

recreational

IceSkating

Spring 2021



Get Ready for Spring Classic!
April 30 – May 2



Skaters Back on Ice at Southwest Champs!

Worlds of Fun Set for Minnesota

July 26-31

Adult Champs Is Vegas Bound

Oct. 8-10

Holiday Theatrical Challenge Heads to CA

Dec. 3-5

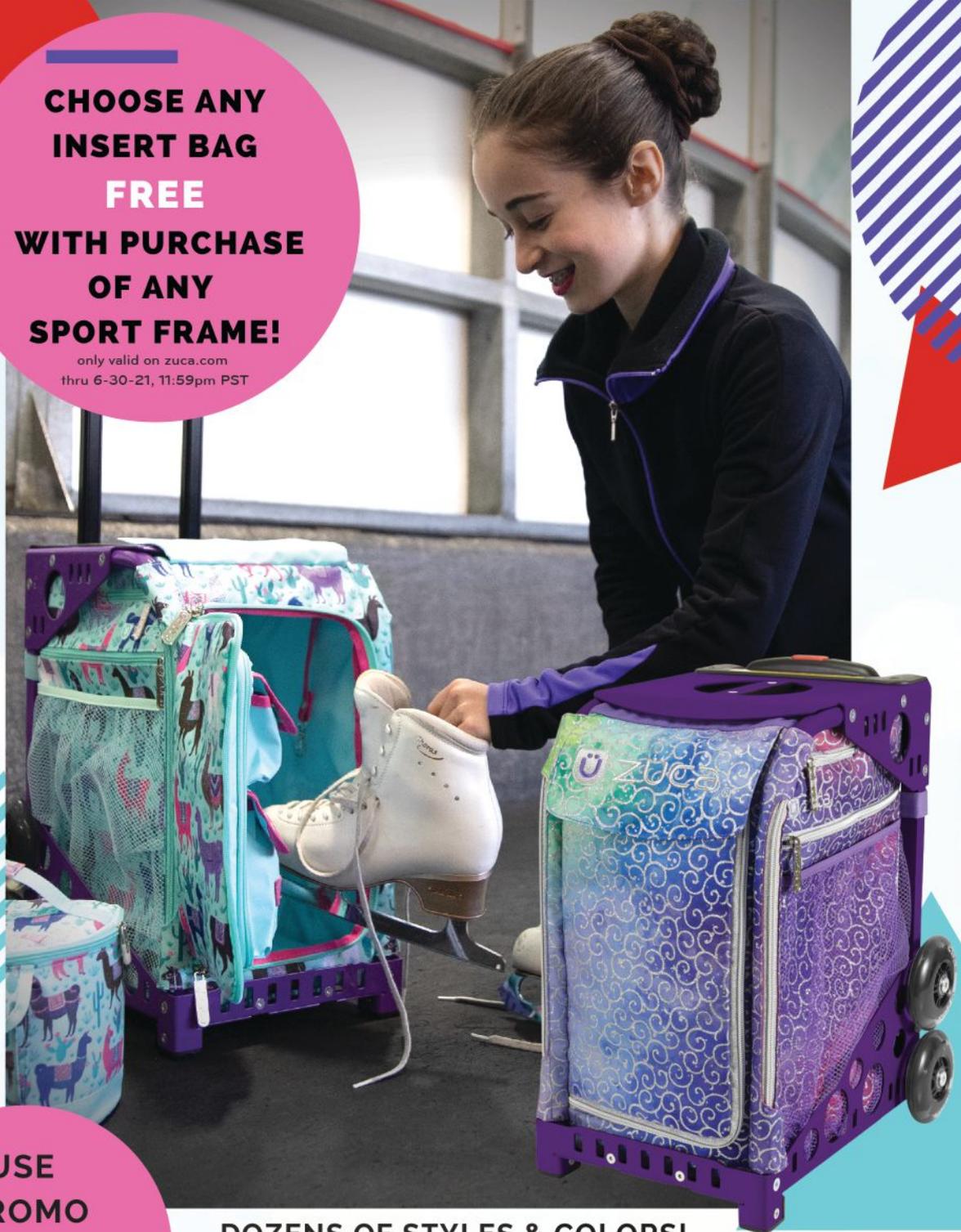
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what's inside

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Texas All Stars Senior Youth Advanced Formation Team representing the Children's Health StarCenter - McKinney at Craig Ranch at the 2020 ISI Southwest Championships, ICE at The Parks, Arlington, Texas. Gabriele Photography



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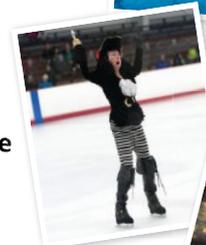
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Dedicated to providing leadership,
education and services to the
ice sports industry.

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competitors' corner

Once

ISI skaters share their stories and expressions of art that describe and depict how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected them and their ability to be on the ice, where they feel most joyful and free. They also share the clever ways they have adapted to their rinks being closed, proving that ISI skaters are highly resilient, determined, creative and soulfully connected to their skating friends and teammates.



"behind the mask"

Kyra Hartz, 12, is a Freestyle 4 skater. She created this artwork on a Wacom tablet, using Krita software. Her home rink, Ice-Plex Escondido in Escondido, Calif., closed for good in July, and she is now taking lessons at San Diego Ice Arena.

Upon a Coronavirus...

FROM BLADES TO WHEELS My Quest to Skate During COVID-19

by Miranda Price



When all of the rinks in my area closed in March due to COVID-19, I was devastated. Like most other skaters and coaches, I had friends at the rink and spent a lot of time there. It was like a part of me was gone. In the 10 years I had been skating, I had never taken a long break. I was afraid I would lose elements I had worked hard to achieve as an adult skater, mainly my Axel, and what I had of a double Salchow. I was determined to do what I could to stay in shape and not get bored.

I started by doing a lot of stretching, spinning on an off-ice spinner and doing off-ice jumps, daily. I kept in contact with my rink friends online and encouraged them to do the same. This helped, but it was already a month into the quarantine, and there was no end in sight. I was desperate to be on skates again, so I had to think of something else.

First, I got roller guards to put on my ice skates, like a guard, which enabled me to skate with no ice. It was fun, but all I could do was skate around, and I wanted to be able to do jumps and other figure skating moves. Then, I tried traditional inline skates, which allowed me to turn and do gliding moves but still no jumps or spins.

I finally decided to get a pair of artistic inline figure skates, which were very hard to find mid-quarantine, but they were worth the money and the wait. I could finally do some real figure skating again! With them, I wasn't at the level that I was on the ice — there were differences — but it was great to be able to skate again.

The hardest part was finding places to skate. Empty parking lots and sidewalks were in abundance, but they were rough and didn't feel like the ice. Places with smooth floor and concrete surfaces worked best; they felt most like the ice but were difficult to find, and they usually weren't large enough or weren't open. I ended up finding an old, empty outdoor roller rink in a park, and it worked great for skating!

My new artistic "inlines" and a place to skate, plus doing everything I started with, kept me going. My spirits stayed higher than they would've been without skating, during a time that was awful for everyone.

In June, my nearby ice rinks started reopening. My first session back on the ice after over three months off was difficult at first, but still the best feeling, and I had most of my elements back (including my Axel) by the end of it!

Currently [at press time], I'm overjoyed to still be able to be on the ice with my coaches and friends. I've also kept up with a little inline skating. I hope that the rinks don't close again, but it's likely that they will. If they do, luckily now I'll always have my "inlines," and therefore, my skating!

Miranda Price is an FS 5 adult skater. Her home rink, Granite City Ice Arena in Granite City, Ill., is a seasonal outdoor rink that didn't open this season for the first time in 50 years, she says, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, which would have decreased profits and made the rink too costly to operate.

