

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 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. 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 is hard on everyone.

Dress Rehearsal

We will have dress rehearsals at 6:00 p.m. on Monday & Tuesday of show week (Rats, Gingerbreads, and Clowns will not be in costume). Please arrive early. This will **not** be a straight run-through. There will be many stops and re-starts, so bring a coat or blanket to keep warm. Skaters will 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. We will rehearse the Finale first 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. Adult Waltzers usually rehearse last.

Dressing Rooms

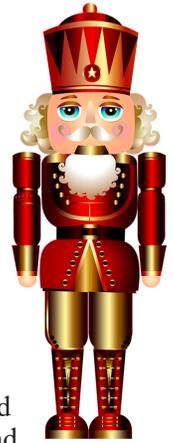
Each skater will be assigned to a dressing room (one of the party rooms or the two trailers outside.) Each performer should look for a chair with his/her name on it in the assigned dressing room. Costumes are marked with names. The back doors of the trailers are *not* to be used. ***Very important: keep 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 in each dressing room first.** After 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 ensure 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 videos. 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 before showtime because we cannot let the skaters through until the volunteers are in place.** Volunteers must stay at their assigned stations throughout the shows and must not leave the dressing rooms unattended 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 --- 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 are skating hazards.

NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED BACKSTAGE

There will be a place to check in your cell phone in the lobby if you must bring it into the building.

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.

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