

SkateMates

The skating buddy mentoring program of Princeton Skating Club

Our Mission

The growth of Princeton Skating Club has brought together skaters of varying levels who now skate together on freestyle, dance and moves in the field sessions—or who aspire to do so after moving through the basic skills program provided during group lessons. These multi-age, multi-level training sessions have provided a unique opportunity for older and more experienced skaters to become role models and mentors for the newer, younger skaters. The mission of the SkateMates program is to create camaraderie among Club skaters, regardless of age differences; to create connections among the parents and coaches who work with the skaters; and to promote on-ice safety. Additionally, skaters who participate in the program will have the opportunity to develop personal skills such as confidence and communication, and they will benefit from having a larger support network as they pursue their commitment to skating.

Who Are SkateMates?

Senior SkateMates are skaters at least 10 years old and who are eligible to skate on high freestyle sessions (usually pre-juvenile moves and above, but subject to the discretion of the PSC Board). Skaters of this age and skating ability have generally demonstrated the personal skills and maturity necessary to mentor a younger child.

Junior SkateMates are skaters skating at the preliminary, pre-preliminary, and basic skills (group lesson) levels. A new skater of any age may join the SkateMate program and will be mentored by an older, more experienced skater.

What Special Opportunities Do SkateMates Have?

Senior SkateMates will be paired with a junior SkateMate prior to the start of the season, and the pair will remain SkateMates throughout the skating season. Senior SkateMates will receive training in order to learn effective communication skills and other skills that will enable them to assist their younger buddy with rink safety, etiquette and performance skills, and to answer general skating questions from the skater and/or parent. Junior SkateMates will be made to feel welcome, will learn good workout and safety habits while becoming motivated to progress to the upper skating levels. All SkateMates will have the opportunity to participate in special on-and-off-ice activities for SkateMates only, to be held at intervals during the year. An adult coordinator will work with both junior and senior skaters throughout the year to provide encouragement, assistance and guidance.

The SkateMates program of Princeton Skating Club respects the trusting relationships between skaters and their coaches. Although Senior SkateMates will have opportunities for on-ice contact with their junior skating buddy, that time together is to reinforce safety,

etiquette and performance skills—and for just plain fun! Senior SkateMates will refrain from teaching skating skills or “coaching” their SkateMates unless specifically asked to do so by the younger skater’s coach in the presence of and with the agreement of the junior skater’s parent.

How Can a Skater Sign Up for the SkateMates Program?

There are several ways to register for the SkateMates program. First, skaters can check “yes” to the SkateMates question on the PSC Membership Application. Second, interested members can email a request to the PSC address (princeton@princeton.com). Third, those interested can contact the SkateMates coordinator directly (Sherry Schweighardt, sherry@inmotion1.com). You will be asked to provide the name, contact information, age, and skating level (tests passed) information for the interested skater. Skaters are paired with attention given to the age, skating level and personal needs of each skater. The earlier in the season you register, the more likely it is that a suitable SkateMate will be available, and the more benefits you will receive from the program.

What If I Have Questions About the SkateMates Program?

Please send an email to princeton@princeton.com or to sherry@inmotion1.com and include your question, the name, age and skating level of the skater, your preferred email address and a telephone number where you can be reached. The SkateMates coordinator will respond to your inquiry.