

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGIAN

Culture and Community Fort Collins Life Homepage Life and Culture

Girls+Women Skate Night encourages diversity in local skateboarding scene

Jenna Landry, Staff Reporter  
September 23, 2024



Collegian | Trin Bonner

Loud music, rhythmic wheels over hollow wood, sporadic cheering and a judgment-free zone to learn or improve skateboarding skills are what you'll experience arriving at Launch's indoor skate park on Girls+Women Night.

**Launch Skate** is a nonprofit organization that's dedicated to promoting skateboarding through community in all facets of life.

Ad

Girls+Women Night started in 2013, a few years after Launch Executive Director Andy Weiss opened its doors in 2011.

Weiss said as the organization grew and became busier and their calendar started to fill up, open skate times got narrower, and they began to see a need for more focused programs.

Weiss also said there was a broader diversification of skateboarding as well as participants.

"I'm sure any girl that has been in a group of girls can attest to the kind of energy and vibe that goes along with being around really supportive and energetic women and what that can do for your confidence." *—Caroline Gevers, Launch Skate staff member*

"When I was growing up in the '80s, I knew, like, two (women) that skateboarded, and now I feel like you go to the skatepark and it's much more diverse, and we had seen the need for that and started offering that," Weiss said.

Tess Roerig got involved with Launch in 2021 when she started learning to skateboard with her partner, so she looked for a place to do it during the cold winter months. She said she saw an ad on Instagram for beginners' nights, so they went.

At one point, there were no ladies' skate nights because the event coordinator moved. An opportunity arose to fill this void when Weiss and board member Chris Jones asked Roerig to host Girls+Women Night around the end of December 2021 and bring the event back to the community.

Roerig spoke about the importance of Girls+Women Night for the community.

"It creates a space that is welcoming, too," Roerig said. "Skateboarding isn't gendered, of course, but a lot of those social circles can be, which discouraged those on the out from trying an activity that could be their thing."

Providing judgment-free, open spaces facilitates a broader community to join in, but it's not just that. When people see someone they identify with, they're more likely to see themselves doing that activity.

Ad

Sometime by the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015, Launch started hiring more women staff.

"Girl power goes a long way in a sport that's male dominant, and (so does) having more (women) involved in our staff," Weiss said. "If they see Lucy (Hale) or Caroline (Gevers) skating — an adult skating or ripping — it's really inspiring to them. (It's) even more inspiring than if they saw a pro skateboarder that's a male. I think just seeing a strong female skateboarder — it's very powerful for them."

Caroline Gevers is a staff member at Launch who teaches skateboarding and also currently runs Girls+Women Night. She said there's a lot of excitement when bringing a group of girls together, and it's no different at Launch.

"I'm sure any girl that has been in a group of girls can attest to the kind of energy and vibe that goes along with being around really supportive and energetic women and what that can do for your confidence," Gevers said.

Gevers gave some insight into what a night at Launch's Girls+Women Night looks like and what people can expect.

"You know, we blare some Chappell Roan and just have a good time, and I think what it comes down to is just trying to have fun and creating a space where people can come and not only have fun, but they'll learn and feel accepted by this community of girls, women and nonbinary (folks) — it's not just for girls only," Gevers said.

Girls+Women Night is 5-8 p.m. once a month on a random Saturday, though there will not be one the rest of September. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for participants ages 7 years and up, who must also provide a signed waiver. Girls+Women Night is not just for skateboarding but is also open to roller skaters as well. Visitors can bring their own skateboard, or Launch has skateboards to borrow. They also have helmets and pads but currently do not have roller skate rentals.

Reach Jenna Landry at [life@collegian.com](mailto:life@collegian.com) or on Twitter [@CSUCollegian](https://twitter.com/CSUCollegian).

Leave a Comment

More in Culture and Community



India Nite celebrates culture, heritage through various events



FoCo LGBTQIA+ comedy scene shines at New Belgium Brewery



Ezekiel's Strength 5K Memorial Run raises awareness for epilepsy

More in Fort Collins Life



Decade of joy: Annual Tour de Corgi celebrates 10 years



Fort Collins Farmers Market brings joy to customers, vendors



FoCo bar crawlers celebrate Oktoberfest

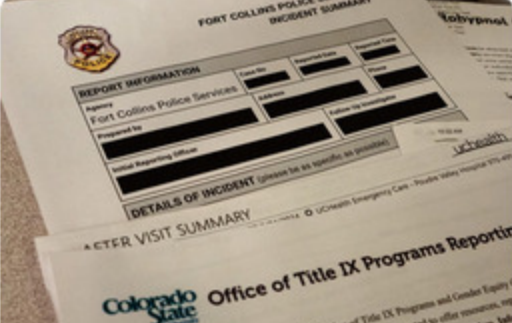
More in Homepage



CSU volleyball's comeback falls short as Boise State prevails in 5-set thriller



CSU soccer blows lead late, draws against Boise State



It's going to happen to someone else': Students allege use of date-rape drugs at off-campus fraternity parties, accuse CSU of inaction

