

ICE CHIPS

Fort Collins Figure Skating Club

Mark Your Calendar

*** All events at EPIC unless otherwise noted.*

BIG Back to Skating Event!!!

September 16th –DON'T MISS THIS! FCFSC Annual Meeting, Skate Swap (Resale/Fundraiser) run by Synchro, and off dance/training - 11am-2:30pm; on ice session 2:30-3:30pm

Scheduled Test Sessions

- **September 29, 2023,** 9am-1pm; registration without late fee is midnight Sept. 14th. Late registration ends Sept. 21st.
- **October 20, 2023**

Fright Fest Competition

October 22nd; deadline to register is October 6th.

Letter from FCFSC President

Dear Club Members,

Summer is winding down and fall is right around the corner. It's hard to imagine cool days with the heat we've been having, but I'm sure they will be here soon.

School is back and everyone is busy again. It was a busy summer for the board of directors. Now that we are running the show in May, it doesn't work to hold our annual meetings in the spring. Once summer rolls around, everyone leaves for vacations. For the past few years, it has worked out to hold the annual meetings in the late summer. So, we are doing that again this year. Saturday September 16th at 9am in EPIC. We hope you all can join us. We will provide breakfast and there will be giveaways.

More importantly, this is the time and the place to ask your questions. We will share the club's financials and summarize the activities for the year. We will also update you with the changes at US Figure Skating this year as voted on at governing council last May. Finally, we will vote for our new board members. Bios will be sent out soon for the candidates.

In addition to the annual meeting, we will be holding a fun back to school event/end of summer festival that day. Synchro will be holding their annual skate swap on the lawn west of EPIC. Look for an email detailing how you can sell your gently used skating equipment here. There will be dresses, costumes, skates, Zuca

bags and more! This is a great place to pick up some ideas for showcase programs for the season.

We will also be holding some free classes as part of this event. From 11:00-2:15pm we will have off-ice dance and conditioning classes for all ages and levels and from 2:30-3:30pm we have the FREE skating on the blue rink. This is also open to all ages and levels. We hope you all will mark this day in your calendars and join us for this fun end of summer event.

Don't forget to register for Fright Fest in October. Registration is open and this year we are hosting Freeskate events through Juvenile. As always, we have showcase events for all ages and levels. Hope you can join us on October 22nd .

We will see you all on September 16th for a fun end of summer event!

See you around the rink!

Amy Aspelund
FCFSC Club President



**COMMUNITY REWARDS**
 **Enroll Today!** 

**Support Fort Collins Figure Skating
Join King Soopers' Community Rewards Program Today!**

- Create an account by clicking [HERE](#).
- Search for our organization. Fort Collins Figure Skating Club or JT048.
- Select our club and click "Save."
- **START SHOPPING!** Scan your loyalty card or enter your ALT ID each time you check out; FCFSC will receive money quarterly to distribute to our various teams and ongoing club efforts. You don't need to do anything else, it's THAT easy!

Testing

Our club’s next test session is scheduled for September 29, 2023. The deadline for registration without a late fee is September 14, 2023 at midnight. Registrations in the final week prior to the scheduling deadline of September 22nd, 2023 must pay a \$20 late fee so sign up early! Follow the links here, <https://www.fortcollinsfsc.org/testing/> to register for tests through Entryeeze. You can email Gayleen Carpenter or Betsi Mead if you have any questions about testing. Please retrieve your passed test certificates from US Figure Skating from your family folders in the wood filing cabinet in the Green Rink small lobby area.

Beginning July 1, 2023, US Figure Skating renamed the test types and test levels and added new tracks for solo and partnered patterned dance. These changes were approved at the 2022 Governing Council Meeting. Moves in the Field tests are now called Skating Skills tests. Free Skate tests are now called Singles tests. The testing levels are now be called:

Pre-Preliminary	is still “Pre-Preliminary”
Preliminary	is still “Preliminary”
Pre-Juvenile	is now “Pre-Bronze”
Juvenile	is now “Bronze”
Intermediate	is now “Pre-Silver”
Novice	is now “Silver”
Junior	is now “Pre-Gold”
Senior	is now “Gold”

Solo and Partnered patterned dances can now be able to be taken as “Lead” or “Follow”. A “Skate United” track is a new track added to the current ones of standard, 21+ and 50+. Please inquire with your coach for further details for which track best suits your goals. These changes in the testing structure for US Figure Skating have been implemented for a few months now across the country. Please inquire with your coach when registering for a test to ensure you are selecting the correct test for your skater.



