In 1961, a tragedy shook the sporting world. Sabena Flight 548, carrying the U.S. Figure Skating World Team to the World Figure Skating Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia, crashed near Brussels, Belgium. All aboard were lost, including 34 members of the U.S. Team. From this loss arose the Memorial Fund, a living tribute to those who perished, that provides financial support to hundreds of talented young skaters pursuing their dreams both on and off of the ice. The feature film RISE celebrates the history of American figure skating and documents the impact that the 1961 World Team had on both the sport and the skaters who came after them. The objective of the RISE Youth Essay contest is to provide an opportunity for qualified young members of U.S. Figure Skating to connect with figure skating’s history and share their personal reflections and thoughts on the impact of the 1961 World Team.

I. Who Can Participate:
The Memorial Fund RISE Youth Essay Contest is open to current U.S. Figure Skating members who have competed at the pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile, or juvenile level, and who are not yet eligible to receive CSAP (Competitive Skaters Assistance Program) and/or ASP (Academic Scholarship Program) funding from the Memorial Fund. Athletes who have competed at the Sectional Championships at the juvenile level and placed sixth or higher are not eligible to enter this contest.

II. How to Apply
• Watch RISE. All U.S. Figure Skating member clubs own a copy of RISE. Contact your club president if you do not have access to a copy.
• Complete the online application. Visit www.usfigureskating.org and click on the “Athletes” tab.
• Compose an essay of no more than 1,000 words in response to the prompt in Section III below.
• Essays may be handwritten or typed. Parents, if your child cannot easily and/or legibly write or proficiently type, you may type their words for them.

III. Essay Topic
It is important to have support when following one’s dreams. Who believes in you? Who do you look to for inspiration in your life?
IV. Application Submission

- **Entries must be received at U.S. Figure Skating by Friday, Sept. 2, 2016.**
  - Submit entries via **U.S. Mail** to:  
    RISE Youth Essay Contest  
    U.S. Figure Skating  
    20 First St.  
    Colorado Springs, CO 80906  
  OR  
  - Submit entries via **email** to:  
    FinancialAid@usfigureskating.org  
    Please include “RISE Youth Essay Contest” in the email subject line.

- **Entries must be received by Friday, Sept. 2, 2016 to be eligible for consideration.**
- U.S. Figure Skating will not accept any faxed applications or any applications after the deadline.

V. Selection Process

- Applications and submissions will be evaluated by the Memorial Fund Committee.
- Entries will be judged in four groups: pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile, and juvenile, as determined by the highest level at which applicant has competed.
- One winner will be selected in each of the four groups.
- Each winner will receive a $1,000 grant and have their essay published in SKATING magazine.
- Awards will be distributed between December 2016 and January 2017.

VI. Timeline

**June 1, 2016:** Applications for the 2017 RISE Youth Essay Contest are posted on www.usfigureskating.org.

**Sept. 2, 2016:** Applications and essays must be received at U.S. Figure Skating to be eligible for consideration.

**Nov. 2016:** The Memorial Fund Committee selects four winners, one in each group.

**Dec. 2016 - Jan. 2017:** Applicants are notified. Awards are distributed.

**Spring 2017:** Winning essays are featured in SKATING Magazine.

Please direct all questions to FinancialAid@usfigureskating.org.