IT'S 4 O'CLOCK JUMP TIME!

by Lynne Cameron

I skate with a wonderful production team formed in 2009. We are a mix of kids, teens and adults. Our home rink is (was) Ice Oasis in Redwood City, Calif. I miss skating with my teammates so much.

To maintain actual human contact, I started a neighborhood "4 O' Clock Jump" on the street where I live. Anyone can participate. We simply meet down the street (it is a hill) at 4 p.m. daily. We dance the Hokey Pokey, and then we dance to three more songs, which vary from day to day.



competitors' corner cont'

We made it on to the news when we started our daily event. It provides exercise, a balance challenge on the hill, a chance to connect face-to-face (masked and at least 6 feet apart), wellness checks and an opportunity to share local news.

One of the team's coaches, Jacki Spiteri, joined us one afternoon in December. It was great to see a familiar face from the rink! We did a three-mile walk after that, enjoying the Christmas lights on the houses as the sun set.

I invited the whole team to celebrate the New Year on January 1. I think we had nine skaters attend. Both coaches, Michele Phaler and Jacki Spiteri, joined us. We also had parents, spouses and significant others.

We had just finished choreographing our new Star Wars 2.0 program before we had to shelter in place. Seeing my rink family on the first made me so incredibly happy. I wasn't the only one smiling ear to ear under a mask. Oh, and one of the adult skaters was expecting our newest "Ewok" in about a month!

The team also participated in a drive-by graduation parade when one of our original skaters from 2009, Chili Phaler, graduated high school in May. We also joined forces to sign a birthday card for Jacki that day. We met up again in September at our sister rink in San Mateo, to sign a birthday card for Michele. Any time we get together, I can feel the team's magic as we all wait to take the ice again, together — no longer apart.

Lynne Cameron started skating in 1970 at age 14. She tested through Gamma in the early 1970s at Belmont Iceland in Iceland, Calif. She has achieved Dance 6. Her home rink, Nazareth Ice Oasis in Redwood City, Calif., has closed permanently.



Left to right, front row: Evelyn Shen, Eliska Nejedla, Noemi Nejedla and Chili Phaler. Back row: Charlene Bava, Blanka Nejedla, Jakub Nejedla, George Spiteri, Debbie Donovan, Jacki Spiteri, Michele Phaler and Lynne Cameron



SKATING IN MY OWN BACKYARD

by Bev Thurber



Above: Bev Thurber proudly displays the special figures she created on her backyard ice sheet. Below: Bev's very own smiley face figure!



Since its first incarnation in 2012, my backyard rink has been my favorite place to skate. This winter, it has taken on special significance. The rinks in my area are either closed or operating under severe restrictions, making my little rink the premiere skating destination.

I build my rink around Thanksgiving every year. This time, I put some extra care into it because the governor had just announced a stay-at-home advisory and additional restrictions on businesses. The indoor rinks were closing for the second time and the outdoor rinks were opening with restrictions or not at all. I was counting on my rink for this winter's skating.

To make the best use of my yard, I shaped the rink like an "L" for the first time. At 22 feet by 44 feet on the tall part of the L, plus 12 feet by 20 feet sticking out to the side, it's comparable in size to the very first indoor rinks with artificially frozen ice — the ones that opened over 120 years ago. As people back then knew, this is a good size for practicing figures, particularly special figures. Spins also work reasonably well. Jumps are more difficult, but I have managed to land a few Axels on my rink.

Keeping the ice nice is a lot of work. I have to shovel the whole surface after every snowstorm, unless it's warm enough for the snow to turn to slush. Then I just wait for it to freeze and work on smoothing the resulting rough surface. To do this, I made a "Zamboni" out of PVC pipe from the hardware store, an old towel and an ordinary garden hose. It attaches to my utility room sink to spread warm water across the surface of the ice. The new surface freezes really fast when the temperature is very low. My biggest surprise was

the first time my boots froze to the ice as I was resurfacing!

I hope my backyard rink lasts long enough to keep the virus at bay. When the weather warms up in the spring, it will melt. By then, perhaps the indoor rinks will be fully open again.

To see a video of my backyard rink and homemade ice resurfacer in action, please visit YouTube and search for Bev Thurber Zamboni Time.

Dream **BIG** at 2020ne ISI Worlds!



July 26 – 31

NSC Super Rink

Blaine, MN

Test & Entry Deadline: May 7

skateisi.org/worlds





2021 ISI Spring Classic

April 30 - May 2, 2021
RDV Sportsplex Ice Den
Orlando, FL

Test & Entry Deadline: March 26
skateisi.org/springclassic

PUT YOUR BEST SKATE FORWARD

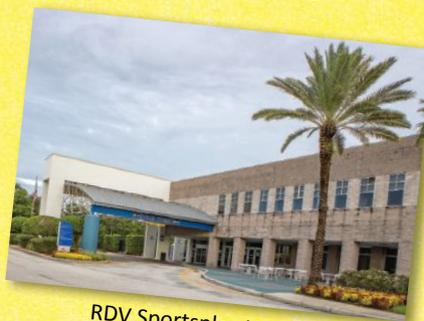
by Eileen Viglione

Skaters, we invite you to put your best skate forward this spring at our new national event! The 2021 ISI Spring Classic, April 30-May 2, will take place at the spectacular RDV Sportsplex Ice Den in Orlando Fla., one of the world's leading tourist destinations. Test and entry deadline is March 26.

The ISI Spring Classic will offer the opportunity to perform in individual, partnered and team events, including synchro.

THE VENUE

An ISI member since its inception in 1988, the RDV Sportsplex Ice Den has hosted numerous ISI national events. The impressive facility features two ice surfaces — NHL and Olympic size — a full service athletic club, three swimming pools, a sports performance center, restaurants, arcade, salon, spa, childcare center and more.



RDV Sportsplex Ice Den

THE LOCATION

Known as the "Theme Park Capital of the World," it's little wonder why Orlando attracts more than 70 million visitors annually. Options for entertainment are plentiful, and visitors may be hard-pressed to pack in all the fun and thrilling things to do in just one trip — that's why many vacationers flock there year after year.

Naturally, Walt Disney World themed-parks (*Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios and Animal Kingdom*) are a big draw, as are other popular attractions such as Universal Studios, Sea World, Busch Gardens, Legoland, Aquatica and Discovery Cove.

Other unique experiences, to name a few, include wrestling an alligator at Gatorland, gliding through the Everglades aboard an airboat and soaring sky-high on the world's tallest swing, the Orlando StarFlyer.



Gatorland, Orlando's oldest attraction



Boggy Creek Airboat Adventures



Photos courtesy of Visit Florida

Orlando's mild spring temperatures make April and May an ideal time to visit.

For More INFORMATION
skateisi.org/springclassic
rdviceden.com
visitflorida.com

Tip: Download the Visit Orlando app, available in Apple app and Google Play stores, for the latest news and savings on the city's attractions.

AT NEW ISI NATIONAL EVENT!



Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament



Sealife Orlando



Orlando StarFlyer

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by Robyn Bentley, ISIAEF president

Congratulations to the 2020 ISIA Education Foundation (ISIAEF) scholarship recipients!



Lillian Schaefer | Southborough, Massachusetts

Home Rink: ISI member and coach at Valley Sports Arena in Concord, Mass., and Sharper Edge Skating School, in Acton, Mass.

