



2020 U.S. Figure Skating *RISE* Youth Essay Contest

Supported by the U.S. Figure Skating Memorial Fund

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](#). Also, 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 or email bdiederich@usfigureskating.org.
- Complete the online application. Visit www.usfigureskating.org/AthleteFunding or use the link [HERE](#).
- 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 and submitted through the form online. If your child cannot easily and/or legibly write or proficiently type, you may type **their words** for them.

III. Essay Topic

“Discuss your favorite figure skating moment. It can be a moment you witnessed or one you experienced on the ice. Did it inspire you to move forward in figure skating? How and why?”



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IV. Application Submission

- **Entries must be received at U.S. Figure Skating by Friday, Aug. 30, 2019, you can submit your essay online through the form found [HERE](#).**

- 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, Aug. 30, 2019 to be eligible for consideration.**
- Submit your essay application at www.usfigureskating.org/AthleteFunding and use the 2020 RISE youth essay contest application link.
- 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 2019 and January 2020.

VI. Timeline

June 1, 2019: Application for the 2020 *RISE* Youth Essay Contest is posted

August 30, 2019: [Applications and essays must be received at U.S. Figure Skating to be eligible for consideration.](#)

Nov. 2019: [The Memorial Fund Committee selects four winners, one in each group.](#)

Dec. 2019 - Jan. 2020: Applicants are notified. Awards are distributed.

Spring 2020: Winning essays are featured in SKATING Magazine.

Please direct any questions to financialaid@usfigureskating.org