



2026 Skate America Bid Information

Tentative Event Dates:

October 13-18, 2026 (subject to change)

Future Skate America Dates (subject to change)

2027 – Oct. 12-17, 2027

2028 – Oct. 17-22, 2028

2029 – Oct. 16-21, 2029

RFP Contact:

Bob Dunlop, Sr. Director, Events

C:719-351-9609

O: 719-535-5200

E-mail: bdunlop@usfigureskating.org

RFP Timeline:

July 2025 – RFP Distributed

Sept. 5, 2025 – RFP Deadline

September – Review of bids and site visits

October – Confirmation of 2026 host

Selected Host to attend 2025 Skate America

Lake Placid, NY

Nov. 12-16, 2025

OVERVIEW

U.S. Figure Skating, the National Governing Body for figure skating in the United States, is seeking proposals from a local organizing committee (LOC) to partner to host 2026 Skate America, Oct. 13-18, 2026. The LOC is defined by U.S. Figure Skating as a U.S. Figure Skating member club, Facility Management Group, Promoter, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Sports Commission, or any combination of these organizations. The successful LOC will work directly with U.S. Figure Skating leadership to support the event through volunteer recruitment, off-ice functions (officials' dinner, competitor party), ground transportation and procuring local community support (grants, cash/VIK sponsorship).

Skate America is the annual international figure skating competition hosted by U.S. Figure Skating. This event features top U.S. and international athletes competing in each of the four disciplines at the highest international levels. The field includes current World and Olympic team members. The event will serve as the first competition in the 2026 International Skating Union's (ISU) Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

Serving as the traditional start of the Olympic-eligible figure skating season annually, Skate America includes a total of 60 athletes (12 Women, 12 men, 8 pairs teams and 10 dance teams) from 12-15 nations over four days. The event concludes with the Skating Spectacular which highlights the top four place-winners in each discipline skating in a Sunday evening family show format.

Originating in 1979 as a fall festival skating event in Lake Placid, N.Y., Skate America has evolved into a top destination for international elite competitors which includes as its alumni 2013 World ice dancing champions Meryl Davis & Charlie White (USA), 2010 Olympic champions Evan Lysacek (USA) and Yu Na Kim (KOR) as well as numerous past U.S. Olympic and World medalists including Michelle Kwan, Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Brian Boitano and Nathan Chen.

MEDIA IMPACT

The host city will receive direct media exposure in the form of live national television coverage on NBC Sports. In addition, Skate America is broadcast internationally with annual coverage in Canada, France, China, Japan, and Russia. The event also attracts impressive national and international media attention with an average of 75-100 journalists/photographers credentialed for the event each year. The positive media exposure provides a host city with a strong platform to promote the city as a national sporting destination



PREVIOUS SKATE AMERICA HOST CITIES

Year	Location	Venue
2025	Lake Placid, NY	Herb Brooks 1980 Arena
2023 & '24	Allen, Texas	Credit Union of Texas Event Center
2022	Norwood, Mass.	Skating Club of Boston
2021	Las Vegas, Nev.	Orleans Arena
2020	Las Vegas, Nev.	Orleans Arena
2019	Las Vegas, Nev.	Orleans Arena
2018	Everett, Wash.	Everett Events Center
2017	Lake Placid, NY	Herb Brooks 1980 Arena

TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*

In 2026, Skate America will be conducted over the dates October 13-18, 2026.

<i>Monday, Oct. 12</i>	<i>TBD if needed by arena. Initial ice conversion begins</i>
Thursday, Oct. 13	Load-in starts. Ice conversions, paint, logos, TV lighting, officials stand build.
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Arrival of all delegations. Completion of conversion/event set-up.
Thursday, Oct. 15	Official practice sessions and officials' dinner
Friday, Oct. 16	Session 1 (evening) – Short Dance and Ladies Short Program competitions
Saturday, Oct. 17	Session 2 (afternoon) – Free Dance (Finals) & Ladies Free Skate (Finals) Session 3 (evening) – Pairs Short Program & Men's Short Program
Sunday, Oct. 18	Session 4 (afternoon) – Pairs Free Skate & Men's Free Skate Session 5 – Skating Spectacular (top four place-winners in show format)
Monday, Oct. 19	Departure of all delegation members

