Welcome to Teton Valley Youth Hockey!

THE GOAL:
We hope to instill in your children a lifelong passion for hockey.The Mini-Mites and Mites programs focus on the fundamentals of skating and stick handling. The programs combine fun, small area games and drills with skating instruction to ensure a great first experience. We do not typically play formal games. A few times a year, we will put the kids into teams and play cross-ice games. These events have a game-like atmosphere and are a great opportunity for friends and family to support their skater.

The season ideally begins in mid-December. Ultimately it depends on when the outside temperature remains below freezing long enough to make ice, and the season ends when the ice melts (hopefully as late as early March).

AGE & EXPERIENCE:
No skating experience is required for Mini-Mites or Mites. Although there is no minimum age requirement, the recommended age for children entering the program for the first time is 4-5 years old depending on their personality, size, emotional maturity, and physical coordination.

If your old child takes a little more time to adapt to new experiences – physically or emotionally – you may want to consider signing up for our Beginning Skate Lessons which are 1x a week on Thursdays. These lessons are designed to teach the basics of skating for any new skater whether they are interested in hockey or figure skating because the skating skills are the same at that level. After a year of gaining confidence in a more intimate teaching setting, your child can then join an official youth hockey team or transition into a figure skating track the following year depending on their area of interest.

REGISTRATION:
All players MUST register ONLINE by going to the tetonvalleyfoundation.org Youth Hockey page which will automatically link you to our registration website **sportngin.com**. As part of registration, sportngin.com will also steer you to register with USA Hockey (Mites and Mini-Mites do NOT need to pay a USA Hockey fee. Once a player becomes a squirt they will need to pay an additional $40 USA Hockey fee).

A copy of your child's birth certificate is required. You can scan it online when you register on sportngin.com or bring a copy to our rental gear pick-up days on November 15 and December 13. You will also be required to fill out a USA Hockey med form which can be found on sportngin.com

RENTALS
You have the option of renting gear for your child for $45/season. Mini-Mites and Mites require a full set of hockey equipment to participate. You can rent most of this gear from us, but you will need to get skates, a cup/garter belt and a stick. We hold a small Gear Swap every year to provide affordable items, or you can try Victor Seconds in Victor, Play it Again Sports in Idaho Falls, or Headwall Sports in Jackson, Wy. Teton Valley Foundation will provide every player with a pair of socks and a jersey.

PARENT COACHES & VOLUNTEERS
Parent coaches are a vital part of any hockey program. USA Hockey mandates a coaching certification for the head coach of each age classification. However we need LOTS of help with our mites and mini-mites programs because there are so many kids at so many different levels. Parent volunteers are essential. Even if you have never coached before, we can still use you. The head coach will give you guidance on how to supervise drills, work with kids who are struggling, etc. If you are interested in being a parent volunteer please inform your head coach or Team Parent. You will need to sign a waiver. If you are interested in becoming a level 1 USA Hockey Coach, contact Willy Warner at willyw225@gmail.com. We are always looking for new qualified USA Hockey coaches to build our program.

THE HARDEST PART…GETTING YOUR KID DRESSED!
As a parent of a hockey player you can help out by getting your child dressed, fed and hydrated before their practice starts. Mini-Mites practice is only 45 minutes long and Mites is 1 hour long. The coaches would like to take full advantage of that time. Having a snack and dressing at home may be your best option. **If you prefer to get dressed at the rink you need to plan on arriving at least 15-20 minutes before practice.** No joke….it can actually take that long to get your kid dressed for practice!

There are YouTube videos on how to put the gear on! We recommend that you watch them.

DRYLAND
Dryland training starts in mid-November each year. There are several benefits: it gets your child comfortable with coaches; it trains them on how to be a part of a team; it conditions them for the season; it enables them to use and wear their hockey gear; it orients them to the rules of the game; and most of all it's a total blast for kids to run around a gym for an hour whacking at a plastic ball with a stick! Dryland training is on Mondays & Wednesdays at Victor Elementary. Times vary from year to year.

Still feeling a little terrified? Give us a call at 208-399-2ICE If you have any questions or concerns or email rink@tetonvalleyfoundation.org