SUNY Oswego’s Skate Shop is now offering the use of an Adaptive Ice Sport Sled to participants of regular Open Skate sessions. The purpose of the sled is to allow persons with permanent or temporary mobility-related disabilities, or ANYONE who wishes to try a distinctive recreational activity, the opportunity for integrated participation in the Open Skate program. Further information regarding Open Skate sessions at SUNY Oswego can be found at www.oswego.edu/openskate.html.

General information for this program is as follows…

- The adaptive ice sport sled has a “telescoping nose” and additional (removable) padding in the bucket to accommodate a wide range of user sizes.
- The sled also has a removable “high-back” on the bucket to accommodate users who need extra support.
- The sled also features a removable “pusher-bar” for those who need help to maneuver around the ice.
- Sled users who need assistance getting in or out of the sled and/or wheelchair, or who need assistance maneuvering around the ice, must provide their own “helper” for these purposes.
- Skate Shop personnel are responsible for instructing, advising, and monitoring sled users – but cannot provide physical assistance, unless the user has fallen. (This includes helping those who are getting in or out of the sled and/or wheelchair, or who need assistance maneuvering around the ice.)
- On-ice “helpers” for sled users are required to wear ice skates or removable ice-cleats.
- Removable ice-cleats for sled user “helpers” are available in the Skate Shop.
- Equipment such as helmets, elbow pads, hockey gloves, etc. are not required for sled users who participate in regular Open Skate sessions.
- Depending on circumstances, sled users have the option of getting in/out of the sled office, on the rubberized floor area adjacent to the visitor’s bench. After they are secured in the sled, they will enter the ice at the rink door which is near this area.
- To avoid possible collisions, on-ice Skate Shop personnel will guide skaters away from the rink door area while the sled user is entering the ice.
- The adaptive ice sport sled will be available for use by persons with physical disabilities and able-bodied persons. However, persons with disabilities will have preference in using the equipment.
- Sled users have access to the same ice areas as upright skaters, and will follow the same direction of travel.
- The adaptive ice sport sled is inspected by Skate Shop personnel after each use, and regular maintenance is performed as needed.
- The users of the adaptive ice sport sled pay the regular admission and rental fees that have been established for upright skaters. However, there will be no fees charged to on-ice “helpers” that provide assistance to sled users by pushing them around the ice.