

In-Line Skating Safety Rules and Etiquette



Take safety seriously. Control your own safety by always using protective gear and properly functioning skates, knowing and practicing good in-line skating skills, and having a safe, courteous attitude.

Skating Smart

One requirement for the Skating merit badge is to explain skating safety rules. You must also know how to safely pass a pedestrian. All safety rules fall under skating etiquette, which is really just common sense.

- Always be in control of your skates and maintain a safe skating attitude. Do not show off.
- Stay on the right side of the path. Always pass on the left, and always call out a warning, "Passing on your left!"
- Skate with the flow of traffic.
- Do not wear headphones.
- Legally, you are a wheeled vehicle on in-line skates. Learn and observe all traffic regulations. Remember to always yield to pedestrians.
- Stay away from anything on the road surface, such as water, oil, and rocks. These make an unsafe skating surface and can damage your skates and send you flying.
- Avoid heavy traffic.
- Take care where you skate alone. Do not leave yourself open to danger by skating in run-down areas after dark.
- If you do skate after dark, make sure your equipment and skates are well-covered with reflective materials that show up in the dark. It is a good idea to apply reflective material when you first begin to skate because you never know when you might stay out later than you had planned.
- Skate only where you know you are welcome. If you are skating in a park, make sure the park allows in-line skating and you are skating in an area that is not off limits. Do not skate on private property unless you have the owner's permission. Never wear your skates inside a business or someone else's home.
- When skating in groups, do not give in to peer pressure to skate beyond your level of expertise. Look out for one another. Give each other plenty of room to maneuver. Let an experienced skater bring up the rear.