

Tips For Nutcracker Performers, Parents & Volunteers

Welcome to our annual *Nutcracker On Ice* production! It might seem like organized chaos at times, but we've been doing this show for quite a few years, and with your cooperation, everything eventually falls into place. Here are a few tips that will help maximize everyone's enjoyment of this experience:



Be There & Be On Time

Please arrive on time for all practices, rehearsals, and shows. We cannot over-emphasize how important this is. Practices are scheduled at least once each week for each role, and sometimes twice a week closer to the show dates. People pay to see this show, so we need to behave like professionals. Remember that you are a part of the puzzle that creates a work of art on ice, and if your piece is missing, it messes up the whole number. Each absence makes it difficult for everyone.

Dress "Warm" Rehearsal

We will have a dress warm rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, the day before shows begin (5:30 p.m. for Clowns & Gingers). Please arrive early. This will *not* be a straight run-through. This rehearsal may last two and one-half hours. There will be many stops and re-starts, so bring a coat or blanket to keep warm. Some skaters are encouraged to try on their costumes to make sure they have all the right pieces and any necessary accessories, as well as to prepare themselves to change costumes if they have more than one role - ask your choreographer if you should wear your costume. At 6:00 p.m., we will rehearse the Finale since everyone is needed for that number. After that, we usually run through the show from the top (except for the clowns and gingers), with a few exceptions. Waltzers usually rehearse last.

Dressing Rooms

Each skater will be assigned to a dressing room (one of the two party rooms, the two areas above the dressing rooms, or the two trailers outside.) Each performer should look for a chair with his/her name on it in the assigned dressing room. Costumes are marked with names and hangers are also marked with names. The back doors of the trailers are *not* to be used. ***Very important: keep your belongings under or on your chair, and leave any costume pieces on your chair when you leave for the night. Hang up costumes immediately after you take them off on the hangers with your name on them!***

Arrival and Check-In/Check-Out

All performers must be at the rink one hour before showtime and must check-in through the **Front Entrance** and go directly to your assigned dressing room. Sorry, but we cannot let skaters check in before that time because we must have the volunteers in place first. After you check in, you must stay backstage. When you leave the backstage area, you **must** check out the same way you came in -- through the front door of the building. This is the only way we can keep everyone safe.

No Food Backstage; The Call of Nature?

Please make sure all performers' tummies are full before coming to the rink. Over the three hours of preparation and presentation, there is no opportunity to eat; food and beverages are not permitted backstage. One exception: the clowns and gingerbreads are quite young, so we will supply them with a snack and a video. Remember to answer the call of nature (visit the restroom, even if you don't think you need to) before putting on your costume!

Backstage Area Access Is Limited

Parents are not allowed backstage unless they are working as an assigned volunteer for that particular show. Performers are **not** allowed to be seen by the audience "in costume." Volunteers will be on hand to care for the skaters and their needs.

Volunteers

Dressing room volunteers need to be at their post at least **one hour and 15 minutes before showtime**. Volunteers are expected to stay at their assigned stations throughout the shows and must not leave the dressing rooms when children are still present.

Items Permitted Backstage

Suggested items to bring: safety pins, hair brush/comb, towel to dry skates, tissues, make-up, small mirror, tights, rubber bands, and skates (but *no blade guards*). You may also want to bring a coat or blanket to keep you warm between numbers. Suitcases and rolling skate bags are not allowed backstage --- there simply isn't enough space. Only small bags are permitted. Please do not use bobby pins unless you use a lot of hairspray to keep them in place -- they fall on the ice and become skating hazards.

Medical Condition?

If your child has a medical condition that might require treatment, please provide your contact information so that the trailer chaperones will be able to respond appropriately in an emergency.

Questions?

Please ask any member of the Ice Chalet staff if you have questions. We want to help.

Photo DVD, Video DVD, and Ornaments Available

Look for notices about the photos, video, and ornaments we offer to help you keep those Nutcracker memories alive!

Final Note: Please remind skaters to stay quiet backstage and... ***Smile and have fun!***