Congratulations to all our Fort Collins Figure Skating Club members who passed skate tests over the summer!

July 7, 2023 Test Session:

Elizabeth Whitlock	Pre-Preliminary Skating Skills
Lesedi Bonda	Preliminary Skating Skills
Abby Meazoa	Preliminary Skating Skills
Olivia Soto	Preliminary Skating Skills

Sierra Smurlolee	Adult Pre-Bronze Skating Skills
Yaretzi Gonzalez	Bronze Skating Skills
Sarah Stump	Bronze Skating Skills
Zoe Anderson	Silver Skating Skills
Grace Carpenter	Silver Singles

August 10, 2023 Test Session:

Elizabeth Whitlock	Pre-Preliminary Singles
Emily O’Connell	Pre-Preliminary Singles
Saturn Warren	Preliminary Skating Skills

FCFSC Skaters testing at other clubs:

Reede Lunt	Silver Pairs (7/9/23 at Broadmoor Skating Club)
Kelsey Seldin	Pre-Gold Skating Skills (8/11/23 at Rocky Mtn Figure Skating Club)

Club Membership

Current Membership Count: 198

Welcome new & returning club members! If you haven't renewed your club membership yet you may still do so. All previous year's Learn to Skate members who wish to renew at the Learn to Skate level, please contact the membership chair at fcfsc.membership@gmail.com. We can assist you to avoid paying the late renewal fee. If you have any questions about membership, need your membership number, or are not receiving club emails, contact the membership chair.

We are a great community with so many opportunities for you and/or your skater to participate. Take a look at our website to familiarize yourself with these opportunities: competitions, pairs skating, synchronized skating, adult, showcase, testing, junior board, social events, seminars and much more. It is also important to familiarize yourself with our code of conduct and Skate Safe policies. These important policies are on our website or you can re-read the agreement you signed in Entryeeze when you joined. Just log into your membership account and click on the “additional information” tab.

Every club member has a family folder located in the filing cabinets near the coaches’ room in the green rink. Be sure to check your folder regularly! This is a great place to leave documents for other members. You or your skater will also receive a certificate each time they pass a test, these are placed in your folder within a few months of their test.

FCFSC is run 100% by volunteers, and we need your help! We cannot run competitions and events without you. Our biggest volunteer opportunities include competitions such as the Fright Fest on October, Fort Collins Classic in April, and Ice Extravaganza Ice Show in May. Remember to log your

volunteer hours in your Entryeze account. Each family needs 20 hours per year and each multi-skater family needs 30 hours. Here's how:

1. Log into your Entryeze account on a laptop. This does not work on a phone.
2. Click on the "Volunteer" tab, then click "Volunteer Hours."
3. Click on your skater's name on the left, then enter your hours and a description. Even if another family member volunteered who is not a club member, you can still enter their hours under your skater's name.
4. Submit your hours.

Finally, be sure to check your club emails and the main bulletin board in the EPIC lobby for more information about volunteer opportunities and club events!

If you have any membership questions, please email FCFSC Membership Chair at fcfsc.membership@gmail.com.

Skater of the Quarter: Learn to Skate

- **What is your name?** Shayla Thompson
- **Age:** 9
- **How long have you been skating?** 6 years. I started getting private lessons from Miss Diana when I was 3.
- **Skating Level:** Basic 6
- **Coach:** Pam Kurtz
- **How and why did you start skating?** I told my grandpa I "want to do hockey" after going to an Eagles hockey game. He said I would need to learn to skate first and I have loved it since.
- **How has skating improved your life?** I have made a lot of friends in the learn to skate program as well as all the spring ice shows. I feel skating has helped me with discipline and strength.
- **What is one of the biggest challenges you've faced while skating? How did you overcome it?** I have trouble focusing when there is a lot of activity around me. I have had to learn to concentrate in my classes. Having private lessons helps with this as well.
- **What are some of your biggest accomplishments in skating?** Meeting Dorothy Hammil and Peggy Fleming when I competed at the Broadmoor Clasic last year. I enjoy competition and have improved over the last years and have gotten a few 2nd and 3rd place medals.



