

This time of year brings us to the start of our Special Olympic Ice skating training season. At this point, we have over 100 athletes signed up to train this year which is a record! We will be in dire need of experienced volunteers as well as a big dose of new volunteer participation in our program. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!.....We begin training next Wednesday (Jan. 17)!!! so spread it fast! Tell your friends and feel free to pass my contact information ([stphneflyd@yahoo.com](mailto:stphneflyd@yahoo.com)) out as well as forward this message. Please!!!!...

Also, our "Lobby" work is as important as our "On Ice" work. We need a large group of hands just to get these athletes ready to step onto the ice so "skating talent" is not a requirement to help with this program. We cherish those who can help with every session, and they are also the winners as it gives them a chance to develop relationships and friendships with our athletes! We also appreciate any who can help out just certain days. We will also have a great need for "one time" volunteers on the morning of our "Richmond Area Games." All volunteer training is done on the job.

Contact me ([stphneflyd@yahoo.com](mailto:stphneflyd@yahoo.com)) with any questions and to confirm your interest. I am compiling a roster in the next few days of our volunteers for this season's communication. Do not be misled as to our need as the addresses in this communication are contacts from 15 years of volunteer participation!

We are very sorry to have lost Missy Eck this year to an out-of-state family move. She has been one of our most experienced and enthusiastic volunteers with this program for well over a decade. Missy will be missed by all, but especially our most challenged skaters. We hope that she can visit us this season.

I really hope to get a few experienced skaters back (and maybe a coach or two!) to help fill the gap Missy has left in our program.

Coaches- Please think about your students and who might be a good fit for this program. It is a wonderful opportunity for home school students to obtain community service hours, and I write letters of recommendation every year for our youth volunteers. Our youth volunteers have been the backbone of our program for 15 years!

This year's training schedule at the Richmond Ice Zone is as follows-

January 17- Practice.....9am-11:50am

January 24- Practice....9am-11:50am

January 31- Practice....9am-11:50am

February 07- Practice.....9am-11:50am

February 14- Practice.....9am-11:50am

February 21- Practice.... 9am-11:50am

February 28- Practice.....9am-11:50am

March 7- Practice.....9am-11:50am

March 14-Practice.....9am-11:50am

March 17-18 Winter Championships, Lynchburg, VA (Volunteers already determined)

March 21 Richmond Area Games 8:30am-1pm at the Richmond Ice Zone

IMPORTANT-This is a school based program so practice is cancelled if school is closed or opening is delayed due to inclement weather!

I look forward to sharing the opportunity to participate in this worthy project with many of you soon!

Stephanie Floyd

Special Olympic Ice Skating Program