

# ICE SKATING

Welcome to the Westport Parks and Recreation **Ice Skating** program. This popular program is for children and adults who are interested in learning and improving their skating abilities and to have a great time outdoors.

## **COVID19 Safety & Health Measures:**

Our No. 1 priority is to keep our participants, guests, and staff healthy while providing exceptional instruction! To do this we are taking many steps to keep everyone safe. Remember we are all in this together and we need your help!

- Instruction will follow CDC, state and local protocols and guidelines
- Please do not attend if you're not feeling well or showing symptoms of any communicable disease.
- All customers are required to wear a face mask in Longshore Pavilion and have it available if a 6ft. distance is not able to be kept. All coaches are required to wear a mask on and off the ice.
- Rink capacity has been reduced under state guidelines.
- Small groups sizes will allow for 6ft. social distancing
- Only one (1) parent or guardian per program participant is allowed at the facility.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the facility.
- Distance markers are placed throughout the facility showing a 6ft. for social distancing. We ask that there be no gathering.

## ***Additional items that improve your experience and improve safety measures:***

- Skaters must use their own ski or snowboard helmet, water bottle, and winter clothing. No sharing.
- We ask that skaters come dressed for winter weather – prior to coming to the facility – with ski pants, warm jacket, gloves or mittens. Preparing for the skating lesson prior to your arrival will eliminate the need for using Longshore Pavilion with limited space.
- ***Please purchase skates to reduce the potential spread of COVID19. Blueline Pro Shop at the Darien Ice Rink or Pure Hockey in Norwalk are ideal places to purchase a well-fitting skate. Please no double runner skates, adjustable, or "ski-boot" type of skate. They must be lace-up for ideal learning. Add skate guards so each child can walk to the rink with their skates and be ready for their lesson.***
- Staff will be available at the Longshore Pavilion drop off loop to escort children to the rink for their lesson. Parents can drop and park.

## **GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Ice Skating program is open to all children and adults. **Instruction takes place at the Westport P.A.L. Rink at Longshore in Longshore Club Park.**

We offer figure skating instruction in the following categories:

- **Parent and Tot: ages 3 & 4**
- **Snowplow Sam 1 – 4: ages 4 & 5**
- **SUPER 1: ages 4 & 5**
- **Basic 1 – 8: ages 5+**
- **Bridge Program and Freestyle: ages 6 – 17**
- **Adult Learn to Skate: ages 18+**

The Westport Parks and Recreation Dept. follows the Learn to Skate USA Program. It is designed to keep skaters enthusiastic about learning from the time they begin lessons until the time they reach their goals. Whether they want to excel to compete or simply enjoy the recreational benefits of skating, the Learn to Skate Program is the place to start!

**All participants are required to wear a ski or snowboarding helmet and must dress warmly and appropriately for cold outdoor weather, ski pants, mittens/gloves, and warm layers. Please, no double runner skates.**

The session runs for 10 weeks and students will be evaluated and given merit badges at the completion of each level. Skaters may need to occasionally repeat a level to better prepare them for more difficult levels. This is common, especially at the higher levels. All instruction takes place at the Westport P.A.L. Rink at Longshore located in Longshore Club Park. [www.wpalrink.com](http://www.wpalrink.com)

Longshore Pavilion and the Westport P.A.L. Rink at Longshore have lockers that are available on a daily basis to store your personal belongings for a fee. Those participants who do not have their own ice skates may rent them for \$5 each time they have a lesson or purchase a season pass for rentals. **The Westport P.A.L. Rink does not rent these items and if the participant comes unprepared for the lesson, he/she will not be allowed to participate.**

There is one session that includes 10 lessons. The schedule is as follows:

**Dates: December 1 – February 27, 2021**

<b>Tuesday classes</b>	<b>Dec. 1, 8, 15, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 23</b>
<b>Wednesday classes</b>	<b>Dec. 2, 9, 16, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 24</b>
<b>Thursday classes</b>	<b>Dec. 3, 10, 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25</b>
<b>Saturday classes</b>	<b>Dec. 5, 12, 19, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 27</b>

This is an outdoor program and inclement weather, or poor ice conditions could cause the program to be canceled. No make-ups will be offered.

**CANCELLATION LINE**

**To keep up to date on program cancellations, please call our cancellation line, (203) 341-5074. You may also check Twitter @westportparkrec and our Facebook “Westport Parks and Recreation” for cancellation updates.**

**EQUIPMENT**

**A ski or snowboarding helmet is mandatory for all skaters.** Warm attire is recommended but should not be overloaded to the point where the participant cannot move freely. **Gloves or mittens must be worn. No double-runner skates.** If you do not have your own ice skates, please purchase a “lace-up” skate at Blueline Pro Shop at the Darien Ice Rink or Pure Hockey in Norwalk, or rentals are available for a fee at the WPAL Rink at Longshore.

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

Please make sure you drop off and pick up your child promptly. Consistent lateness in either dropping off or picking up is cause for dismissal from the ice skating program. Westport Parks and Recreation staff will be available at the Longshore Pavilion drop-off loop to escort your child to the rink. Please come dressed and ready to skate. Use skate guards on skates so that children can walk directly to the rink and not have to use Longshore Pavilion with limited space. Our instructor staff will not be able to assist with skates and equipment, so please be prepared. Arriving late is not acceptable and is disruptive to the class and instructors when you get on the ice. Please drop and park.

**GENERAL RULES**

- All participants are expected to respect each other and all staff. Discipline problems will not be tolerated and are cause for immediate dismissal from the program with no refund.
- At the end of each session, please be sure to pick up all belongings. There is no lost and found.
- **There is no food or drink allowed on the ice at any time. Please do not give your child these items during the lesson time. Parents are not allowed to stand along side the rink and hand their children hot chocolate, food, etc. This is disruptive to the instruction taking place and is cause for immediate dismissal from the ice.**
- One (1) parent or guardian are welcome to watch lessons from the bleacher area. We ask that you do not disturb the child and/or the instructors during lesson time. If you need to speak with an instructor, you may do so after the lesson is over. It is highly recommended that all questions and concerns be directed to the on-site Parks and Recreation Supervisor.

The Westport Parks and Recreation Department wants this to be an enjoyable experience for all participants. Please take the time to read this information with your child if they are a participant.