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Popular Ice Rink in National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Opens Friday, November 15; Free Hot Chocolate on Opening Weekend; Skating Classes for All Ages and Levels



Sculpture Garden Ice Rink, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Washington, DC—The 2019–2020 ice-skating season at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink will begin November 15 and continue through March 15, weather permitting. Located on the National Mall between 7th and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW, the ice rink remains a favorite DC destination, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

Surrounded by national museums, monuments, and large-scale sculptures by modern and contemporary artists including Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Tony Smith, Roy Lichtenstein, Roxy Paine, and others, skating in the Sculpture Garden is a favorite winter activity. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink is managed by Guest Services Inc.

To celebrate the beginning of the skating season, visitors who purchase skating time on November 15, 16, or 17 will receive a coupon from Guest Services Inc. for a complimentary cup of hot chocolate

from the Pavilion Café on those dates. See below for exciting seasonal menu items and promotions.

Ice Rink Hours and Fees

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m. (open to the general public); 10:00–11:00 a.m. (open for Learn to Skate USA lessons only)

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Skating fees for two 45-minute sessions (beginning on the hour):

\$9 for adults and children age 13 and over

\$8 for skaters age 50 and over, children 12 and under, military, and students with a valid school ID

The skate rental fee is \$4; lockers are available for \$0.50 (\$5 deposit required). Season passes are available for \$195 and make for a perfect winter workout. Visit pavilioncafe.com/ice-rink or call the ice rink office after November 15 at (202) 216-9397 for additional information. The Gallery and Sculpture Garden are closed on December 25 and January 1. In the evening, when the Gallery and Sculpture Garden are closed to the public, access to the ice rink is restricted to the entrances at Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive near 9th Street.

Pavilion Café

With panoramic views of the Sculpture Garden and a seasonal menu of freshly made soups, salads, sandwiches, flatbreads, and desserts, the Pavilion Café is a perfect complement to your ice rink visit. Beverages include coffee, tea, hot chocolate, wine, beer, and specialty coffee drinks with seasonal delights such as hot cider, mulled wine, pumpkin spice lattes with flavored whipped cream, and more. A children's menu for ages 12 and under also is available. Managed by Guest Services Inc., the café seats 98 people inside and 64 people outside on its north and south terraces. The café also offers \$5 food and drink specials Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Pavilion Café closes two hours before the ice rink each day.

For general information and announcements about ice rink openings and closings, call (202) 216-9397 or visit nga.gov/skating. For more information about the Pavilion Café, visit www.pavilioncafe.com or call (202) 289–3360.

Tips for Visitors to the Ice Rink

Layered, warm clothing that does not restrict movement and gloves are recommended. Helmets are required for students in the Learn to Skate program and are recommended for all beginners.

Metered parking is available on Madison Drive (adjacent to the ice rink) seven days a week, with a three-hour limit, as well as on Constitution Avenue and 7th Street surrounding the rink. Please check all street signs, as restrictions vary daily and are subject to change.

The nearest Metrorail stops are Judiciary Square on the Red Line, Archives–Penn Quarter–Navy Memorial on the Yellow/Green Lines, and Smithsonian on the Blue/Orange/Silver Lines. Metrobus stops are located on 4th Street and 7th Street NW, and the DC Circulator bus stops at Madison Drive and 7th Street.

NOTE: The ice rink may be closed due to rain or extreme temperature.

Skating Lessons and Registration

This season, Guest Services, Inc. offers a robust program of skating lessons for all ages, directed and taught by Emme Porter, Bruce Porter Jr., and their Washington Elite Skating School team of instructors. Emme Porter has more than 20 years of skating and coaching experience in all disciplines of skating and is a national and international ice-dancing competitor. She has also danced in and choreographed performances for the NHL Washington Capitals Red Rockers for five years. Bruce Porter has more than 10 years of teaching experience in hockey, ice dancing, and field moves. He is a national and international competitor in ice dancing and competed in the European Figure Skating Championships in 2008 and 2009. Emme and Bruce represented Azerbaijan in international competitions and retired from competitive skating in 2014.

Washington Elite Skating School classes will be offered for different ages and abilities through the Learn to Skate USA program. Classes are separated into age-appropriate categories and consist of a comprehensive lesson and evaluation structure that is exciting, rewarding, safe, and fun.

For a full list of class descriptions and to register, visit www.pavilioncafe.com/ice-rink/.

Press Contact:

Christina Brown, (202) 842-6598 or cm-brown@nga.gov

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in

the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Department of Communications

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353

e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov

Anabeth Guthrie

Chief of Communications

(202) 842-6804

a-guthrie@nga.gov

Newsletters

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PRESS CONTACT ▼

Christina Brown

(202) 842-6598

cm-brown@nga.gov

Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit www.nga.gov for more information about the **National Gallery of Art**.

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