

WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 CANSKATE, ADULT/ TEEN AND PRE-JUNIOR CANSKATE SESSIONS

CanSkate is Skate Canada's flagship learn-to-skate program, designed for skaters of all ages and abilities. The program focuses on fun, participation and basic skill development. Skaters will earn ribbons, badges and other incentives as they learn fundamental skating skills.

Welcome to all our new and returning skaters, we're looking forward to a fun and exciting season!

For your child's or your first session, please arrive 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the lesson. This will enable you to get your child's or your skates on and meet with a March Kanata Skating Club (MKSC) representative. Children will be provided with a name tag and a coloured dot that matches their assigned skating group. Please have your child wear the name tag for each lesson.

Skaters will be greeted by our Coaching staff and Program Assistants as they enter the ice surface. Every session begins and ends with a warm up and skaters are encouraged to do the exercises called out over the public address system or by a Coach on the ice.

You will notice that coloured flags for CanSkate and Pre-CanSkate lessons are placed at various locations around the rink. This is where children will meet with their group when the warm-up has been completed. Coaches and Program Assistants will help the skaters get to their groups.

LESSONS

Parents are required to stay in the arena during the entire class time in case your child needs your attention. If your child needs to leave the ice for any reason the PA or Coach will bring your child to the arena gate for you to take them to the washroom, tighten their skates, etc. Therefore, it is important for a parent or

chaperone to stay in the arena at all times. Coaches and PAs are not allowed to leave the ice surface. Skaters are placed in groups according to skating ability and age. The ice is divided into group areas and there may be as many as seven different groups during one session. It usually takes a few weeks to assess everyone and move skaters into appropriate groups according to their ability. Please be patient, and we will check every child to make sure they are in the right group.

Lessons are given in a group format and are led by an NCCP certified Professional Coach or an experienced Program Assistant. Professional Coaches are assisted by trained Program Assistants and Program Assistants in training. Skaters progress at their own rate and Coaches use the Skate Canada technical circuit teaching guide to ensure constant movement on the ice. Coaches will also use teaching aids, music and a wide variety of activities that create a fun environment and promote learning.

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS (PA)

Program Assistants volunteer their time and must be at least 11 years of age. PAs in training must be 10 years of age and work with an experienced PA. Each PA is required to attend a training session provided by a Skate Canada Professional Coach. Please inform your skater that the PAs are responsible for leading the group when the Professional Coach is otherwise occupied and must be listened to. Please also note PAs are not available to help kids to go to the washroom.

CLOTHING

Skaters should wear clothing that is comfortable, warm and allows them to move freely. Make sure to layer clothes so they can remove or add a piece of clothing to suit changing temperatures and exertion levels. Don't forget the mittens!

HELMETS

All Skate Canada member clubs and skating schools who offer a CanSkate program must ensure ALL CANSKATE, PRE-CANSKATE and ADULT/TEEN CANSKATE participants, up to and including Badge 5, wear a CSA APPROVED HOCKEY HELMET WHILE ON THE ICE. Your child's helmet must have this label. Bike and other sport helmets are not allowed.

SKATES AND SKATE SHARPENING

Skates are the most important tool a skater has on the ice. We recommend lace up skates that fit snugly and support the ankles. Velcro enclosure skates are not recommended. Skates should be sharpened after 30 hours of use.

SKATER'S RULES

- Skaters are not allowed on the ice until a Coach or PA is on the ice.
- Skaters are only allowed on the ice for the session for which they have registered.
- It is mandatory for all skaters up to and including CanSkate Badge 6 to wear a well-fitted CSA approved hockey helmet. Helmets must fit and straps must be adjusted and in place.
- March-Kanata Skating Club is not responsible for the supervision of skaters once their session is over.
- Parents are not allowed on the ice during the session. If your child needs help a Coach or PA will offer assistance. If your child needs to leave the ice for any reason the PA or Coach will bring your child to the arena gate where the penalty box is located. Therefore, it is important for a parent or chaperone to stay in the arena. Coaches and PAs are not allowed to leave the ice surface.
- It is important to remind the children not to have any food or gum in their mouths during the lessons.
- The Arena Staff requests that you do not use the bleachers or the lobby for changing into or out of skates. There are assigned dressing rooms for this

use. The bulletin board in the front lobby is where you will find the dressing room assignments.

- For safety reasons, parents are requested not to open the gate. A Coach or PA will open the gate.
- Parents or chaperones must watch their children from the bleachers. Please refrain from watching at the rink boards or talking to your child or the Coaches during the session. This is very distracting for the children and disrupts the class.
- Falling is a part of learning to skate. Please inform your children to get up quickly after a fall to avoid further accidents or injury.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be handed out twice a year, the end of December and the end of the skating season. These reports provide information to the skaters and parents about their skater's skill progression and the types of skills each skater must be able to perform to advance to the next stage. We also evaluate the skaters each week in compliance with the new CanSkate standard set out by Skate Ontario.

BULLETIN BOARDS

It is important from time to time to check the Club Bulletin Boards or the MKSC website www.mkskate.ca for information about what is happening in the Club. The website also has the CanSkate, Pre-CanSkate and Adult/Teen CanSkate calendar which will tell you about upcoming holidays, start and end dates for the season and special events.

VOLUNTEERS

MKSC is a non-profit organization and is operated entirely by volunteers. Assistance and cooperation from all parents is essential to the running of the Club. Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. If you can volunteer any of your time to the club, please contact the CanSkate Team at canskate.mksc@gmail.com. We have a number of tasks, big and small and we could use your help. From time to

time we will be asking parents of skaters to participate in the running of various Club activities throughout the year.

QUESTIONS

Parent questions or concerns are to be directed to a Professional Coach or the CanSkate Team, not our PAs.

On behalf of the MKSC executive, we are pleased you are joining us for our CanSkate program and we hope you and your skater(s) have a successful and enjoyable year with our Club.