SkateSafe (aka SafeSport)

We are heading into a new school year and want to remind our members about Skate Safe. Our club adheres to the US Figure Skating policy for implementing Skate Safe practices into our club's activities and events. All US Figure Skating members can access the free educational training at usfsaonline.org and enter via your membership number and password. Find the Skate Safe button and click to find the training videos. All our club members are encouraged to take the training and obtain the background checks. The club will reimburse any member the fee for the background check as we earnestly desire as many of our club members as possible to be able to volunteer with our club events as possible. Skate Safe trained volunteers have more opportunities to be able to volunteer in our activities and events. Any club member parent or grandparent that has completed the training and background check, please let Gayleen Carpenter know (our Skate Safe Chairperson), so we can firstly reimburse your fees and secondly know that you are able to participate with our more sensitive volunteer needs. If you've done the training in the past, you can get the updated video and background check needs (if expired) so that your membership is all up to date.

Also any teen skater over the age of 18 needs to complete Skate Safe training per US Figure Skating rules as they are usually in close proximity with minors.

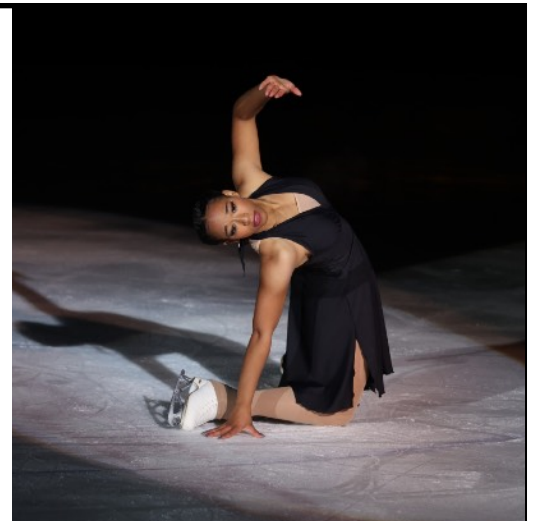
For transparency sake, all FCFSC Board Members, coaches, judges and officials are required to be Skate Safe Certified and background checked.

As always, if you suspect or know of any misconduct, abuse, bullying, harassment, hazing or inappropriate actions either online, verbal or physical, you are strongly encouraged to report it. You do NOT have to have all the facts, as that is the role of the investigators. The FCFSC has a zero tolerance to any behaviors that would intimidate, harm or otherwise jeopardize our athletes.

The logo for SKATESAFE, featuring the word "SKATESAFE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right. The text is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Skater of the Quarter

- **What is your name?** Rowan Martey
- **Age:** 19
- **How long have you been skating?** 12 years
- **Skating Level:** Senior (free skate, moves, solo free dance)
- **Coach(es):** Marianne and Lori
- **How and why did you start skating?** I've always loved to express myself. I've always been someone who is grounded in what they believe in, and skating was the perfect place for it. Skating is the perfect balance of artistry and athleticism. I am able to push my athletic capabilities whilst simultaneously expressing my core values and sense of self through my artistry.
- **How has skating improved your life?** Being able to express myself through lines and turns on the ice has helped me connect to my core self and values. I recently participated a choreography camp and it showed me how interconnected everything in life can be. I have been able to apply this thinking to my studies in college and find interdisciplinary aspects of my major.
- **What is one of the biggest challenges you've faced while skating? How did you overcome it?** My biggest challenge in skating was pushing through the negativity. I have in the past felt as though my voice, experiences, and perspectives are unwanted and wrong, leaving me feeling isolated. I have felt shut down by social expectations, stereotypes, and people. But through this experience, I discovered how important community is. Opening myself up to my skating peers and interacting with my community showed me how meaningful my voice can be. I learned how impactful sharing your journey and believing in who you are and your values truly is. I went on to express this in my own original choreography at national showcase ending with the 4th highest score of the competition.
- **What are some of your biggest accomplishments in skating?** My biggest accomplishment in skating is staying true to myself. It has always been tempting to change what type of music I skate to or what characters I want to be to please others or "fit in", but I have maintained my own personality and pride in my skating.



- **What are some of your future skating goals?** I would love to preform with Disney on Ice and skate with American Ice Theater
- **What else would you like to share about yourself?** During the school year I skate in New Hampshire with the Dartmouth Figure Skating Club and compete nationally in freestyle and ice dance.

