

# Learn to Skate

## Frequently Asked Questions



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**Q: What class do I sign up for?**

**A:** If you have never skated before or have never had any formal instruction, we recommend starting in the following classes: Snowplow Sam 1 for ages 3-6; Basic 1 or Hockey 1 for ages 7-16; Adult 1 for Adults ages 17+.

**Q: What is included with the price of my class?**

**A:** Class fee includes 30 min. of weekly instruction, skate rental on day of class, and unlimited public skate admissions (for the skater enrolled in class only) for the duration of the class session. (Skaters will need to pay \$3 skate rental on day other than class day).

**Q: What is the class progression?**

**A:** After Snowplow Sam 1, ages 3-6 advance to Snowplow Sam 2 & 3 and then to Basic 2 or Hockey 2. After Basic 1, ages 7-16 advance to Basic 2-8 levels, then onto Free Skate 1-6 levels. After Hockey 1, ages 7-16 advance to Hockey 2, then onto Hockey in Focus. After Adult 1, ages 17+ advance into Adult 2-6 or Adult Learn to Play Hockey.

**Q: How and when do I sign up?**

**A:** Register by phone at 816-442-6128 or in person. Register early to ensure your spot, which will not be reserved until payment is received. Please register at least 48 hours before the first day of class— if there are less than 3 enrollments for a class at that point, the class may be cancelled or combined.

**Q: Do you offer any discounts?**

**A:** Yes! If a skater signs up for more than one class in a session, they receive 50% off each additional class. If immediate family enrolls for classes in the same session the 2nd family member receives 20% off, 3rd member receives 30% off, etc.

**Q: Is there an incentive to sign-up early for classes?**

**A:** Classes can fill and sometimes class times closeout altogether. Therefore, to ensure your space in the class of your choice, register for classes at least two days prior to the first day of class for a \$5 discount.

**Q: What is the difference between Basic 1 and Hockey 1?**

**A:** Both classes will learn the same skills and are basic learn to skate classes. Basic 1 is geared towards figure skating and is taught by a figure skating instructor and Hockey 1 is geared towards hockey and may possibly be taught by a hockey instructor. If enrollment or coach availability is low, classes will most likely be combined.

**Q: What should I do if my child has never skated before?**

**A:** Many of our skaters have never skated before and this will be their first experience. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early to allow enough time to get skates on and find your class. While waiting for your class, have the child march in the skates to help learn balance (be sure to stay on the rubber mats to protect the blades). All introductory classes (Snowplow Sam 1, Basic 1, Hockey 1, and Adult 1) begin off the ice.

**Q: What size and type of skates should my child wear?**

**A:** Any single blade skate is appropriate; however hockey skates can be more challenging to a beginner because of the blade shape. USA Hockey recommends that beginners wear figure skates as the longer blade and toe pick add stability. Sizing varies depending on the manufacturer and type of skates and therefore there is no general rule. If you are using rental skates, be sure to come early to allow time to find the right fit. If you plan on purchasing skates, it's best to be fitted or at least have the skater try them on in the store.

**Q: How do I put the skates on my child?**

**A:** Make sure that the skater's foot is fully in the boot by asking them to stand up in the skate. Also, because they look alike, make sure the skates are on the correct feet. Just as you would a work boot, tighten the laces over the foot so they are snug and don't pull if you run your finger over them. Work your way all the way up to the top making sure that all hooks or loops are used then tie the laces like you would a shoe. For further assistance, please see a staff member.

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**Nick Kraft, Skating Director · Independence Skating Academy at Centerpoint Community Ice**

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**Q: What do I need to do the first day?**

**A:** Be sure to read our Learn to Skate handout titled, "First Day of Classes." Please arrive 30 min prior to the start time of your first class. Staff will help you with your rental skates and guide you where to go. Be ready to have fun!

**Q: What do I need to wear? Are helmets required for class? What kind of helmet is acceptable?**

**A:** Skaters should wear long pants and sleeves, gloves or mittens, and thin socks. Layers are recommended. Water proof pants can be beneficial to beginners as they will spend time on the ice, although thick snowpants can hinder movement. Avoid shorts, jeans, and be sure to wear socks. Long hair should be pulled back to not obstruct vision. Helmets, such as a bike helmet or an HECC (Hockey Equipment Certification Council) helmet, are recommended but not required for children under the age of six.

**Q: What is the USFS membership?**

**A:** All skaters are required to pay the \$12 annual (July 1– June 30th) membership fee to U.S. Figure Skating. This provides insurance from USFS for all of our skaters during class time and skaters will receive fun items such as a practice book and magazine. USFS is endorsed by USA Hockey.

**Q: Can I make up a missed class?**

**A:** If you miss a class, please contact the Skating Director (email preferred) about scheduling a make up time. Make ups must be scheduled and need to be completed within two weeks of missing a class.

**Q: Can I get a refund?**

**A:** We have a "no refund" policy on classes; however, we can hold your credit to be used at a later date or within your family.

**Q: How do I redeem my public skate admissions?**

**A:** You can practice on any of our public skate sessions by checking in at the pro shop counter and letting them know your name. Your pass is entered our system so you do not need to carry around a pass. You may also practice in a coned off area opposite your class time if there is space available on the ice. Priority is given to classes.

**Q: Where can I purchase skates or equipment?**

**A:** Please contact Stephanie Brizendine with Edgewise Sports Supply at 816-587-2758.

5106-D Waukomis Dr, KC, MO 64151

[www.edgewisesportssupply.com](http://www.edgewisesportssupply.com)

**Q: Are there weather related class cancellations?**

**A:** Generally, classes are not cancelled for weather. Should classes need to be cancelled, reasonable efforts will be made to notify participants and provide reasonable accommodations. We will contact via participants through emails and on Facebook.

**Q: Can I pay for just one class?**

**A:** Class Walk-Ons are only permitted at the discretion of the Skating Director and for this reason, may not be allowed. Should the Skating Director allow entrance to a class as a walk on, the fee for a Learn to Skate class is \$12.50 and a Free Skate class is \$18.75.

**Q: Are there other skaters/classes out on the ice during my child's lessons?**

**A:** Because the ice surface is large, we can accommodate several classes on the ice at one time. These different classes allow us to separate skaters into like groups of ability and age and support participants as they learn and master skills.

**Q: How many skaters are in a class and what is the student to teacher ratio?**

**A:** We do our best to provide instructor to student ratios that promote a successful class environment. Generally, class sizes and instructor to student ratios will vary depending on the level and the number of registrants. The average ratio is 1 to 10 with more teachers assigned to Snowplow Sam classes which serve a younger age group.

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