



2026 Ice Crystals Show HANDBOOK

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The Ice Crystals show provides skaters with an exciting performance experience. It gives our skaters a chance to shine in front of family and friends as they anticipate with nervous excitement. The show offers our skaters a professionally directed performance that allows them to present the results of months or years of hard work, dedication, and progress. A big part of the show training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem, self-assurance, and contributes to a sense of confidence.

Performance opportunities can contribute to children’s success in non-skating activities. That onstage/on-ice experience can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills. By working with their peers on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

Dedication to show commitments is the responsibility of both skaters and their parents/guardians. We have created this handbook in an effort to clarify what we expect from you in terms of commitments and responsibility to the annual show, the rink, and other skaters and families.

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DATES & INFORMATION

- **Registration Deadline:** December 1, 2025
- **For Learn to Skate members only:** Deadline to register is February 1, 2026
- **Kick Off Meeting:** (Tentative) February 2026 (Informational meeting, should be attended by one parent/guardian per participating skater)
- **Show Practices:** March - April 2026, Typically SUNDAY AFTERNOONS for Learn to Skate, Aspire, No Test to Senior Groups and Opening Numbers; other groups to be scheduled based on enrollment.
- **Show Picture Day:** Saturday in late March or early April, date and times TBD
- **Full Show Rehearsal:** April 26, 2026
- **Mandatory Dress Rehearsal (evening):** Friday, May 1, 2026
- **Ice Crystals MATINEE Performance:** SATURDAY, May 2 2026, 1:00 p.m.
- **Ice Crystals EVENING Performance:** SATURDAY, May 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

**** The schedule is subject to ice availability provided by NVO, and will be sent out mid February. Schedules will be communicated via weekly show emails. Practice ice is generally Saturdays and/or Sundays.**

THE SHOW

Two shows, 1 day! The show is expected to last about 2 hours, including a 15-minute intermission. One exciting part of Ice Crystals is our Guest Skater. Annually, we select a high-performing skater to be part of our show. They may be a former Olympian, Olympic hopeful or National medalist.

STAYING INFORMED

We work hard to make the show experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Our primary way of keeping you informed is through email, so please read all e-mail communication thoroughly. We answer email on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the show director at icecrystalshow@colonialfsc.com.

COSTUMES

DISTRIBUTION & CARE

We spend many hours determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age appropriate and of the highest quality possible. Costumes include all accessories, but do not include tights.

Costumes will be distributed in March before photo day during one of your skater's practices. To receive your child's costumes, all outstanding balances for the season must be paid in full.

We recommend that your child's name be placed in all costumes, accessories, and tights. Place costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. If your child has several costumes, a laundry basket is the easiest. Pack accessories in a clear plastic ziplock bag with your child's name on the bag and each item (if possible). Please do not wash costumes in your washing machine or iron any costumes. If costumes are severely wrinkled, it is possible that they can be steamed--always consult with your child's teacher before

steaming any costume. Remove any tags that could hang out of the costume or show through the costume fabric.

Many costumes come with headpieces or hats. We will determine how the headpieces will be worn and let you know this information when we distribute the costumes.

CHANGING COSTUMES DURING THE SHOW

Many skaters will be performing in several different routines in this year's show. Costume changing is always a bit scary for parents because they are not in the changing area with their child. However, with proper organization and planning, costume changes will run smoothly. When you arrive at the rink, please proceed to your assigned changing room.

DRESSING-ROOM ETIQUETTE

Skaters must respect other skaters' space and property in the dressing rooms. The skaters will spend more time in the dressing rooms than on the ice, so please do your best to keep them organized and clean. No food or drink is allowed in the dressing rooms.

ALTERATIONS

Although rare, alterations are sometimes needed after the costumes have been distributed and are the sole responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

SHOW MAKEUP

Makeup and hairstyle requirements will be communicated to each group prior to photo day. Skaters are responsible for providing their own makeup.

WITHDRAWALS

No refunds will be made if a parent or guardian withdraws a child from the Ice Crystals Show after costumes have been ordered and prior to show day. Parents or guardians may pick up purchased costumes at the rink at the time of general costume distribution and up to 15 days after the performance. Costumes not picked up after 15 days will be donated to charity.

PARENT MEETINGS

For many parents and skaters (especially if this is your 1st year) all this information can seem overwhelming. We would like everyone to approach the show with confidence and excitement. Therefore, in February we will be holding a parent meeting to make sure that all this information has been well received and understood. Parents of EVERY first year student are required to attend.

