



The Esso Fun Day program originated in 1998 and has grown to become Hockey Canada's largest recruitment tool for women and girls hockey. The unique program was designed to help thousands of first-time players step on the ice and start their hockey journeys!

The Esso Fun Day program:

- Introduces beginners to hockey and its basic skills at no cost to the first-time participant.
- Can be delivered to women and girls of all ages. (NOTE: Local hockey associations may direct the program to a certain age group based on association needs and resources).
- Attracts first-time players to register for women and girls hockey programs, including Timbits U7, so they will enjoy the game for a lifetime.
- Enables participants to become contributing members of a team effort, experience team spirit, develop self-confidence and experience a sense of achievement.
- Creates a fun, informative hockey program that establishes Esso as a lead supporter of women and girls hockey programming and development.

As women and girls hockey has evolved, so too has the Esso Fun Day program. There are now nearly 100 programs hosted coast to coast to coast each year, equating to nearly 1,800 new players being introduced to the game. The program can be offered in single-day or six-week formats, on or off the ice, depending on the resources available to and recruitment goals of the local hockey association. Reimbursement amounts are available for each version.



PROGRAM FORMAT

As an overall introduction to the game, the Esso Fun Day program can include on- and off-ice components.

There are four formats the Esso Fun Day program can be run in:

SINGLE-DAY PROGRAM WITH NO ICE SESSION:

- One hour with basic hockey skills and NCCP trained instructors.
- One hour focusing on games, team-building and/or fitness.
- Time allocated for providing information on how to register with your association.

SINGLE-DAY PROGRAM WITH ICE SESSION:

- One hour on-ice with basic hockey skills and NCCP trained instructors.
- One hour off-ice focusing on games, team-building and/or fitness.
- Time allocated for providing information on how to register with your association.

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM WITH LIMITED ICE SESSIONS:

Week 1:

- One hour on-ice or off-ice with basic hockey skills and NCCP trained instructors.
- One hour off-ice focusing on games, team-building and/or fitness.

Weeks 2-6:

- One hour of ice time per week, ideally at the same time and location.
- Sessions focus on hockey skill development and can be done in any combination of on-ice or off-ice depending on what is available in the community.
- Time allocated for providing information on how to register with your association.

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM WITH SIX ICE SESSIONS:

Week 1:

- One hour on-ice with basic hockey skills and NCCP trained instructors.
- One hour off-ice focusing on games, team-building and/or fitness.

Weeks 2-6:

- One hour of ice time per week, ideally at the same time and location.
- Sessions focus on on-ice hockey skill development.
- Time allocated for providing information on how to register with your association.

For the on-ice sessions, the focus is on introducing basic skills:

- Skating
- Stopping
- Puck-handling
- Passing
- Shooting

The off-ice sessions provide players time to create social bonds while having fun learning other important skills:

- Icebreakers
- Team-building activities
- Warm-up/cool-down
- Stretching
- Other sports/importance of multi-sport
- Presentation on association and women and girls hockey

One of the keys to the program is the creation of a fun environment:

- Get creative with drills
- Use different sports balls or objects for targets
- Paint the ice
- Play music

Hosts can access drills and games by utilizing the **Hockey Canada Network**. Hosts will also receive an additional resource with off-ice skills and drills in their confirmation email.

WHAT SHOULD AN ESSO FUN DAY LOOK LIKE?

Below are some samples of how to run your program. For specific lesson plans and drills, please refer to the resources in your confirmation email.