High School: Algonquin Regional High School

College: University of Massachusetts, Amherst

ISI Level: FS 7, Dance 5, Figure 5, Couples 3, Gold Judge

ISI National Competitions: Worlds 2010, 2011, 2018, Synchro 2014, Conference Champs 2009 and 2015

District Championships: 2008-2010, 2012-14, 2017-18

Honors & Awards: Dean’s List, Principal’s List, Mark Fiderych Foundation Citizen Award, Coaches Award

Clubs/Activities: Varsity Cheerleading, Varsity Track & Field, Best Buddies, Relay for Life

Lily Says: “I can’t remember a day in my life when I wasn’t skating. At just 1 year old, I took my first steps on the ice and before I knew it, I was competing in my first Districts at just 4 years old. I’ve had the opportunity to volunteer at a special needs learn to skate program because of skating. With this program I discovered my passion for working with special needs children. Without skating, I never would have been introduced to the program that influenced my career path.”



Kaylee Bragg | Denton, Texas

Home Rink: Children’s Health StarCenter, Farmers Branch, Texas, and Galleria Ice Skating Center, Dallas

High School: Guyer High School

College: University of North Texas

ISI Level: Platinum

ISI National Competitions: Worlds 2012-18, Holiday Challenge 2015, Winter Classic 2018

District Championships: 2012-18

Honors & Awards: 2018 ISI Good Sport Award, National Honor Society, Honor Roll

Clubs/Activities: Varsity Tennis and leadership positions in High School Student Council (STUCO), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Interact Club/Rotary International.

Kaylee Says: “As I have gotten older, I have continued to learn more about what it means to be an ISI skater. It means to be humble when you win, gracious when you lose, graceful when you fail, and so much more. I know I would not have become the person I am today without skating in my life. I was taught by the sport to have grace when I fall, courage when I am scared and balance when life is at its tipping point. I also was given great coaches that supported me not only in my skating but also in my life overall.”

The 2021 scholarship recipients will be announced in the spring. Scholarship applications and details for the 2022-23 academic year will be posted on the ISIAEF website (isiafoundation.org) in the fall (2021). If you have specific questions regarding the scholarship process, please email scholarships@isiafoundation.org.

The ISIAEF *thanks* the following donors
for their 2020 contributions to the scholarship program:

Accent Refrigeration Systems

Barbara Wietecter (in memory of Boyd Wietecter)

Christine Wilson-Brinton

Christos Geatrakas

Jean Albrightson (in honor of ISIAEF Past President Donald Bartelson)

Scott Williams (in memory of Brian Wright)

"Many thanks to those who have supported us through AmazonSmile. We know there has been a lot of online shopping this year!

Your support is greatly appreciated. If you don't already have us listed as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile, please visit smile.amazon.com and select the ISIA Education Foundation as your charity of choice — every little bit counts!"

Robyn Bentley, ISIAEF President



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www.isiafoundation.org

The Foundation welcomes contributions in any amount, whether made periodically as part of an extended pledge, or on a one-time basis.

A tax-deductible contribution to the ISIA Education Foundation in honor or in memory of a loved one makes a wonderful gift.

Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$200,000 in academic scholarships to deserving "skating scholars" who have demonstrated excellence both on and off the ice.



2020ne ISI World Recreational Team Championships

July 26-31, 2021

NSC Super Rink
Blaine, MN

Test & Entry Deadline: May 7
skateisi.org/worlds



Minneapolis city skyline

Skate Your True North at 2020ne ISI Worlds!



Mall of America



National Sports Center (NSC) Super Rink



U.S. Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings. Stadium tours available.

Photos courtesy of Explore Minnesota and the NSC Super Rink.

by Eileen Viglione

Join us July 26-31 at the National Sports Center (NSC) Super Rink in Blaine, Minn., for ISI's premier annual competition: World Recreational Team Championships. This five-day event consistently delivers worlds of fun for skaters of all ages — from tots to senior adults — and abilities. So start making plans now to be a part of the ISI Worlds excitement and camaraderie!

THE EVENT

"ISI Worlds is open to all skaters who are interested in competing in a fun and friendly environment," says Skating Programs & National Events Director Kim Hansen. "Competitors hail from all parts of the United States and several foreign countries, and they have the opportunity to compete in 25 event categories for individuals, partners, groups and teams."

The more points a skater accumulates for their team the greater chance they all have of earning medals and capturing first place. The team with the most collective points goes home with the Michael Booker Trophy, named for the British figure skating champion, former ISI president and famed coach.

Highlights of ISI Worlds:

- **Competitors' Party**, at a fun venue, for skaters and their families. Watch the ISI website (skateisi.org/worlds) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details coming soon.
- **ISI Benefit Show** featuring a soon-to-be-announced celebrity guest skater and talented Worlds skaters selected throughout the week as well as winners of the "Skate with the Stars" raffle drawing sponsored by the ISIA Education Foundation.
- **Skater Clinics** led by accomplished skaters, coaches and/or choreographers at an affordable price — a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Keep an eye on the ISI website (skateisi.org/worlds) and social media for information to be announced shortly.

THE VENUE

The Super Rink is the largest ice arena complex in the world! Showcasing eight sheets of ice (four Olympic size and four NHL size rinks), the 300,000 square foot facility attracts nearly 2 million visitors each year. It features a dance and fitness studio for figure skaters, a massive hockey training and weightlifting center, 32 locker rooms and the Hat Trick Café. The rink is part of the National Sport Center (NSC), one of the biggest amateur sports facilities in the world, which also includes 50 athletic fields, a stadium, welcome center, sports expo center, golf course, sports hall, velodrome (cycling track) and residence hall.



THE LOCATION

Blaine is located just 12 miles north of downtown Minneapolis, the largest city in Minnesota and well known for delivering tons of amusement. More than 18 million visitors flock there each year to enjoy its outdoor adventure, including many lakes; sporting events; museums; theatres; art galleries; retail shops and fabulous restaurants. The Mall of America in nearby Bloomington is one of the top tourist spots in the country and offers 520 shops, a theme park with over 28 rides, an aquarium, escape room, mirror maze, adventure course, 5D virtual reality attraction, miniature golf, bowling and more. New and exciting adventures are always being added!

THE MINNESOTA VIBE

Minnesotans have a reputation of being polite and helpful, popularly referred to as "Minnesota nice." In 2019, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Minnesota No. 3 on its list of "Best States" and WalletHub cited it the third "Happiest State in America." Plus, Stuffed Suitcase rated Minneapolis as one of the "Top 10 Best Family Vacation Spots in the United States for 2020" — making ISI Worlds a great opportunity to combine your love of skating with an enjoyable getaway!

Cool Stuff to Know

All of these items were invented in Minnesota:

Water Skis
Stapler
Scotch Tape
Wheaties Cereal
Automatic Pop-Up Toaster
Rollerblades
Snickers

Source: Coolkidfacts.com

As a Matter of Fact

Minnesota is named after the Sioux words "minni" (meaning water) and "sotah" (meaning sky-tinted or cloudy). It's often known as The North Star State, The Gopher State and The Land of 10,000 Lakes. (It actually has more than 11,000 lakes of 10 acres or more!). Its capital is St. Paul.

Source: Coolkidfacts.com

More Info

skateisi.org/worlds
nscsports.org
exploreminnesota.com

STAY TUNED

Watch for important Worlds updates on the ISI website at skateisi.org, and follow us on:



@SkateISI



SkateISI — Ice Sports Industry



@SkatingISI

2020 ISI SOUTHWEST CHAMPS



ICE at The Parks Crowned Overall Team Champion

ICE at The Parks Skating Director Caroline Baker, center, and coaches Olivia Langston, left, and Julie Stahl, right, accept the Overall Team Champion banner on behalf of their skaters.

Despite COVID-19 safety measures in place and having been rescheduled due to a mechanical issue at the host rink, the 2020 ISI Southwest Championships went off without a hitch!

Almost 200 skaters from six states and 14 rinks (many participating in their first competition since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic) were excited to skate in the friendly competition held Jan. 8-10 at ICE at The Parks in Arlington, Texas.

