

COLORADO SPRINGS YOUTH HOCKEY PIONEERS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Youth hockey plays an integral part in the youth sports landscape in Colorado Springs, contributing to the rich heritage of ice sports in our community, including high school, collegiate and Olympic-level hockey competitions by U.S. Figure Skating and USA Hockey. While many individuals and organizations have played key roles since the movement began in the late 1940's, the initial development of the sport can be attributed to several key "pioneers" who dedicated their lives to the development and growth of many of the programs and tournaments thriving in Colorado Springs today.

The Colorado Springs Youth Hockey Pioneers include: Don Bates, former Colorado College hockey player, coach and later a high school and collegiate official; Art Berglund, former Broadmoor Ice Palace (later renamed The (original) Broadmoor World Arena) Manager and retired Senior Director of International Administration at USA Hockey; Tommy Brennan, former Program Coordinator with the City of Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation Department, spearheaded the youth hockey program that later became the high school hockey program; and Sandi and Tim McConnell, former Directors of the President's Day Youth Hockey Tournament, one of the largest and most successful youth hockey events in North America attracting 80+ teams to Colorado Springs annually.

Each of these individuals, along with many others, dedicated years of service to the grassroots development of hockey, helped establish youth hockey in the Colorado Springs sports community and developed many champions and major stars who emerged from subsequently established programs.