Fire Crystals Synchronized Skating Teams



It's everyone's favorite time of year! Skate Swap Time! The Fire Crystal's Annual Skate Swap will be Saturday, September 16th from 9 -1pm. This is a great opportunity to find that new pair of skates or skating costume at a great price or get rid of those skates or costumes that are too small and just taking up space. Consigners can drop off items to Epic on Thursday, September 14th or Friday, September 15th from 4:30 - 6:30pm. We accept hockey gear too! To consign scan click on the link here:

[Consignment Agreement](#)

We Want You! The Fort Collins Fire Crystals Synchronized Skating Teams are actively seeking skaters to participate on their Aspire (Basic 4 - Pre Free skate/Free Skate 1) and our competitive teams (Free skate 1+). Join us at one of the following practices to try it out and click the links below for more information about this great opportunity to improve your skating and be part of a team!

Competitive Practices: 9/6, & 9/9

Aspire Practice: 9/9

Contact Juliana Schump, fortcollinsfirecrystals@gmail.com, (224)717-0749

[Click these links for more information or to sign up:](#)

[Synchronized Skating Interest Form \(for both competitive and youth teams\)](#)

[Travel \(Competitive\) Team Information and Calendar](#)

[Aspire \(Youth Team\)](#)

EPIC Productions

EPIC Productions Represents FCFSC in Boston at the 2023 National Showcase Competition



In August of 2023, the FCFSC showcase ensemble group EPIC Productions traveled to the Boston area for the National Showcase Competition held at the Skating Club of Boston. Founded in 2017, the group is led by Director Marianne Strobel with choreography and management by Assistant Director Denaysa Sisemore and additional choreography and rehearsal leadership this year from Lisa Moore and Kassie Hawley.

The group's 19 skaters range in age from 11 to 18, levels Preliminary through Senior. They performed in four ensembles, and 13 skaters also competed in singles and duet events. Congratulations to our skaters, coaches, and parents on an amazing competition!

All 19 members of EPIC Productions performed in a large production number with a vibrant program based on the Broadway musical *Seussical*. The Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, Horton the Elephant, several Whos from Whoville, and various jungle denizens created a colorful spectacle on the ice. The program included bright costumes and elaborate set pieces created by parent volunteer Maria Miller – including a giant magnifying glass! You may have caught the number at the 2023 FCFSC Ice Show or at the EP summer fundraising exhibition in July. If so, we thank you for your support!

The group also put three mini-ensembles onto the ice this year. The Silver Mini brought sass and attitude to “Revolting Children” from *Matilda*, earning them a 4th place medal on the podium in the final awards ceremony. A passel of pirates skated to “Hook’s Tango” from *Peter Pan*, and elegant Greek goddesses performed as muses in “Zero to Hero” from the Disney movie *Hercules*, earning the groups 6th and 7th place in the Gold Mini event.

The team also boasted 13 skaters performing in singles and duet events. Three received medals for individual programs: Grace Carpenter (3 rd) in Novice Interpretive; Lauren Knuckey (4 th) in Preliminary Emotional Performance; and Mayley Miller (4 th) in Preliminary Comedic Impressions. Congratulations to all our singles and duet skaters, who also included Sofia Cann,

Emily Davis, Megan Doherty, Kaiya Goodwin, Nour Hamdan, Melina Miller, Rocío Pardina, Anya Schuster, and Claudia Schuster. We're so proud of you all for your hard work and for taking on the challenge of competing at the national level.

Grace Carpenter and EP alumna Rowan Martey also skated with FCFSC member Rob Hanley in the Adaptive Skate Emotional performance – we are so proud to represent FCFSC in this special event! We're grateful that the team was joined this year by EPIC Productions alumna Brooklyn King, who, along with Rowan Martey, helped out with costumes, make-up, and plenty of cheering!

A most remarkable accomplishment of the 2023 team was their fundraising efforts, led by Alison Coatman, including a Skate-A-Thon in March, a garage sale, and the July exhibition. The team raised over \$6,000 that helped pay for costumes, props, a team dinner at the competition, and extra coaching hours. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the families and friends who gave so generously to support the team.

The team is also incredibly grateful for all the hard work and enthusiasm from all our parent volunteers, especially our new financial guru Monica Doherty, brilliant props and sets manager Maria Miller, and fundraising leader extraordinaire Alison Coatman. Team Manager Rosa Martey did her usual tricks and fun with costumes, as well as managing the team website and communication.