“Skaters were so excited to be back on the ice,” said ISI National Skating Programs & National Events Director Kim Hansen. “I heard from a mom who was so thankful that we didn’t cancel the event because her girls were eager to get back to competition and travel. The mom told me that she was getting texts from other skater parents, asking if she felt safe at the event. She told them that she was comfortable and felt safe — that the organizers were being cautious.

“In every case, people were wearing masks unless they were posing for a photo; everyone was compliant and respectful of the rules, and the rink knocked it out of the park. The staff was unbelievably helpful and made sure that everyone was safe.”

ICE at The Parks Skating Director Caroline Baker thought the fun event went extremely well. “Everyone behaved themselves,” she said. “At times when I would look out in the lobby area closest to the rink, I saw that there weren’t a lot of people hanging around; people were listening — doing their events and leaving. I haven’t heard, knock on wood, of any COVID issues and didn’t hear any complaints from coaches or parents.”

“Safety first” was the key to the competition’s success, according to Baker. “Masks were required and social distancing was practiced. We had a lot of signage all over the rink reminding people to wear masks, and we were cleaning surfaces frequently. It was a matter of having staff perform constant cleaning as well as participants wearing their masks and not acting as if the requirement didn’t apply to them.” Small paper bags were also provided so skaters could put their masks in them and hand over to their coaches to hold while they took to the ice.



WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH!

Photos by Gabriele Photography



States represented: California, Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas



Oldest Male & Female Skaters: Ben Case, 63, ICE at The Parks - Arlington, TX and Lynette Porter, 59, Children's Health StarCenter - Farmers Branch, TX



Teams Traveling from Farthest Distance: Vacaville Ice Sports, Vacaville, Calif. (1,446 miles); Skatetown Ice Arena, Roseville, Calif. (1,413 miles)



@SkateISI

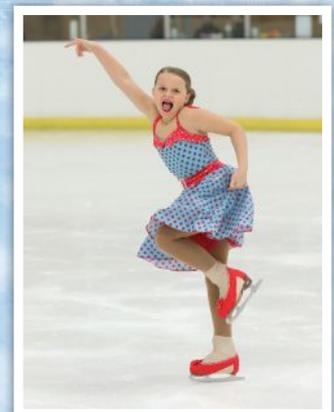
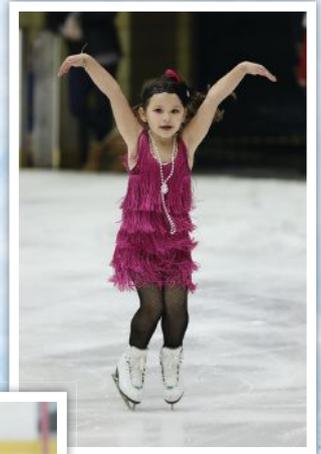
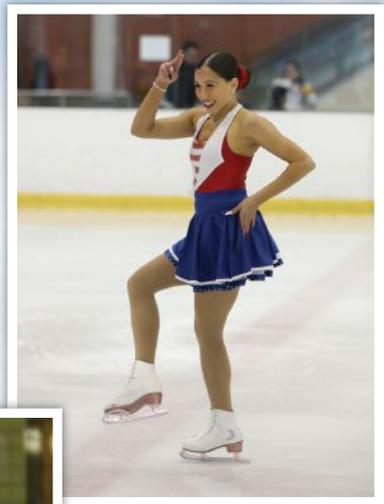


SkateISI — Ice Sports Industry



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2020 ISI SOUTHWEST CHAMPS



Twizzle's Twins & Triplets



Reina and Rika Rock the Ice!

We are looking for ISI skating twins and triplets to share their experiences on the ice. If this sounds like you, please email editor@skateisi.org for more information.



Identical twins Reina and Rika Frenkel skate out of Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center in San Francisco. The ISI Freestyle 3 skaters will celebrate their 12th birthdays this year.

The sisters were fortunate to get some ice time from June through early December, before their rink was shut down temporarily again due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“They have been working very hard on their skills with their new coach, Michael Chack,” said their mom, Farah. “They have made progress with their skills, but our last test passed for ISI is still Freestyle 3 since we haven’t been able to do any testing.”

The girls competed in the ISI District 14 Skate at the Lake Championship in June 2019 in Southlake Tahoe and at Yerba Buena’s ISI-endorsed Haunted In-House competition in October 2019.

Reina and Rika are also a part of the San Francisco Ice Theatre team headed to U.S. Figure Skating’s 2021 National Theatre on Ice Competition in June in Wichita, Kansas, and plan to participate in the ISI Holiday Theatrical Challenge Dec. 3-5 at California’s Iceoplex Simi Valley.

Reina's FAVES

Move: Lutz

Music to Skate to: Today's hits & Disney movie songs

Skater to Watch: Alysa Liu

Food: Loco Moco

Place to Visit: Hawaii

School Subject: Math

Also loves jumps, spins and choreography

Reina Says: “I enjoy ice skating because it is a fun, competitive sport. It also makes me calm. I enjoy performing at competitions with my sister.”

Rika's FAVES

Move: Back Spin

Music to Skate to: Pop & Disney movie songs

Skater to Watch: Mirai Nagasu

Food: Dim Sum Dumplings

Place to Visit: Hawaii

School Subject: Reading

Also loves learning new jumps and seeing new friends at the rink.

Rika Says: “I like skating because it allows me to be creative, and it makes me calm. I like participating in ISI competitions because I can show my personality in my program.”





My Coach ROCKS!

Does your ISI coach rock? Please send a short essay (about 75 words or less) telling us why, along with a high-resolution photo, to editor@skateisi.org. We'll run it in an upcoming issue of *Recreational Ice Skating* magazine. Note: Essays must be written by skaters (not their parents). Skaters and coaches must be current ISI members.

Lillian (Lily) Schaefer

“ I love skating with Lily because she is so kind and helpful. She tells me how to fix things I'm not doing right. She helps me be a better skater. ”

**Gabriella Mailhot, 8, Gamma
Sharper Edge Skating School
Concord, Mass.**



Gabriella Mailhot, 8, with her “kind and helpful” coach, Lily Schaefer



Isabella Sommer, at age 7, with her “kind coach,” Brianna Weissmann

Brianna Weissmann

“ My coach rocks because she's kind and motivates me to always improve. She taught me my Axel, and she loves cats just like me! She is the best coach in the world. ”

**Isabella Sommer, 9, ISI FS Silver, USFS Pre-Preliminary
Toyota Sports Center
El Segundo, Calif.**



Gemma, at age 6, with her beloved coaches, Georgia and Sarah Fuller

Georgia and Sarah Fuller

“ My coaches rock because they both work so hard to teach me on the ice and off the ice. Mrs. Georgia and Ms. Sarah give me tons of knowledge, love and encouragement to be a great person and a great skater. ”

Gemma Ladd, 9, FS 4
Tampa Bay Skating Academy (TBSA) Oldsmar
Oldsmar, Fla.

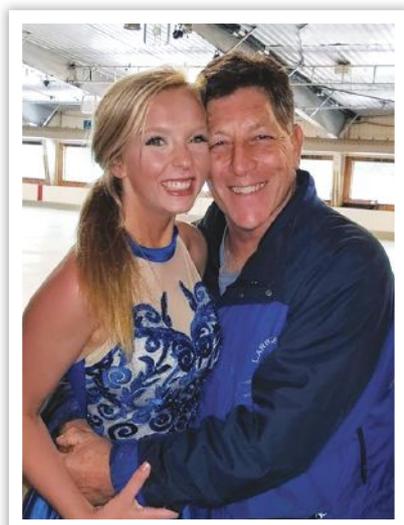
Maida Laird

“ My coach, Maida Laird, rocks because she is funny and works really hard. She is always there for me and encourages me to try my best. She is the best coach ever! ”

Alana Van Es, 11, FS 5
Tampa Bay Skating Academy (TBSA) Countryside
Clearwater, Fla.