EXAMPLE

ONE-DAY PROGRAM WITH ICE SESSION:

1:00–1:15	Check-In
1:15–2:15	Off-Ice Session focusing on team builders, icebreakers, and introduction to the basic rules and terminology of hockey
2:15–2:30	Water break (participants must bring their own water bottles)
2:30–3:00	Get dressed in equipment
3:00–4:00	On-Ice Session with a focus on basic skills and hockey concepts
4:00–4:30	Wrap-up, and provide contact information for your local hockey association

EXAMPLE

ONE-DAY PROGRAM WITH NO ICE SESSION:

12:30–1:00	Check-In
1:00–2:00	Off-ice session with a focus on basic skills, hockey concepts and an introduction to the basic rules and terminology of hockey
2:00–2:30	Water break (participants must bring their own water bottles)
2:30–3:30	Off-ice session focusing on team-building, icebreakers and games
3:30–4:00	Wrap-up, and provide contact information for your local hockey association

EXAMPLE

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM:

Week 1:

- Can look like either of the above examples, depending on ice availability.

Weeks 2-6:

- An additional five on-ice session of 60 minutes with a continued focus on basic hockey skills can be run on or off the ice. The schedule for these days would be modified from the above formats. Team-building, off-ice activities, guest speakers, etc., may also be included. At the end of the six weeks, provide details for registration with your local hockey association.



EQUIPMENT

The Esso Fun Day program aims to introduce women and girls to the game in a safe and fun environment. To do this, there are a few requirements for the protection of the participants. Some equipment is required to be hockey-specific, while other pieces are open to interpretation (i.e. roller-skating elbow pads).

The basic requirements for an Esso Fun Day On-ice session are:

- CSA-certified hockey helmet
- BNQ-certified neck guard
- Hockey gloves
- Elbow protection
- Knee protection
- Skates
- Hockey stick

► Additional optional equipment may include hockey pants, socks, shoulder pads, and jill.

Off-ice programs will require the following equipment, at minimum, depending on the scheduled activities:

- Running shoes
- Athletic clothing
- Eye protection – helmet with cage or protective eyewear such as goggles
- Hockey gloves
- Hockey stick

► It is understood that new players to the game may not have purchased equipment for this program. Here are a few suggestions on securing equipment for participants:

- Borrow equipment from a family member or trusted friend.
- Use the 'bring-a-buddy' theme: Have an established hockey player bring a friend to the ice time and allow her to borrow equipment.
- Include a full hockey team lending its equipment for the day.
- Contact a local sports equipment bank to bring equipment.
- Host an equipment donation campaign.

Cleaning Equipment Minimums

- Follow manufacturer guidelines for cleaning
- Use antibacterial spray and wipes
- Hang dry everything – use a fan to dry
- If equipment is borrowed, allow appropriate times between uses to disinfect
- Do not use bleach

► Ensure that communal equipment is sanitized between each use (i.e. pucks, balls, etc.)

[Please follow all Hockey Canada health and safety guidelines for equipment use.](#)



INSTRUCTORS

The success of the Esso Fun Day program depends largely on the leadership and teaching abilities of the instructors.

All lead instructors must be NCCP-trained with minimum Coach Level I.

This program can be used as a coach mentor or role model program to introduce new coaches to the game. These coaches would team up with and shadow more experienced coaches. New coaches learn how to run drills in a fun, supportive environment and implement one-on-one skill development for first-time hockey players. It is a great opportunity to introduce young women to the coaching world while giving players role models to look up to.

Options to have special guests:

- Local U13, U15, and U18 players
- College or university players
- Team Canada National Women's Team Athletes
- Local athletes from other sports
- Moms

Hockey Canada recommends a minimum instructor to student ratio of 1:5. A number of clinics have provided a 1:3 ratio or offered the program to smaller group sizes in order to provide more individual feedback to the participants. It is essential to ensure that every instructor is an active participant with the first-time players.

Hockey Canada also recommends that instructors complete the Keeping Girls in Sport online module which teaches coaches how to create safe, fun, and respectful environments that will lead to girls staying in sport and physical activity.

ALL ESSO FUN DAY GROUP SIZES MUST MEET PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Please keep the rules and regulations of your local facility in mind when establishing your group size.

Where allowed, a maximum of 30 players per 75 minutes of ice time is suggested. Beyond 30 participants, the host should consider an additional ice session.





