

Clubs Matter

National Skating Month

Sign up NOW for National Skating Month – January 2008 and reserve your promotional kit!

[USA Hockey](#), [US Speedskating](#) and [U.S. Figure Skating](#) are working together this year to support National Skating Month 2008 in an effort to encourage people to take to the ice during the month of January. So book some ice, invite the public, open your doors and celebrate skating! It is as easy as that.

Through a series of organized on- and off-ice activities, you can provide a fun-filled day at the rink. Included in the promotional kit is a step-by-step guide on ways to organize your event, promotional give-aways for participants and some suggestions on how to utilize these materials to help you run a safe and fun event. All events offered during National Skating Month are sanctioned and insured.



Some of the activities you can plan for National Skating Month include:

- Free lessons and open skating sessions
- Skating demonstrations of a hockey game, speedskating skills and figure skating exhibitions
- Great goodies for participants to take home
- Information tables in lobby for how to become a member or sign up for lessons
- Parent education and information sessions
- Promotions at the local schools and pre-schools

An application must be completed with payment of \$25.00 and sent to U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters before your NSM supplies will be sent. Click here for an application. Deadline to apply is November 1, 2007. Also on the National Skating Month home page you will find a sample media timeline, sample agenda for running an open house and testimonies from 2007 and 2006 for ideas to help you get started planning your celebration.



Do's and Don'ts of Nonprofit Fundraising

We are drafting a new manual all about FUNDRAISING! Our hope is to have this available by the end of the year. If you have a great fundraiser and wish to share it with other clubs, please write to Susi Wehrli at swehrli@usfigureskating.org and send a full description to be included in the manual.

Some topics to be covered in the manual:

- Parameters of a nonprofit organization
- "Fearless Fundraising" from Board Source
- Ethics
- Unrelated business income
- 1099's
- Scholarships and grant programs

Get Your Board on Board:

Nonprofit clubs that have not been required to make annual filings with the IRS will have to file Form 990-N in the future in order to maintain their tax exempt status. A club is a nonprofit in the eyes of the IRS if they have received a determination letter from the IRS after filing for tax exempt status with Form 1023. Individuals can only take a charitable deductions on their tax returns for donations made to tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations. Generally, such organizations file annual Form 990 or 990-EZ with the IRS. Small nonprofits have not been required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ if their annual receipts were less than \$25,000. The attached PDF is an excerpt from Guide-star.org that explains the new rules.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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Share Your Great Ideas!

If you would like to share a success story with other clubs about a specific program, fundraiser, scholarship award program, governance issues or membership drive, and in the process generate a some publicity for your club, please write a short article (include pictures if possible) and send to Susi Wehrli at swehrli@usfigureskating.org. We will post responses to initiate a new forum for our clubs to share ideas with one another.



Unique Fundraising Program

The Medford Area Youth Hockey Association is raffling off a 2006 Ford GT to raise money for the youth hockey and figure skating programs in Medford, WI. The skating rink is in need of new dasher boards and viewing glass along with many other minor things that need fixing. Hockey and figure skating is not supported by tax dollars in the area and many kids do not get a chance to skate because of this. The car has a window sticker price of \$167,000 but the dealership that owns the vehicle was offered \$250,000 for it. It's still considered brand new and has less than 5 miles on it. The car has all of the available options on it such as painted racing stripes, painted brake calipers, upgraded wheels, and a McIntosh Audio system.

They are selling tickets for \$100 each and the raffle goes until February 10, 2008. They are trailering the car around the state of Wisconsin to various car shows and races. If you have any questions or need more information feel free to contact:

Medford Youth Hockey Ford GT Raffle, 105 S. Wisconsin Ave. Medford, WI. 54451
(800)531-6383,
win.GT@hotmail.com

2008 National Showcase

Is your club interested in hosting 2008 National Showcase?

Bid packets for the 2008 National Showcase competition are due to Melissa Bowman with a postmark date of Oct. 1. Download a packet from:
<http://www.usfigureskating.org/Programs.asp?id=308>

Competitive Test Track Links

The competitive test track is a new event for all nonqualifying competitions that limits the difficulty of skating elements performed in each level. The test track will line up the test structure requirements with the competition levels, giving skaters a fair playing field to continue competing and testing according to their abilities.

- [Click here for a full description of the levels](#)
- [Click here to view all upcoming Test Track competitions](#)
- [Click here to view the level chart](#)