Alana Van Es, at age 9, with her “funny coach,” Maida Laird

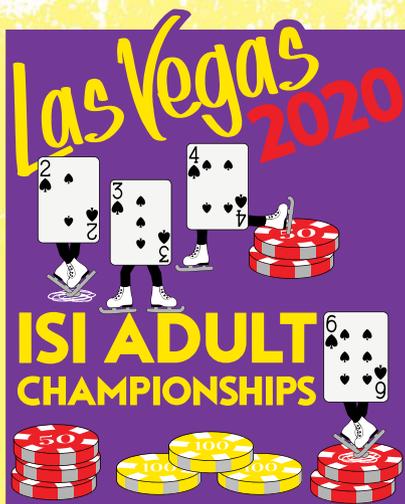


Kendal Patty feels blessed to have Larry LaBorde as her coach.

Larry LaBorde

“ I have been skating for 14 years and have been blessed to have Larry LaBorde as my coach for the last 10 years. Larry never fails to make early morning practices that are before school, full of laughter and educational learning. I am so glad to have Larry as my coach because he takes the sport seriously and makes it fun. Larry is my pairs, freestyle and dance coach. He makes me love ice skating even more. Over the years, I have learned many things including how to correctly do turns, pair lifts and dance patterns as well as how to appreciate the sport and all of the friends I have made with it. I couldn’t ask for a better coach. Larry LaBorde, you rock! ”

Kendal Patty, 18, FS 6, Pairs 6, Dance 9
Ice Chalet
Knoxville, Tenn.



2020ne ISI Adult Championships

Oct. 8-10, 2021

Las Vegas Ice Center
Las Vegas, NV

Test & Entry Deadline: Sept. 1
skateisi.org/adultchamps

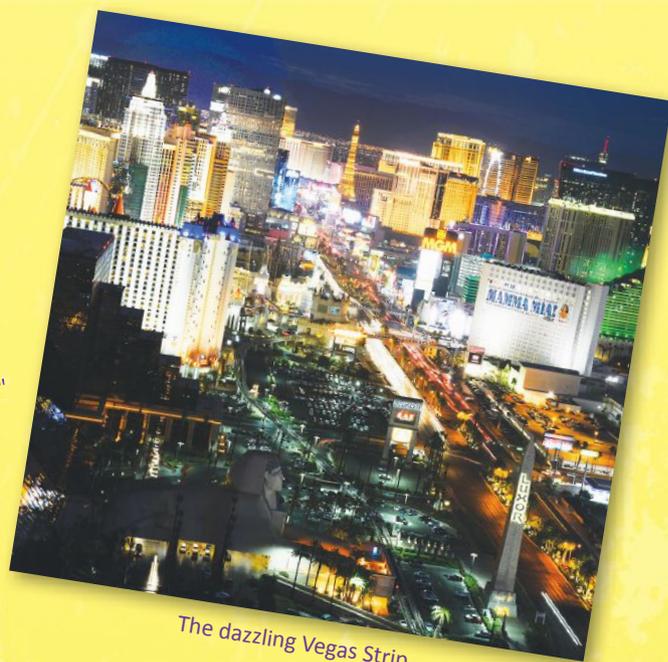
ISI ADULT CHAMPS BOUND FOR ULTIMATE PLAYGROUND - Vegas

by Eileen Viglione

"Everything and anything you want to do, you can do it in Las Vegas" — and that includes competing in the 2020ne ISI Adult Championships, Oct. 8-10 at the Las Vegas Ice Center! The 22nd annual event gives skaters 18 years of age and older the chance to experience the thrill of skating and competing with other adults from across the country as well as the unique opportunity to bond with others whom share a similar love of the sport. Test and entry deadline is Sept. 1.



Welcome to Las Vegas — the "Entertainment Capital of the World!"



The dazzling Vegas Strip

"YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, BUT YOU CAN GO TO VEGAS AND THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING."
~ ANONYMOUS

THE EVENT

As with all ISI national competitions, Adult Champs offers a full range of ISI individual, partner and team events, and it is open to all skill levels and categories, including Open Freestyle.

THE VENUE

Located at the intersection of W. Flamingo Rd. and S. Fort Apache Rd., about 7 miles from the Las Vegas Strip, the Las Vegas Ice Center offers two sheets of ice — the North Rink and the South Rink. It also features both a full-service snack bar and pro shop, eight locker rooms and Brooks's Bar & Grill, which is attached to the facility and serves up an extensive menu and a fabulous view of the North Rink.



Las Vegas Ice Center



One of two ice sheets

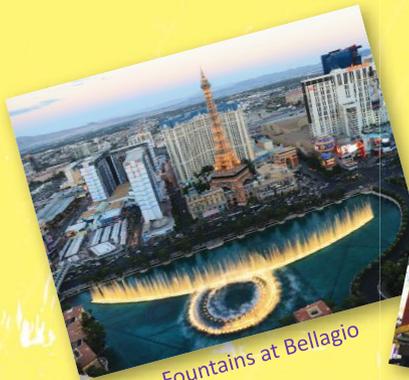


Pro shop

THE LOCATION

Many competitors plan their vacations around this event, and this year's destination is sure to offer plenty of "big-kid" fun in the city widely known as the ultimate playground for adults: Las Vegas!

The 2.5 mile long section of Las Vegas Boulevard, known as the Strip, is home to many luxury hotels, elaborate casinos, fun amusement attractions, fascinating entertainment options, interesting museums, excellent restaurants and so much more.



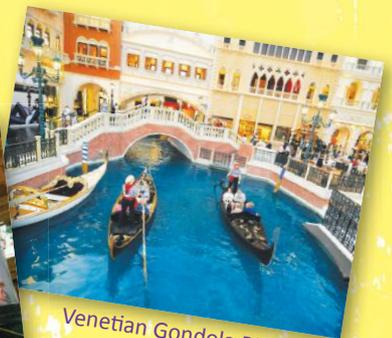
Fountains at Bellagio



SlotZilla



The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace



Venetian Gondola Rides



The Linq High Roller

**"VEGAS IS THE ANSWER, NO MATTER THE QUESTION."
- ANONYMOUS**

**AVERAGE
OCTOBER
TEMP
83
DEGREES**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

skateisi.org/adultchamps

lasvegasice.com

visitlasvegas.com



Golden Skater

Golden skaters are ISI jewels! If you are an ISI skater age 65 or older, we are interested in featuring you in the pages of *Recreational Ice Skating* magazine. We want to share your inspirational skating story! Contact editor@skateisi.org or mail to ATTN: Editor, ISI, 6000 Custer Rd., Bldg. 9, Plano, TX 75023. Don't forget to include your phone number.

by Eileen Viglione

73-Year-old *Marsha Stout* Making Up for Lost Time!

As a young girl, toiling away scrubbing floors in an orphanage, Marsha Stout never dreamed she would some day, in the latter years of her life, be soaring across the ice without a single care in the world, fully consumed by unbridled joy.

Today, at age 73, the ISI skater is making up for her tragic childhood and all the lost time of simply being a happy-go-lucky kid. "It is the reason why I enjoy everything I do," she said. "Skating is a wonderful activity, and I've embraced it 500 percent!"

Early Years

Growing up in a lower, middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles in the 1950s, Marsha's only form of recreation was running around barefoot in the streets. After both her parents died at a young age, she lived in foster homes before she was placed in an orphanage, or "institutionalized," as she called it.

"At the orphanage, we had no opportunities for sports or any other recreation and little knowledge of the outside world," she said. "I didn't even know there was such a thing as skating rinks. After school, it was chores, chores, chores — worse than what you see in [Little Orphan] Annie."