HOSTING A PROGRAM

STEP 1:

Visit hockeycanada.ca/essofunday and apply to host your program!

STEP 2:

Once you have received your program approval confirmation and host tool kit, begin your planning.

- Book your ice time(s) and off-ice venue
- Recruit your instructors and on-ice mentors
- Advertise your program using the posters and ads in your host tool kit
- Plan your program day schedule(s)
- Follow local Member and provincial health and safety protocols when planning

STEP 3:

Recruit your new-to-hockey players

- Distribute posters to local schools and community outlets
- Social media ads (digital ads would be for web use) - refer to the social media tool kit in your confirmation email
- Ask current players to spread the word to their friends outside of hockey

STEP 4:

Register your players and order your jersey

- Cross-reference all new-to-hockey players against the HCR
- Register all participants into the registration portal provided in your confirmation email
- Jersey requests must be received a minimum of three weeks prior to your event

STEP 5:

Run your Esso Fun Day

- Make sure the focus of your programs is fun and inclusive and provides players with a great first time experience
- Don't forget to provide registration information so players can sign up for your local hockey association!

Complete your wrap-up form

- Submit the wrap-up form, EFT transfer information and all receipts to essofunday@hockeycanada.ca within 30 days from your first program date
 - Complete host survey

STEP 6:

EVENT MEDIA

During your Esso Fun Day, we very much encourage everyone to utilize media to celebrate your event and share it with the world. Hockey Canada can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, so share your event photos with us throughout your event!

When utilizing social media here are the key accounts to include



[facebook/EssoCanada](https://facebook.com/EssoCanada) @HockeyCanada @HC_Women

#EssoFunDay

Most hosts will take photos and videos during their program and we appreciate all forms of media tracking. We urge all hosts to share photos with us in celebration of Esso Fun Day! They can be submitted along with all your wrap-up information. Please ensure all participants in photos have signed the photo release.



POST PROGRAM WRAP-UP

Following your Esso Fun Day, there is information that must be submitted to Hockey Canada to receive your subsidy for the program. Every participant, on-ice volunteer and coach must be entered into the registration portal prior to your first ice time and all completed wrap-up forms and supporting documents must be received by Hockey Canada within 30 days from the first on-ice session.

Please email your completed wrap-up information to essofunday@hockeycanada.ca

Note: All wrap-ups must be completed on this wrap-up form. Previous season forms will not be accepted.

ESSO FUN DAY WRAP-UP FORM

Program Information

Program length: one-day six-week

Program date(s): Community lead:

Association full name:

Total number of participants attended:

Total number of New-to-Hockey participants:

Expenses Summary

ONE-DAY Maximum \$400:	SIX WEEK Maximum \$800:	ACTUAL TOTAL:
DESCRIPTION Venue Rental & Supplies ▶ \$350	DESCRIPTION Venue Rental & Supplies ▶ \$750	DESCRIPTION Venue Rental & Supplies ▶
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice rental• Off-ice facility rental• Cleaning supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice rental• Off-ice facility rental• Cleaning supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice rental• Off-ice facility rental• Cleaning supplies
Marketing ▶ \$50	Marketing ▶ \$50	Marketing ▶
Total: ▶ \$400	Total: ▶ \$800	Total: ▶

NOTE: For Esso and Hockey Canada to support a growing number of programs, subsidy maximums will be provided as presented. If maximum allocation in one area is not spent, additional subsidy will not be provided for another expense (i.e. unspent marketing allocation will not be used to cover additional ice costs).

Reimbursement Information

Hockey Canada can provide local hockey associations with electronic fund transfer (EFT)/direct deposit for subsidies. In order to receive EFT/direct deposit from Hockey Canada, please provide us with your banking information below:

Name (as it is registered at the bank):

Email for payment notification:

Financial institution name:

Financial institution no:

Bank account no:

Transit/branch number:

For confirmation purposes, please include a void cheque or document issued from your bank that shows your banking information.