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Based upon the National Association of Sports Commission's and Convention and Visitors Bureau's formulas that estimate average daily spending of visitors, Skate America's economic impact from direct visitor spending is estimated to be more than \$2,000,000.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HOST

City must be serviced by an international airport (direct international flights preferred)

The proposed local committee must have successful event management experience to include the following:

- Proven event management experience with national and or international sporting events
- Experience hosting Olympic style sporting events (mutli-day/mutli-session event)
- Previous host of U.S. Figure Skating event preferred.
- The proposed local committee must agree that U.S. Figure Skating will retain all national sponsorship and television rights fees associated with the event.
- The proposed local committee must agree that no local sponsors of Skate America will conflict with U.S. Figure Skating national sponsors or their respective product categories and potential local sponsors may not be contacted without prior U.S. Figure Skating approval.
- The proposed local committee must agree that they will cooperate and comply with all U.S. Figure Skating branding/merchandising directives as they might occur, whether prior to or after any award or authorization from U.S. Figure Skating or other entity, without cost to U.S. Figure Skating.
- The proposed local committee must present a sample arena agreement incorporating the minimum venue specifications as listed below for the required dates of Oct. 13-18, 2025 (preferred load-in beginning on Monday, Oct. 12).
- The proposed local committee must agree to utilize the official title and logo in all marketing efforts.
- The proposed local committee must agree that U.S. Figure Skating is entitled to 300 all event tickets located in the lower bowl of the arena at no cost with actual placement to be decided by U.S. Figure Skating.
- The proposed local committee is responsible for recruiting and training an event volunteer workforce for the event. Approximately 50-75 people are needed depending on shifts and availability.
- The proposed local committee must sign an "Agreement to Host" with U.S. Figure Skating.

COMPETITION VENUE SPECIFICATIONS

- a. One ice surface is required: 85' x 200' (NHL) or 100' x 200' (Olympic).
- b. Seating: 5,000 minimum.
- c. Access to the main event arena must be available at least one day prior to the first day of practice for load-in and preparation and must be made available for television lighting needs (if required).
- d. Function Areas: Space for up to 25 working rooms/areas on event level.
- e. Television hook-up fee (TV truck power) and access to all lighting and power sources in the venue must be waived by arena.
- f. Arena must waive all costs and allow U.S. Figure Skating to manage and sell event merchandise.
- g. All existing arena signage on rinkboards and within the arena bowl including existing Zamboni signage must be able to be covered without cost to U.S. Figure Skating or LOC.
- h. Minimum of 50 parking spaces available for U.S. Figure Skating use.
- i. Use of arena video boards, PA system and any electronic 'billboards' with appropriate operators (including but not limited to Technical Director, Playback Operator, LED Operator) must be available to U.S. Figure Skating and LOC at no cost.
- j. Arena must make available a minimum of one suite to U.S. Figure Skating and LOC for use during the event at no charge.

OFFICIAL HOTEL SPECIFICATIONS

- a. The official hotel(s) sleeping room rate of \$129-149 preferred with rebate or commission back to event budget.
- b. Three complimentary suites for use from Oct. 14-19, 2026.
- c. Minimum rebate of \$10/room night and/or commission on total room revenue.
- d. Sleeping Rooms: Estimated at a minimum of 1,400 room nights with 210 rooms available from Thursday-Saturday (see chart below).
- e. Meeting Rooms: Complimentary access to all meeting rooms at the designated host hotel for the event to schedule all functions surrounding the competition (run of the house).
- f. 20 complimentary parking spaces and in/out privileges for U.S. Figure Skating officials.
- g. Complimentary room credit based on one for every 30-40 rooms paid.
- h. Six complimentary room nights for use on required site visits.

SKATE AMERICA ROOM BLOCK

Room Type	Monday Oct. 12	Tuesday Oct. 13	Wednesday Oct. 14	Thursday Oct. 15	Friday Oct. 16	Saturday Oct. 17	Sunday Oct. 18	TOTAL
King	5	40	91	101	107	107	92	543
Queen/Queen	1	33	133	139	139	139	130	714
Exec. King	9	15	22	22	22	22	22	134
Suite	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Suite	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Suite	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
TOTAL	15	89	250	266	272	272	248	1,412

BUDGET PARAMETERS

The proposed LOC and U.S. Figure Skating shall agree on a final revenue and expenses budget that includes the following budget parameters:

- a. U.S. Figure Skating is to receive a bid fee guarantee of \$25,000 with all additional net profit being split between the LOC and U.S. Figure Skating 50/50.
- b. The event budget will capture all event revenues including ticket sales (all-event, singles session, discounted, promotions, etc...), hotel rebate/commission, event program sales and event program advertising, community grants and approved local sponsorships and exclude event merchandise, national sponsorship revenues and all media rights, television, internet, etc... which will be the sole property of U.S. Figure Skating.
- c. The event budget is responsible for all costs associated with the arena rental (24 hour rental from Oct. 13-28, 2026), construction for event needs, arena staffing costs, additional equipment rental and appropriate box office fees (ticket printing, credit card fees, local taxes and group sales commissions) based on the event site visit and technical walkthrough (date TBD).
- d. The event budget is responsible for the cost of the ice paint and shipping required for the event.
- e. The event budget is responsible for the round-trip shipping costs of the necessary event equipment crates from Colorado Springs.
- f. The event budget is responsible for all costs to house the official delegation from Oct. 14-19, 2026 (see attached expense chart).

BUDGET PARAMETERS (continued)

The event budget is responsible for providing meal service (from dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 14 until breakfast on Monday, Oct. 19) for the official delegation at the official hotel or arena (if approved) and/or provide per diem at the current federal GSA rate.

The event budget is responsible for covering the air transportation costs (best available economy round trip) including baggage fees for the official delegation (see attached expense chart).

The event budget is responsible for providing delegation members an onsite honorarium of \$300 Swiss francs/person as outlined in ISU competition rules (see attached expense chart).

The event budget is responsible for all costs associated with the pick-up and return of official delegation between the official airport and official hotel.

- g. The event budget is responsible for all costs of an event shuttle system between the official hotel and competition venue (if needed) daily starting on Thursday, Oct. 15 through the completion of events on Sunday, Oct. 18. The event shuttle must start 1 ½ hours prior to the first scheduled event of the day and run until 2 hours following the last scheduled event ends each day.
- h. The event budget is responsible for all costs associated with providing an accredited drug testing organization (U.S. Anti Doping Agency - USADA) to implement the in-competition testing.
- i. The event budget is responsible for all costs associated with show lighting and operators for the Skating Spectacular.
- j. The event budget must also cover the costs or the costs be covered via sponsored items or services as follows:
 - Awards medals ordered by U.S. Figure Skating (18 in total)
 - Flowers for awards ceremonies (18 bouquets)
 - Officials gifts (approx.. 60)
 - Athlete gifts (52)
 - Volunteer apparel item.
 - Event signage and event banner

ASSIGNED PERSONNEL EXPENSE CHART

LOC=event budget responsibility

Event Staff	Hotel	Meals	*Air Travel	Airport Shuttle	Honorarium/Per Diem
U.S. Figure Skating Event Staff - 20	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	Current GSA rate for Per Diem
Event Operation Officials - 10	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	Honorarium
ISU Event Staff – 4	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	ISU Pays
Judges – 25	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	Honorarium
Event Referees – 3	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	Honorarium
Technical Controllers – 3	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	Honorarium
Technical Specialists – 6	LOC	LOC	ISU	LOC	ISU Pays
Data/Video Operator – 2	ISU	ISU	ISU	X	ISU Pays
Swiss Timing Event Staff – 4	LOC	LOC	ISU	LOC	ISU Pays
Athletes – 60	LOC	LOC	LOC	LOC	NA
Coaches – approx. 40	^On own	On own	On own	LOC	NA
Team Leaders – max. of 2 /country	X	X	X	LOC	NA
Federation Presidents – 1/per country	^On own	On own	On own	LOC	NA
Athlete chaperones	^On own	On own	On own	(X)	NA

* Also includes baggage fee reimbursement

^ Pay individually but will need to be accommodated in overall event room block

(X) Chaperones may ride provided airport transportation for a prepaid fee

About U.S. Figure Skating

U.S. Figure Skating is the national governing body for the sport of figure skating in the United States.

U.S. Figure Skating is a member of the International Skating Union (ISU), the international federation for figure skating; and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC).

U.S. Figure Skating is comprised of member clubs, collegiate clubs, school-affiliated clubs, individual members, and Friends of Figure Skating.

U.S. Figure Skating's national headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado is also home to the World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame, which is toured by more than 3,000 visitors annually.