Corporal punishment was standard practice. "They would beat the kids," she said. "They used to not give us enough to eat and bribe us by withholding meals. It's what I had to go through. I'm sure there's people who've had it worse though."

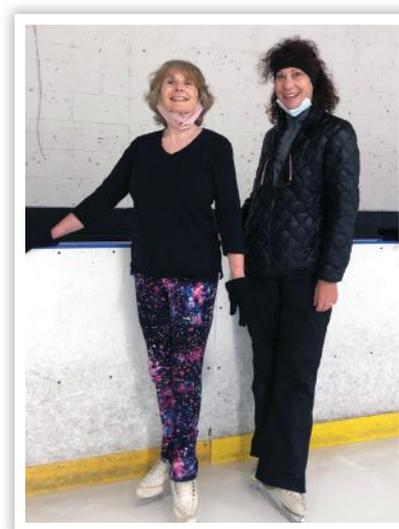
At the age of 19, Marsha got married, then had two children, completed college and became a high school teacher, instructing students in French and English. She later divorced and remarried.

Michelle Kwan

Fast forward to the 1990s, when her husband was watching sports on the television. "He called me over to see some child doing amazing things on the ice," said Marsha. "It was the first time I had seen real ice skating, and I couldn't believe my eyes! She looked like she was flying! It was 12-year-old Michelle Kwan; I thought to myself that some day I might want to try that."

Later, when Marsha's children were grown, she was helping care for her elderly mother-in-law, and then her husband passed away from Cancer. After she received her Medicare and Social Security benefits at age 66, her thoughts drifted back to the magical images of Kwan gliding on ice, and she decided it was her time to shine.

She called a rink 15 miles from her home, only to discover that the facility was closing in two weeks. She didn't let that



Marsha with coach Aimee Kravette

Putting Her Foot Down

Her Ice Skates: Edea Ice Fly to the tune of \$1,000. "My \$100 skates lasted me a year and a half," said Marsha. "I should have 11 years left to go with my new skates — that'll take me to 85!"

deter her; she immediately contacted another rink, 30 minutes farther — Toyota Sports Center. “I didn’t dare give them my age,” she said. “They told me that I had to wait until April because they had already started the winter session. I checked off days on a calendar like a kid waiting for Christmas!”

Finally, at 66 years old, she began her first class in an eight-week adult session. “There were 12 students, ages 16 to 24, and there I was, 66,” she said. “I could have been their grandmother. I had no aspirations of getting anywhere with it — it was just a challenge. I wanted to learn how to get from one side to the other without falling. Despite that I was older than everyone else, I went faster than they did, and I was the only one continuing on.”



Photos by Deb Wilker

Los Angeles (LA) Kings Valley Ice Center

Marsha began skating at Los Angeles (LA) Kings Valley Ice Center in Panorama City, Calif., in 2014. “They have adult classes and let any age take children’s classes; they group skaters by level rather than age,” she said. “I am definitely a product of ISI group lessons, aka skating school.”

“We have a fabulous skating school, called Valley Edge Skating School, administered by terrific coaches, Janet Lee and Donna Hensley, and with classes offered three days a week for ages Tots through ‘Marsha,’ including a new Parent and Me class. There are classes for every level including beyond Axel.”

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of rinks, Marsha was taking four 30-minute classes on Saturdays: Power Skating, Advanced Adults, Advanced Intermediate and Transitions. On Tuesdays, she took a one-hour Figures class.

“For the past year, my coach has been the one and only, energetic, positive, supportive, encouraging and overall awesome Aimee Kravette,” she said. “I started testing in 2019 and have done several ISI competitions at my rink, competing in Freestyle 1 and Open Freestyle Bronze, and will do Freestyle 2 in June. I also have begun U. S Figure Skating and recently competed in Adult Pre-Bronze Freeskate.”

“My goal is to work toward advancing as long as I can, and then, when I can’t advance, to just enjoy it for fun. I hope I have another three to four years to work toward advancing!”

Marsha’s favorite part about skating? “The camaraderie with older adults and the vibrant adult skating community,” she said. “Adult session-only is my favorite thing. I love the adult people, each one with their own backgrounds, and all supportive of each other.”

“Also, I just love that feeling of flying — when you can just glide easily across the ice and go fast. It’s just such a lovely feeling. Also, when a person is skating, they are usually not thinking about anything else because you have to focus or you will trip. Whatever stuff is going on, it’s like an escape from that. While on the ice, you just focus on the pure joy of skating. I just love it. It’s a healthy physical and mental activity — I can’t think of anything better for your brain and body!”

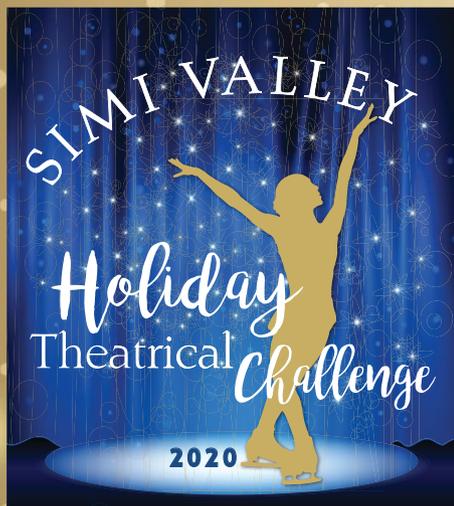


brinston photography

As part of the Valley Edge Skating School’s Jr. Theatre on Ice team, Marsha skated the role of Captain Hook in the group’s Peter Pan production at three ISI competitions in 2017. Team members ranged in ages from 5 to “Marsha.”

When You are Inspired, You Inspire Others!

“Here’s what’s happened since skating,” said Marsha. “Everywhere I go, people say to me: ‘You inspired me; I took classes because of you.’ Up until she died, Yvonne Dowlen was getting on a plane and flying all over the U.S. for adult competitions. Before I started competing, I used to enjoy going and watching competitions. I just started competing in 2019. I had attended a competition as a spectator in Pasadena, Calif., and she was there. I had looked her up and knew who she was. After she got off the ice, I went up to her and told her how inspired I was by her. I told her a little bit of my story, and she told me a lot of hers. She said, ‘Marsha, you inspire *me*. If you’re ever in the area of Colorado Springs (she gave me her phone and address), come visit and we’ll go ice skating.’ She passed away, and I never got to skate with her.”



2020ne ISI Holiday Theatrical Challenge

Dec. 3-5, 2021

Iceoplex Simi Valley
Simi Valley, CA

Test & Entry Deadline: Oct. 15
skateisi.org/holidaychallenge

Get Your “Show Skates On” in California’s

by Eileen Viglione

The Event

The 2020ne ISI Holiday Theatrical Challenge, scheduled Dec. 3-5, will give skaters the unique opportunity to enter the ice through a show curtain and perform under professional show lighting in several non-technical events, such as Artistic, Spotlight, Rhythmic, Ensemble, Production, to name a few. It will also enable skaters the opportunity to perfect their holiday programs. Technical events like Couples, Dance, Figures, Jump & Spin, Pairs, Solo and Team Compulsories, Stroking and Synchronized Team Skating will be offered as usual and skated under normal house lights.

The Venue

Iceoplex Simi Valley offers two sheets of ice (Olympic and NHL size) and provides instruction in figure skating, hockey, off-ice strength training and agility, curling, speed skating, synchronized skating and ice theater. It serves as a training center for various hockey organizations as well.

