

Council Approval:

Not Required for indoor/rink skating.

Required for skating on frozen lakes, which is vendor provided only and not allowed on privately owned lakes or ponds.



Activity Permitted for: D, B, J, C, S, A

About Skating

Roller and ice skating are much loved Girl Scout activities. They are also a very common activity for injuries and insurance claims, so always plan ahead and stress the importance of safety. Indoor skating, whether ice skating or roller skating, will most likely not require a

helmet. If the facility offers safety gear, including helmets or wrist guards, always opt to take the safety gear. Always check with your council for prior approval when planning to ice skate on frozen lakes.

Know where to skate. Connect with your Girl Scout council for site suggestions. Skate at night only in well-lit areas. For skating on frozen lakes, always select a site designated for skating and confirm temperature and ice conditions are safe for skating. Prior approval from your council may be required for skating on frozen lakes.

Learn More

- [Recreational Ice Skating](#)
- [Roller Skating Association International](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Ice Thickness Guide](#)

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities. For more information, visit [Inclusive Skating](#).

Equity. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about expense,

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Ice Skating and Roller Skating Checkpoints

Select a safe site. Obtain council guidance in selecting the skating site. Ensure the rink has a smooth skating surface free of debris. The rink manager is called in advance to arrange for large groups or for practice sessions. The rink is adequately staffed to monitor the size of the crowd. Local ordinances or parks offices are checked to see whether skating is permitted on bike paths or in city parks.

Select proper-fitting skates. Participants receive instruction in selecting the proper skate size. Skates are properly fitted, securely laced, and properly tied. Skate wheels, boots, and plates are kept clean and in good condition and are inspected. Never skate with broken or missing laces. No dangling decorations are attached to the laces.

Prepare for emergencies. Ensure the presence of a first aid kit and a first aider with a current certificate in first aid, including adult and child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared for cases of injury from falls, especially abrasions. If any part of the activity is located 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services, ensure the presence of a first aider with Wilderness First Aid certification.

Practice safe outdoor skating. Outdoors, skate in areas where traffic or pedestrians will not interfere. Check local ordinances for any restrictions. Skate in the street or in a parking lot only if it is closed to traffic. When skating on a walkway, yield to pedestrians. Skate on the right side, pass on the left.

Follow basic inline and roller-skating safety standards. Respect safety rules, such as:

- Everyone skates in the same direction.
- Do not stop in the main skating area (when skating in a rink).
- Skaters yield the right-of-way to those already in the rink.
- Skaters do not cut across the paths of other skaters.
- Skaters do not push, shove, or race.
- A falling skater does not grab hold of another skater.
- A fallen skater rises quickly, unless injured.
- Never skate faster than your ability to stop.
- Skaters do not wear headphones while skating.
- Loose or sharp articles, such as handbags, combs, and keys, are not carried onto the rink.
- Keep skates in top shape. Avoid water, sand, and debris, which damage wheel bearings.
- Learn how to brake and stop. Before skating, read about the safest ways to stop. Moves include the wall stop, the brake-pad, and the snowplow.

Safety Gear (for skating outdoors and inline skating)

- Bike helmet or other helmet with the American National Standards Institute or SNELL Memorial Foundation seal, or both (helmets must be as snug as possible and be worn low over the forehead, approximately 1 inch above the eyebrows)
- Wrist guards that fit like gloves
- Clothing that allows freedom of movement
- Long-sleeve shirt to help prevent scrapes
- Snug-fitting elbow pads and kneepads

For frozen lake skating, take the Ice Safety Quiz (also used for Ice Fishing) on the next page.

Ice Safety Quiz

Please read information from both the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources' websites on ice safety. Then take the quiz below with your troop to check your knowledge!

- [Ice Safety—MN Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Ice Safety—WI Department of Natural Resources](#)

True or False

1. Booming and cracking ice is very dangerous.
2. Ice freezes uniformly. If the ice is 12 inches thick in one area of the lake, then it is 12 inches thick everywhere else.
3. New clear ice is the safest, strongest ice.
4. If you fall through, you should remove your winter clothes immediately in the water to help keep you afloat.
5. Ice 6 inches thick can support a pickup truck.
6. A ladder can be used to assist someone who has fallen through the ice.
7. Ice claws are simple to make at home and a very convenient tool to help yourself get out of the water.
8. If you were to fall through, you should swim away from where you came from, since that ice must be very thin.
9. It is recommended to wear a life jacket underneath a winter coat while on the ice.
10. Cold blood can linger in your arms and legs and suddenly rush to your heart and cause cardiac distress.

Short Answer

1. Where can you find information about lake conditions?
2. What are some ways to measure the thickness of the ice?
3. What are some items that you should always bring with you out onto the ice?
4. What five ways can you assist someone exiting the lake after breaking through?
5. After someone falls through and they successfully exit the water, how would you treat them for hypothermia?