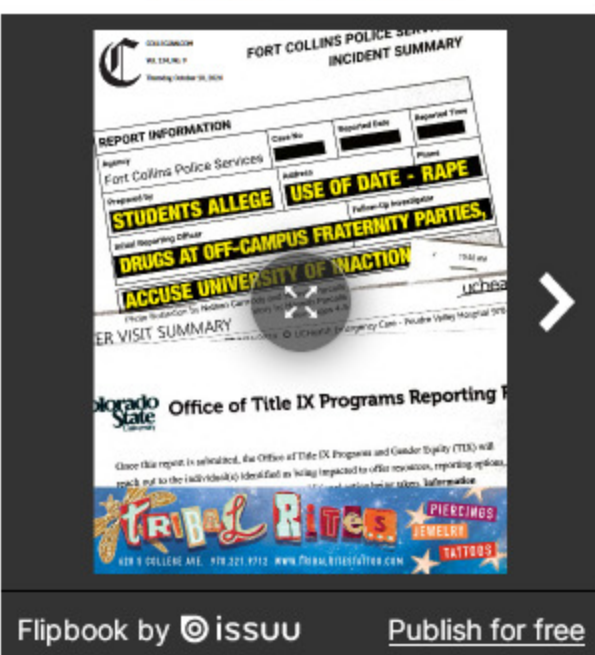
About the Contributor



**Trin Bonner, Illustration Director**

Trin Bonner is the illustration editor for *The Collegian* newspaper. This will be her fourth year in the position, and she loves being a part of the creative and amazing design team of *The Collegian*. As the illustration editor, Bonner provides creative insight and ideas that bring the newspaper the best graphics and illustrations possible. She loves working with artists to develop fun and unique weekly illustrations for readers. She enjoys helping the illustrators on her desk explore and expand their artistic abilities as well as challenge their skills with every edition. Bonner is a senior studying graphic design and electronic art and is also a community coordinator for Aggie Village Apartments on Colorado State University's campus. She finds immense joy in illustration and comic creation. She hopes to explore more in the realm of graphic design and video game design as she approaches the end of her undergraduate experience. Trin spends her free time crocheting, doing beadwork and playing guitar when she's not working on illustrations or acting as community coordinator, though she spends much of her free time sketching and brainstorming her next webcomic. Bonner finds that making people laugh and smile through her art is incredibly fulfilling and is excited to continue to bring her love for illustration and art to *The Collegian*.

Print Edition

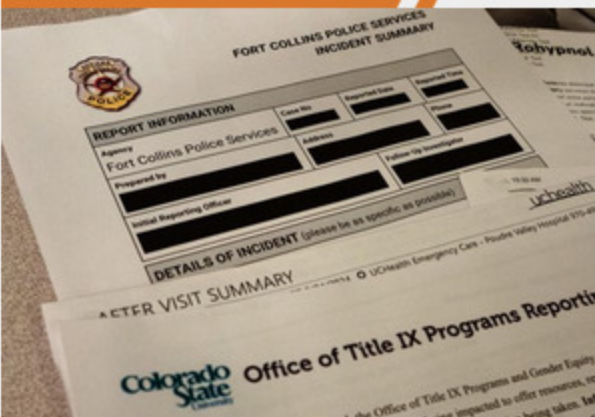


Flipbook by ISSUU Publish for free

Letter to the editor submissions

Have a strong opinion about something happening on campus or in Fort Collins? Want to respond to an article written on The Collegian? Write a letter to the Editor by following the guidelines [here](#).

Trending Stories



**'It's going to happen to someone else': Students allege use of date-rape drugs at off-campus fraternity parties, accuse CSU of inaction**

Editor's Note: Trigger warning: This story contains mentions of nonconsensual drug use and references...



**Miller: Walrus Ice Cream isn't very good**

Editor's Note: All opinion section content reflects the views of the individual author only and does...



**Lopez: CSU marching band needs to move out of student section**

Editor's Note: All opinion section content reflects the views of the individual author only and does...

Follow Us on Twitter

SPONSORED CONTENT

Converting DWG to PDF Without Losing Detail: A Quality Assurance Guide

October 9, 2024

If you are an architect, designer, engineer, or other professional dealing with two- and three-dimensional data and metadata, you may often encounter...

Tackling College Football and Financial Management at CSU Fort Collins

October 1, 2024

Five Famous Sons From the Colorado State Rams Football Team

September 25, 2024

3 Reasons Colorado State Will Win or Lose in 2024

September 10, 2024



This publication is not an official publication of Colorado State University, but is published by an independent corporation using the name The Rocky Mountain Collegian pursuant to a license granted by CSU. Approximately 80% of Rocky Mountain Student Media Corp's income is provided by the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) for the purpose of fostering student career post-college and greater campus awareness and engagement.

Go to [www.rockymountainstudentmedia.com](http://www.rockymountainstudentmedia.com) for more information. Rocky Mountain Student Media is a registered service mark. EIN: 26-999141

Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation

Lory Student Center, Room 118  
Colorado State University, 8038  
Fort Collins, CO, 80523

Editor in Chief, Allie Seibel  
[editor@collegian.com](mailto:editor@collegian.com)

Advertise With Us

Classifieds

Contact Us

Collegian Take-Down Policy

Copyright Notice

MEDIA

RMSMC Corporate Info  
CTV

KCSU  
College Avenue Magazine

Tree Stump Films

Collegian Print Archives (2012 – Pre-

Collegian Archives (2012 – Present)

Collegian Prior Archives

Fifty03 Visuals

Subscribe

OTHER

CSU Parent & Family Calendar

CSU Visitor's Guide

CSU Graduation Edition

Best Of CSU

CSU Guide To Fraternity And Sorority

CSU Housing Guide

Ram Life

CSU Life

SPONSORED CONTENT

Letter to the Editor guidelines