The Location

Surrounded by the Santa Susana Mountain range and the Simi Hills, just 40 miles northwest of down Los Angeles, Simi Valley is close to Southern California’s most popular attractions. It’s also near three airports — Los Angeles International Airport, Van Nuys Airport and Hollywood Burbank Airport — making it a convenient travel destination. It enjoys a mild climate year round, with sunny skies 277 days of the year!



California palm trees



Santa Monica Pier

See It In Simi

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

At the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, nestled atop a mountain with beautiful views, you can walk aboard Air Force One, see a replica of the Oval Office, act in a movie with the late President Reagan and so much more!

Visit reaganlibrary.gov



Walk on board Air Force One at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Grandma Prisbey's Bottle Village

In 1956, "Grandma" Tressa Prisbrey began transforming her property into Bottle Village, a magical fantasyland, with walkways, wishing wells, buildings and sculptures made from recycled items and glass. It's included in the National Registry of Historic Places. Visit bottlevillage.com

Santa Susana Depot Museum and Model Railroad

At the Santa Susana Depot Museum and Model Railroad, a restored 1903 Southern Pacific Railroad depot, you'll be fascinated by the large model railroad portraying Simi Valley during the 1950s. You'll also get a glimpse of real freight and passenger trains whizzing by the station. Visit santasusannadepot.org

Simi Valley!

Skateboarding Hall of Fame and Museum

More than 5,000 vintage skateboards, scooters and skateboarding memorabilia are on display at the Skateboarding Hall of Fame and Museum. It's open daily and admission is free.

Visit skateboardinghalloffame.org



Malibu Beach



Getty Museum Central Garden

Photo by Jim Duggan/J. Paul Getty Trust



Santa Monica Pier at Night

Photos courtesy of Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board

Nearby Attractions

Universal Studios Hollywood

Six Flags Magic Mountain

The J. Paul Getty Museum and the Getty Villa

Hollywood Boulevard

Los Angeles Zoo

Santa Barbara Zoo

For Fun in the Snow — Mountain High

For Fun in the Sand — Ventura, Malibu & Santa Monica Beaches

More Information

skateisi.org/holidaychallenge | visitsimivalley.com | visitcalifornia.com

Flip 'n' Fun...

CREATE YOUR OWN SAFETY PIN ICE SKATE!



This project is adorable and easy to make! You can attach it to your skate bag or give it to a skating friend as a gift.

EDITOR'S NOTE: San Diego Figure Skating Club members from Ice-Plex Escondido in Escondido, Calif., gathered prior to the COVID-19 health crisis to create these fun skate pins. Sadly, the rink closed its doors for good in July, but the team is fortunate to have found a new home at San Diego Ice Arena. Many thanks for the skaters' eagerness to participate in this fun project!



HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 2 large, 2-inch safety pins
- Felt (any color you'd like)
- Needle
- Yarn (for laces)
- Hot glue gun or tacky glue
- Pencil, pen or marker
- Sequins (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make a Pattern: Using a pencil, pen or marker, draw a skate boot on a piece of cardstock and cut it out.



Adventures & Activities

2. Fold a piece of felt in half, place the skate pattern on the felt and trace it. Be sure the bottom edge of the boot is at the folded seam. Next, cut out your skate (keeping the folded seam intact).



3. Using pencil, pen or marker, mark five dots where the laces will go.



4. Attach a safety pin at bottom of skate.

5. Thread the yarn onto the needle, then lace the skates.



6. Glue the inside edges of skate boot together. (If you wish, add some “bling” — sparkly sequins — to the front of our skate!)



7. Tie the laces, add a safety pin to the back and attach to your skate bag. (If you prefer, leave the laces untied so you can hang your creation anywhere you choose.)



San Diego Figure Skating Club members, from left, front row: Jacob Keele, Grace Toyne and Makenzie Cotter. Back row: Isabella (Bella) Varela, Makaylah Maxfield, Coach Connie Turner, Kinley Toyne and Broderick Cotter.





Stay Informed on ISI News & Events in Your Area!

Visit Your ISI District Website

ISI member rinks are divided geographically by districts. Each district has a website to help skaters and coaches stay informed on news and events in their area.

Find your ISI district below, then check out your district website at skateisi.org/districtwebsites



ISI Districts

District 1

Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

District 2/3

Connecticut, New York, Northern New Jersey

District 4

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Southern New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia

District 5/18

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

District 6/7

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania

District 8/9

Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Milwaukee Metropolitan Area

District 10

Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

District 11

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

District 12

Colorado, Wyoming

District 13/14

Idaho, Montana, Northern California, Northern Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah

District 15

Arizona, Hawaii, Southern California, Southern Nevada

District 16

Alaska

parents' page

Raising a Healthy Skater: Tips for Parents

Parenting has never been an easy job, and now with many of us working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while also juggling our children's schooling, the role has become increasingly difficult.

In any given year, "pre-pandemic," we've all seen extremes of over- or under-parenting, both of which are not good for children, and sporting events seem to bring out the worst in some parents.

As we continue to navigate the new year and cope with various stressors, including health fears, economic hardship, disrupted routines, social isolation and more, it's crucial to remember that our children are struggling as well; they need our patience, understanding and a little extra tender loving care (TLC).



••• Children's Sports

Well-intentioned parents want what is best for their children, and what children, of all ages, need is love and support from their parents. To that end, we all need to remember that our children's sports belong to our children. Sporting activities are for the education and entertainment of the kids and are supposed to be fun.

Parents with children involved in any sporting activity, in our case ice skating, need to make sure their children know that they are loved — win or lose. Praise them for their efforts and let them know you're not *disappointed* if they fall. There's always a next time and opportunities to practice and improve. Through ice skating, we're building skills, self-confidence, self-esteem and physical fitness, and teaching self-discipline, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Every child needs to know that he or she has someone to count on for love and support, no matter what, and parents should fill that role. The number one question for parents to ask about any competition, exhibition, lesson or practice is, "Did you have fun?"

Sometimes it's difficult for parents to be honest with themselves about their child's athletic abilities, competitiveness, sportsmanship or level of skill. Not many children are future Olympians, and parents should be mindful not to impose their ambitions on their children. Remember that skating is your child's activity, and each must progress at his or her rate. Neither you nor your child should judge progress based on what others have done or are doing. Leave the skills comparisons to the judges; that's their job. Parents should avoid pushing their children based on parental expectations.

••• Respect the Coach

The relationship between parents, their child and the child's coach is vital. This instructor helps to shape your child as a person. You need to know if you and the coach share values and ethics that will be passed on to the child, so get to know your child's instructor, but leave the coaching to your paid professional. Children resent being inundated with advice, pep talks or criticism. Don't try to teach them skating at the breakfast table, on the way to the rink, or from the stands.

Always respect the coach as a professional and don't criticize your child's coach in front of the child. The bond between a skater and coach contributes to the child's success as well as fun. Help your child to understand that participation in any sport requires discipline, rules and regulations, and they must learn to accept constructive criticism as a means of improving their efforts.

Remember that children tend to exaggerate reports of praise or criticism. Listen to the reports they bring home from the rink, but temper your reactions. If you have concerns, make an appointment to discuss them with the instructor.

••• Set a Positive Example

The highlight of skating for many students is participation in competitions, shows or exhibitions, but if your child is reluctant or fearful, do not push and do not try to live your life through your child. Do not yell or belittle a fearful child; acknowledge the child's fears and assure the child that his or her coach would not encourage participation if the child were not ready, and that you are there for the child. Teach your child that it takes courage to perform and that giving an honest effort, regardless of the outcome, is more important than winning. Help them to develop a healthy competitive attitude and joy in putting forth their best efforts.

When you attend a show or competition, you are there to be supportive of your child. Cheer, applaud and say only positive things. Set a positive example by not criticizing your child, other children, the coaches or judges. Teach your child to respect others by your example.