PRACTICES

Group number participants MUST ATTEND the last TWO scheduled rehearsals prior to the show dress rehearsal. Group number participants are allowed TWO (2) UNEXCUSED absences from show rehearsals. A third EXCUSED absence may be allowed at the group choreographer's discretion. Failure to adhere to the attendance policy may result in removal from the show and loss of registration fees.

VIDEO RECORDING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Please Note: No video or flash photography, including the use of cell phones, will be allowed in the rink at the show. Not only is it very distracting and potentially dangerous to the skaters, we will sell out both shows; people who have paid to see the show will not appreciate video cameras blocking their view of their skater.

VOLUNTEERS

The show needs an army of volunteers, before, during and after the show. Anyone interested in volunteering to help, whether in advance or during dress rehearsal and show day is welcome and appreciated! The show weekend is busy, and any help you can offer would be wonderful! Here are some things you can do to help out:

- Help during photo day
- Make decorations for the entryway and set
- Put up decorations the day before the show
- Collect tickets on show day
- Sell/distribute programs and flowers on show day
- Work the spotlights (dress rehearsal and during the show)
- Set up and supervise the cast party
- Take down decorations and clean up after the show
- Clean up after the cast party

Chaperones: We need chaperones to supervise each group during dress rehearsal and on show day. Chaperones must make sure that each child in their care is safe and accounted for. They are responsible for making sure that each child stays with his/her group, is in the proper costume, has the proper tights, and accessories, and is backstage at the appropriate time.

We also need many other volunteers to assist in jobs such as programs, flowers and merchandise sales, ticket sales, and help during photo day.

TICKETS & FEES

All spectators must have a ticket to watch the show. Tickets are available March 1st - May 2nd. We expect the show to sell out, so it is advisable to get your tickets early. If we sell out, we will not have any tickets available for sale at the door the day of the show.

SHOW PROGRAM BOOK

Our Show Program book is a great way to commemorate your skater's performance in the Ice Crystals Show! There will be color photos of all of the performers with their groups, photos and information about our guest skater, and special messages to skaters. It is a wonderful keepsake memory, and skaters can use it to collect autographs, including their friends, coaches and our Guest Skater. Program books are \$15.

You are also invited to send your "Message to a Skater!" Parents, friends and family members can send a personalized message to your skater, such as "Best of Luck to Sammi - We are so proud of you - Love, Auntie Em," or "Congratulations on your first Ice Show - from Nana." All messages are \$5 for up to 100 characters.

Lastly, we do have sponsorships and advertising opportunities available. If you want more information on these, please contact patty@colonialfsc.com

PICTURES

During picture day, **we will take pictures of each group to appear in the Show Program book.** Exact times will be communicated closer to the date, but expect all photos to be PRIOR to practices, and we will do the best we can with the schedule to ensure all skaters that are in multiple groups have time to change, and can be at their practices. Order forms will be available for parents/skaters to purchase group and individual photo packages.

DRESS REHEARSALS

The dress rehearsal allows the skaters to become familiar with the show and feel comfortable with their performance, costume(s), and being on the ice in the spotlight. Lighting, music, cues, costume changes and all other logistics are rehearsed so that the skaters make the best impression possible. **Participation in the dress rehearsal is mandatory.**

We try to run an organized and timely dress rehearsal; your help with the process will guarantee a professional production. Please arrive at least 15- 30 minutes prior to the dress rehearsal time.

Skaters should arrive in their first performance costume with hair and makeup just like it's show day. Skaters will sit in the first set of bleachers with their group and watch the show. Parents will sit in the middle set of bleachers. Dress Rehearsal is also the only opportunity for parents to video and/or take pictures. **No video or photography is allowed during the actual show.**

Skaters will be dismissed from rehearsal once they have completed all of their routines, including the finale. We will rehearse the finale between Acts I and II so that skaters who are not in Act II do not have to remain through the end of rehearsal

FINALE

The Finale is an exciting culmination of the show, where the whole cast is brought out onto the ice for a final celebratory performance. To properly highlight all of our skaters, we will have two Finale numbers. The Learn to Skate Finale will take place at the end of the first half of the show. Aspire and higher level skaters participate in the Finale at the end of the show. More information will be distributed once rehearsals are underway.