), Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ngadc](http://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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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or [pressinfo@nga.gov](mailto:pressinfo@nga.gov)

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