



NEWS RELEASE

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2011 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS 'ICE SWEEPER' AUDITIONS TO BE HELD IN HILLSBOROUGH

GREENSBORO, N.C. (April 9, 2010) – “Ice sweepers” auditions for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be held at the Triangle Sportsplex in Hillsborough, N.C., on Sunday, April 11.

Ice sweepers are volunteers, between ages 8 and 13, who clear the ice of stuffed animals and other mementos tossed by spectators in recognition of competitor performances. Ice sweepers collect the items for the athletes in a time-honored figure skating tradition.

Auditions will be conducted by the staff of North Carolina 2011, local organizing committee for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, and North Carolina figure skating officials.

To audition, participants must be members of a U.S. Figure Skating club, or a Basic Skills participant, in the Carolinas. More than 120 skaters have already applied to audition.

“We are excited by the strong interest level and the large number of applicants,” said Faryn Driscoll, director of operations for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. “We are looking forward to a competitive, but fun, tryout.”

“The role of sweeper is a very important one at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships,” said Scott Cudmore, figure skating director at Polar Ice in Wake Forest and a volunteer coordinator for the auditions. “The ice sweepers are in the spotlight – both in front of large crowds of spectators but also on national television – all while performing a very helpful service to the athletes. We have great, young talent among our skaters in the Carolinas, and this will be an experience that those selected will not soon forget.”

– About U.S. Figure Skating –

U.S. Figure Skating is the national governing body for the sport of figure skating in the United States as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union. U.S. Figure Skating is comprised of more than 700 member clubs, collegiate clubs, and school-affiliated clubs and more than 900 registered Basic Skills skating schools representing approximately 170,000 members. U.S. Figure Skating is charged with the development of the sport on all levels within the United States including athletes, officials, sanctioning of events and exhibitions, and establishing the rules and guidelines by which the sport is governed. For more information on U.S. Figure Skating, visit www.usfigureskating.org.

– About North Carolina 2011 –

North Carolina 2011 is the local organizing committee for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships to be held in Greensboro, N.C. NC 2011 encompasses a collaborative team consisting of the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, the Greensboro Sports Commission, the Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau, North Carolina Amateur Sports, Sports & Properties, Inc., and North Carolina Figure Skating. The 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships are sponsored locally by Lowes Foods, Presenting Sponsor; and by Official Sponsors: Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greensboro Coliseum Complex, Moses Cone Health System, Graphic Visual Solutions, BEM Interactive, MediaFit, Annese Public Relations, Ice Rink Events, Hagan Davis, and Skyline Exhibits & Events. Media & Marketing Partners for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships include Diamond Partners the News & Record and Capitol Broadcasting Company; and

Official Partners Clear Channel Radio, Our State Magazine, and Guilford Woman Magazine. For more information on North Carolina 2011 and the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, visit www.northcarolina2011.com.