

23rd Annual Skate the Lake

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Our mountain community truly shines during the holiday season and capping off that mountain holiday spirit is the iconic Skate the Lake New Year's Eve Festival, now in its 23rd year.



For more than two decades, Drive Smart has presented Skate the Lake, but the organization felt that it could no longer manage the massive event. Rather than just let it go, however, Drive Smart Executive Director Amy Nichols asked the Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce to take it on. Thankfully, the Chamber said yes, knowing how important Skate the Lake is to the community.

"We're thrilled that Drive Smart trusted us to put on a successful event and give our patrons the best possible experience," said Betsy Hays, Chamber president/CEO. "We will make sure to do exactly that." The Chamber's mission includes growing the local economy by building business relationships and promoting the community, so Betsy sees the Chamber's ownership of Skate the Lake as a perfect win-win.

The response to the news has been overwhelmingly positive. "Sponsors are thrilled that we are expanding the list of nonprofits that will receive proceeds. It's the Chamber's way of giving back and the right thing to do for the community," added Betsy. This year's event beneficiaries are Drive Smart, Active 4

All Foundation, EAPL (Evergreen Animal Protective League) and ECHO Food Bank (Evergreen Christian Outreach).

What's New

So what does all this mean for the 2018 Skate the Lake? Longtime event manager and former Drive Smart Executive Director Jackie Mohr is once again running the show, so returning attendees can rest assured that the flavor and spirit of the evening as the premier mountain area, alcohol free, family friendly New Year's Eve celebration will continue. "When I had the opportunity to come back, I asked my family what they thought, and they were overwhelmingly supportive. I've loved every minute of the planning process. I feel valued and supported by the Chamber and the community. It means so much to me to keep this New Year's Eve tradition going."

That said, there are some notable changes to be aware of.

The biggest change is that there will be only one fireworks show (sponsored by Chow Down and Beau Jo's) beginning at 8 pm, and the event itself will end at 10 pm. The thinking behind this—in keeping with the Chamber's mission—is to encourage people to celebrate at Evergreen Lake, but also have time after the event (or before) to ring in the New Year with friends and family by enjoying the festivities at local restaurants. Of course, there will be some amazing food trucks with delicious dinner, snacks and hot beverages at Skate the Lake too!

Another big change is that, no matter what, the event will not be cancelled.

Attendees can purchase tickets in advance (highly encouraged) and be confident of their New Year's Eve plans. "I have created Plans A, B, C and D, so whatever the weather brings us (warm temperatures, high winds, cold and snow or clear skies), the party will go on with all the mountain charm, warmth and fun that everyone expects," said Jackie.

What's Familiar

The evening begins at 6 pm with skating (skate rentals are limited and guests are

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encouraged to bring their own skates), broom-ball, mini ice golf, kids activities and music provided by local DJ Sound Mountain Entertainment. Firepits with marshmallows for roasting will help keep the chill away, and if you really need to escape the cold, the Warming House, sponsored by The Wild Game, will be open with a fire going and the Disney movie "Frozen" playing inside.

Cactus Jack's Saloon is the official Ice Sculpture sponsor. Spectators are welcome to come out to the lake before 12:30 pm to watch Evergreen native Mike Bickelhaupt, president of Colorado Ice Works, create our 2019 mas-

terpiece. During Skate the Lake, the ice sculpture will be warmly lit and will make a perfect backdrop for photos and ringing in the New Year—Evergreen style!

Food and hot beverages will be available for purchase from local vendors: Espresso Evergreen, Tilford's Pizza, Barefoot Barbecue, Wat Up Dogg and Rickys Island Café.

A special thank you to the Ponzio family for being a community sponsor.

Volunteers Needed

Putting on an event of this magnitude takes approximately 300 volunteer hours, according to volunteer coordinator Marie Lynch who has been matching Skate the Lake volunteers with the right job for many years. Marie's goal is to ensure that both the attendees and guests have a great experience. Adult volunteers are needed to help with parking, selling and checking tickets, tending the firepits and handing out marshmallows, assisting with mini ice golf and providing security on the lake. Shifts are typically two hours. For information on volunteering, contact Marie by phone or text at 303.250.3133, or email at marilynch@evergreenchamber.org.

Sponsorships are Still Available

An extensive list of sponsor levels and perks can be found on the Skate the Lake page of the Evergreen Chamber website, evergreenchamber.org/skate-the-lake. Just click on the sponsorship button for details.

Know Before You Go

Go to evergreenchamber.org/skate-the-lake for more information, or you can contact our Skate the Lake event manager, Jackie, at jackiemohr@evergreenchamber.org.

The non-refundable tickets are \$20 in advance (children 5 and under are free) and \$30 at the door. With the help of ticket sponsor Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Elevated Living, tickets are available on the website and also at these locations: the Evergreen Chamber office, Cactus Jack's Saloon, The Wild Game, Boone Mountain Sports, HearthFire Books, Evergreen Lake House, Buchanan Rec Center and Wulf Rec Center.

Park for free and take a shuttle from The Wild Game, U.S. Bank Building or Christ the King Church. Shuttles will run from 5:30 pm until 10:30 pm. A limited number of passes for parking at Evergreen Lake are available online only for purchase (\$25) but will go quickly.

This year's Skate the Lake New Year's Eve event is a party that is for the community by the community, and the Evergreen Chamber is honored to present it to all. Don't miss this unique Evergreen tradition. Tickets make great stocking stuffers!