Special thanks, too, to our wonderful “Team B” parents who helped get props assembled and onto the ice during competition – we couldn't have done it without you! Countless hours were spent by all our parents on costume wrangling, transporting skaters to rehearsals, herculean fundraising efforts, and general support.

Skater leadership is foundational to our team's success, and many skaters stepped up to provide that extra support. Co-Captains Grace Carpenter and Sofia Cann (Seussical), Sadie Coatman and Merritt Cramer (Muses), Melina Miller and Megan Doherty (Hook), and Lauren Knuckey and Rocío Pardina (Matilda) helped with rehearsal coordination, warm-ups, and skater support. Harper Morse was Rehearsal Assistant. Nour Hamdan and Sadie Coatman took on social media and promotion to show off the team's hard work and fun this year. We extend our additional congratulations to graduating high school seniors Sofia Cann and Grace Carpenter, both of whom have been with the team since the beginning as founding members. We will miss you! Now fall is here, which means that the EPIC Productions organizing team is starting to plan for the 2024 season. Keep an eye out for announcements about the EP casting call, exhibitions, and fundraising events.

If you're a Preliminary through Senior level skater who wants to join the EPIC Productions showcase ensemble team for the 2024 season, there are slots available! Reach out to our EP coaches or to the team manager, Rosa Martey (rosa.martey@colostate.edu) for information. You can also learn more about the group and see recent videos at EPICproductionsFoCo.org.

Member News and Pics

National Showcase Competition: Boston- EPIC Productions



Congratulations to our skaters who placed at National Showcase Competition in Boston! (clockwise from top left): Revolting Children Team, 3rd- Mini Production; Grace Carpenter, 3rd- Interpretive Novice; Rob Hanley, 1st- Emotional Performance with partners Grace Carpenter & Rowan Martey; Lauren Knuckey, 4th- Preliminary Emotional Performance. Great work and fantastic skating!

Cup of Colorado and Vail Invitational



Hannah Irish finished 4th in the Excel Pre-Preliminary group at her first Cup of Colorado.

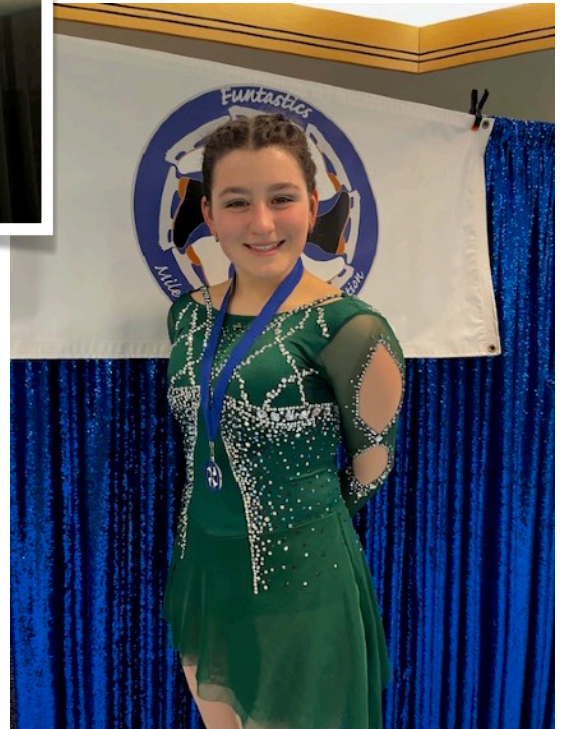


Hadley Cristiani completed her first travel competition at the Vail Invitational. Pictured with Coach Marianne (top), Grace Carpenter (left), and her mom Monica (bottom).





Congratulations Valeria Elkin on the great year! Freeskate program at Denver Invitational (2nd place), Fort Collins Classic (1st place), Spring Funtastics (1st place), Broadmoor Open (1st place), Cup of Colorado (2nd place).



If you have personal accomplishments and pics to share please send them to:
fcsc.sharenews@gmail.com

If you would like to be considered for Skater of the Quarter submit info at:
<https://forms.gle/WjSzS8h5LiNgnw1d7>

Nominations for Skater of Quarter can be sent to fcsc.sharenews@gmail.com