Welcome to the First Issue

Well everyone – we are finally on the ground and running – You are part of a - a director of - or a participating program in - one of the fastest growing concepts - the “Series” for our Basic Skills skaters.

We have so much good news to pass on to you, but we have to make sure all of our contact information reaches all of you.

Sharon Kruse - our newest member of the committee and anxious volunteer is helping me coordinate this much needed information. She will be in touch with you!

Our goal is to have interactive communication with everyone that is involved in a Series (Either already formed - or wanting to form). Initially we will be sending you a newsletter sharing some incredible ideas and suggestions. We want you to get back with us with more and more of your ideas and suggestions. We will also be available to help you with your issues and questions. This initial newsletter will be mailed to you via US Mail - and we hope subsequent newsletters will be available on the USFS website!

There is so much going on across the country – and we don’t want to miss a single beat!

In the meantime please let us know if your information is correct on the attachment. If we don’t hear from you - we’ll try and track you down.

Keep in touch!

Maureen Dalton
National Vice Chair of Basic Skills
Sharon Kruse
Newsletter Editor and Assistant

WE NEED YOUR LOGO

If you currently have a Series, do we have your logo on file for display in our communications?

(Like this Newsletter?)
**HAIR/MAKEUP SERVICES**

Have you thought about a hairdresser or make-up person? It doesn't have to be a professional, you probably have moms or teenagers that would like to do this. Especially if you offer Interpretive or Showcase events.

**HOCKEY CLOCK FOR DESIGNATING EVENTS**

How about an answer to the age old question, “What event are we on?” The Farmington Hills FSC has the answer: use the hockey clock to designate what events are currently on the ice. This idea is spreading like wildfire!

**HOSPITALITY FOR EVERYONE**

The Alpine Edge FSC competition had great donations that enabled them to have parents’ hospitality at registration, as well as coaches and skaters hospitality rink side with bananas, fruit, juice and water.

**FOOD DONATIONS**

The Tulip City Classic had food donations from every restaurant in town. There was enough food for three competitions!
**PLAQUES**
The Michigan Series is giving special plaques at the finale awards ceremony to those clubs and programs that participated the most in all the competitions in their series! Nice reward for those programs that are really supporting everyone!

**AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**
Use fancy backdrops and curtains: lots of sparkle, a podium, and a “master of ceremonies” WITH A MICROPHONE!! Some clubs give a single flower for each of the skaters that medal. This is an inexpensive way to impress the parents and the skaters.

**EXHIBITIONS**
If you have in your area a program or club that has a Beginner 1,2,3 Synchro Team, invite them to exhibit at your competition. This shows the skaters and parents other possibilities!

**OFFER FAMILY FUN COUPONS**
Is your competition near a theme park? Water Park? Fun Activities? Arrange for coupons or passes so the family can participate in the whole weekend.

**OFFER A CAMP**
In 2011, one of the series locations offered a one day summer camp. Adam Rippon, USFS Senior competitor, helped with the camp and the kids loved him. The parents were very impressed with his speech and especially how he spoke about his mom and all the support the rest of his family gave him. He skated and performed everything the young skaters asked him to and he even autographed everything! It was a fun, fun day for everyone.
SERIES AND DIRECTORS
Central Minnesota ~ Lori Stuart ~ lstuart@rogersbenefit.com ~ www.centralminnesotaseries.com
Colorado Series ~ Linda Alexander ~ linda.alexander@coloradocollege.edu
Florida Series ~ Kent Johnson ~ sk8johnson@hotmail.com ~ www.basicskillsflorida.com
Illinois Series ~ Brigitte Roquet ~ brig811@aol.com
Lone Star Summer Skate Series (Houston Area) ~ Andrew Foland ~ andrew@spacecityice.com
Michigan Series ~ Maureen Dalton ~ MSDSkating@aol.com
New York Series ~ Kim Galinski ~ teacups531@yahoo.com ~ Patrick Sarandrea ~ lspconst@gmail.com
Ohio Series ~ Alease Cameratta ~ figureskating@gilmour.org~ www.clevelandskating.com
Southern Grand Prix Series (Carolina’s) ~ Scott Cudmore ~ scudmore@nc.rr.com
Wisconsin Series ~ www.fscouncilwisconsin.org

Please send us your ideas with your logo for our next issue (coming out quarterly). All entries accepted – we can’t wait to hear from you. No idea is too small; and all suggestions are considered. If you have something that you do that is similar to something already mentioned please send it anyway. If it’s a good one, it’s worth repeating!!

Maureen Dalton ~ MSDSkating@aol.com
Sharon Kruse ~ BasicSkillsSkating@gmail.com

SPECIAL PINS
At the Skate the Zoo Competition each skater receives a pin of a different adorable animal each year. Pins are starting to be collected again. Does your competition have a special pin? Does your Series have a special pin?

COMPETITION PREP CLASSES
Do your programs offer a “Competition Prep Class?” Offering an hourly class for 5-6 weeks prior to your competition is a great way to show skaters from Snowplow to Preliminary levels how to prepare and have fun at your Basic Skills Competitions.