Skating promotes friendships and can be a lifetime sport filled with pleasure. Skating contributes to character and builds good people. Be happy your child wants to skate.

ISI-Endorsed Competitions and Shows & Exhibitions. For regular calendar events, see skateisi.org (Competitions, ISI-Endorsed Events)

Competitions

2021

March

5-7 Blaine MN
NSC Super Rink
Frosty Blades

5-7 Franklin Park IL
Franklin Park Ice Arena
District 8/9 Championships

6 Webster Groves MO
Webster Groves Ice Arena
Meet Me in St. Louis

6-7 Wasilla AK
The Brett Memorial Ice Arena
SkateFest

12-14 Jefferson City MO
Washington Park Ice Arena
Capital City Classics

14 Natick MA
FMC Ice Sports William L. Chase Arena
2021 Natick Competition

14 Arlington TX
ICE at The Parks
Spring In-House Competition

27-28 Ebensburg PA
North Central Recreation Center
2021 WinterFest Invitational

April

9-11 South St. Paul MN
Doug Woog Arena
Springtastic Classic

9-11 Soldotna AK
Soldotna Regional Sports Complex
25th Annual Riverskate ISI Team Competition

10 Johnstown PA
Virtual
WinterFest Virtual Invitational

17-18 Tacoma WA
Sprinker Recreation Center
33rd Annual ISI Spring Fever Team Competition

24-25 San Diego CA
San Diego Ice Arena
California State Games

30-May 2 Knoxville TN
Ice Chalet
The 52nd Annual Robert Unger ISI Competition



April 30-May 2
RDV Sportsplex Ice Den
Orlando FL

May

15-16 McKinney TX
Children's Health StarCenter McKinney
2021 ISI District 11 Championships

June

25-27 White Bear Lake MN
White Bear Lake Sports Center
Skate at the Lake

September

18-19 Arlington TX
ICE at The Parks
18th Annual ISI Open Competition

Shows & Exhibitions

2021

March

27 Wasilla AK
Menard Sports Center
Skating Around the World

April

22-24 Roseville MN
Roseville Skating Center
Cozy Up With A Book

23-25 Southgate MI
Southgate Ice Arena
The Award Goes To

23-25 Jefferson City MO
Washington Park Ice Arena
59th Annual Ice Show - Ice School

June

12 Arlington TX
ICE at The Parks
Summer Time

December

12 Arlington TX
ICE at The Parks
Holiday at The Parks

Rescheduled 2020 ISI National Events Now taking place in 2021!

July



2020ne ISI World Recreational Team Championships
July 26-31
NSC Super Rink
Blaine, MN

October



2020ne ISI Adult Champs
Oct. 8-10
Las Vegas Ice Center
Las Vegas, NV

December



2020ne ISI Holiday Theatrical Challenge
Dec. 3-5
Iceoplex Simi Valley
Simi Valley CA

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All Sales Final



April 30 - May 2

RDV Sportsplex Ice Den | Orlando, Florida

Test/Entry Deadline: March 26

A NEW ISI National Competition offering individual,
partnered and team events (including synchro!)

For information, contact ISI Skating Programs and National Events Director
Kim Hansen at khansen@skateisi.org

UPCOMING ISI National Events

We're **EXCITED** for skaters to get back on the ice at the following ISI national competitions in 2021!



2021 ISI Spring Classic

April 30-May 2, 2021
Test & Entry Deadline: March 26
RDV Sportsplex Ice Den
Orlando, FL



2020ne ISI World Recreational Team Championships

July 26-31, 2021
Test & Entry Deadline: May 7
NSC Super Rink
Blaine, MN

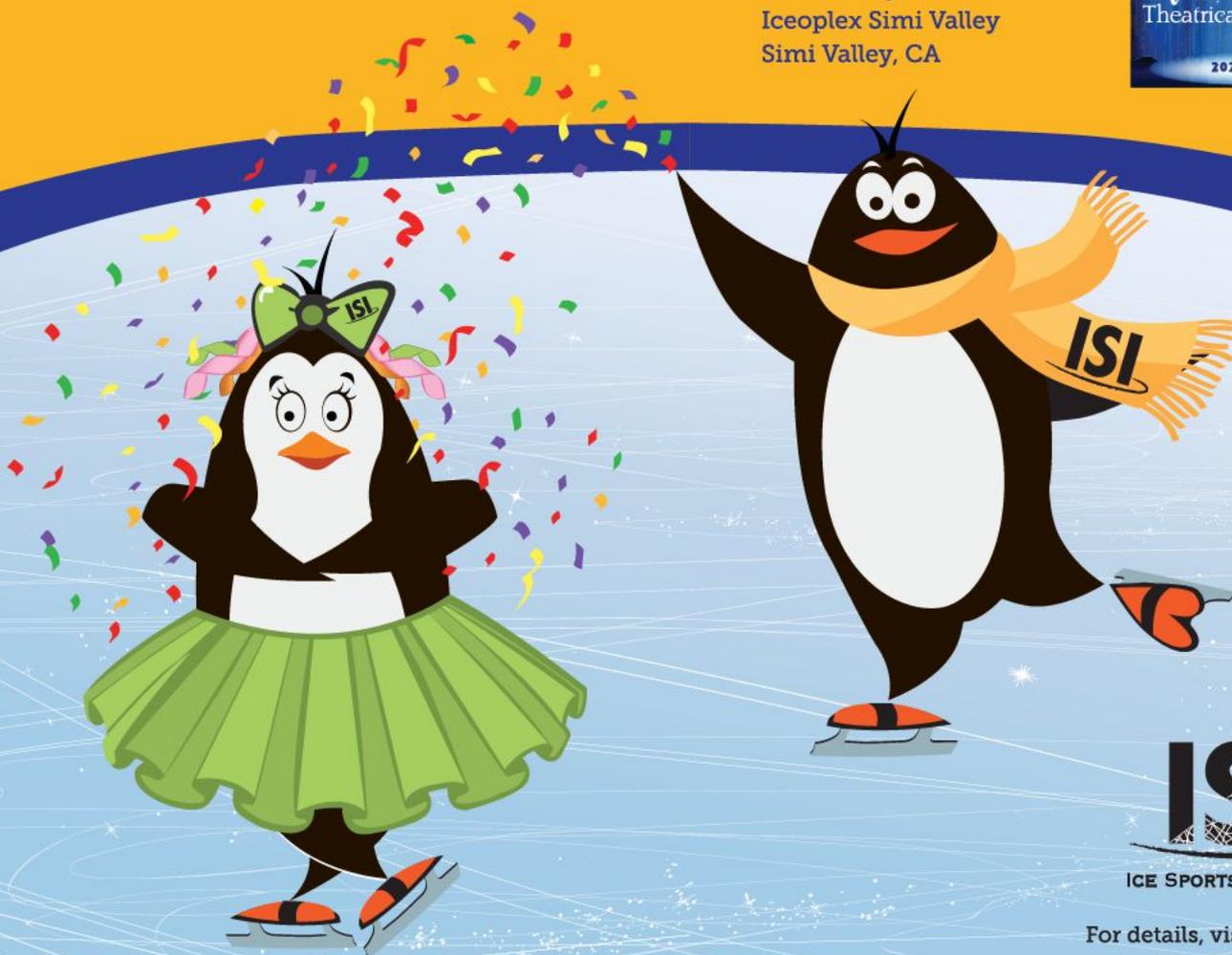
2020ne ISI Adult Championships

Oct. 8-10, 2021
Test & Entry Deadline: Sept. 1
Las Vegas Ice Center
Las Vegas, NV



2020ne ISI Holiday Theatrical Challenge

Dec. 3-5, 2021
Test & Entry Deadline: Oct. 15
Iceoplex Simi Valley
Simi Valley, CA



For details, visit skateisi.org