



THE HOOP SCOOP

Strengthening Community Through Sport

New Season Begins — 50 Years of Hoops in Great Falls

Welcome to the start of our **2025–2026 season!** This year marks a special moment in our community — we're heading into our 50th year of Great Falls Basketball in 2026!

Founded in 1976, GF Hoops has grown from a small community league into a thriving, year-round program. As we prepare for our 50th anniversary in 2026, stay tuned for throwbacks, alumni features, and celebrations honoring the legacy of this incredible program.

50
years

New Logo, Same Heart

Unveiled just in time for our golden anniversary, our new GF Hoops logo—designed by **Borzou at NickelBronx**. A basketball featuring a waterfall within its lines, represents flow, strength, and connection to our community.



Special Edition Logo

To Celebrate our 50th Anniversary, a special edition logo was created for use on select merchandise and promotional materials. Featuring the GF acronym in basket and our founding year 1976, we pay tribute to our history and enduring legacy



GF Hoops Swag Store Launch

Order by December 1st to receive your Great Falls Basketball swag and limited-edition 50th Anniversary gear in time for the holidays!

[GF Hoops Swag Store](#)



Pre-Season Games to Kick Off the Winter League

Our Winter League is underway, with 130+ teams and more than 1,200 players from K through 12th grade. Our league grew in size almost 10% last year!

This year, we're listening to **YOU**. Our first scheduled weekend game (**Nov 22–23**) will be a preseason scrimmage with referees, so teams can ease back into gameplay. No standings. No pressure. Just a chance to shake off the rust and build team chemistry.

Youth Referee Program

Our Youth Referee Program offers 7th–10th graders an incredible opportunity to develop real-life leadership skills in a supportive and structured environment. Through officiating games, our young referees learn how to manage players, communicate with coaches, navigate parent interactions, and resolve on-court conflicts — all while modeling fairness, teamwork, and confidence. Many referees return year after year, growing into strong leaders on and off the court.



New this Season – Additional Gym Access for Coaches

We've added exclusive gym space for our coaches to use outside of team practices. Whether it's planning, mentoring, or individual training, this new space gives our volunteer coaches more flexibility and impact.

Coach & Community Investment

GF Hoops supports over 130 coaches each winter with basketball supplies and training. With help from sponsors like DICK'S Sporting Goods, each coach received a gift card to gear up for the season. Your support during events like the DICK'S Fall Discount Weekend held Nov 7–10th at Dulles Town Center, ensures we can keep investing in our community and volunteers.



If you missed the Discount Weekend, fear not – DICK's offers additional discounts to all Friends and Families of Great Falls Basketball **until the end of the year**. [CLICK HERE](#) for in-store coupons at the Dulles Town Center store.

What We've Done Since Last Time

Summer Camps – A Success!

Many thanks to Forestville Elementary School for again hosting four weeks of Great Falls Basketball Camp, led by our beloved coach and mentor Barry Uzzell. Barry was supported by four youth trainers with loads of basketball experience and love for the game. Thank you to all the parents and kids for a memorable summer.



Session #1



Session #2



Session #3



Session #4

Colvin Run Outdoor Courts Revitalized

This summer, GF Hoops proudly donated funds to Colvin Run Elementary to resurface its outdoor basketball courts and install new backboards and rims. Colvin Run students, teachers and community now have modern, durable backboards and a professionally resurfaced blacktop that's ready for fast breaks, jump shots, and defensive hustle. As part of the transformation, one student took on an Eagle Scout project to paint the school's Colvin Run Dragon logo at the center of both courts.

At GF Hoops, we're proud to support our local schools and give back to the community. These new courts are more than an upgrade — they're an investment in our kids, their energy, and the joy of the game.



Trick or Treat! Great Falls Basketball Participates in Spooktacular!

On October 31st, GF Hoops once again participated in Halloween at Great Falls Center, hosted by Celebrate Great Falls. Thanks to our volunteers, we handed out over 2,000 pieces of candy and loved seeing our players in costume along with our famous Rufferee!



Next Up: Celebration of Lights

We're proud to continue our partnership with Celebrate Great Falls and will be volunteering at the [Celebration of Lights](#) on December 7th. Look for our players helping out and spreading cheer.

Fun Fact:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's skyhook shot is the most unstoppable shot in basketball history.

Great Falls Basketball – Year Round Play

Skills, Fun & Player Development

GF Hoops offers year-round programming to help players stay active, improve their game, and have fun. Whether you're a first-time player or fine-tuning your shot, there's something for everyone.

Program Types

House League

Recreation – Grades K–12

4th Grade Developmental Program

Developmental, Grades 3–4

Select League

Competitive, Grade 5–8, County-wide

Youth Referee Program

Paid Job, Grades 7–12

Clinics – Fall, Spring & Summer

Skill Development, Grades K–12

Summer Camps

Rising 1st – 6th Graders

Year Round

Fall

Fall Clinics, Select Open Gym & Tryouts, Referee Training

Winter

Main season from Mid–November to March (House, 4th Grade Development, Select)

Spring / Summer

Spring and Summer Clinics and Summer Day Camp, Camp Counselors

Kindergarten

- House Program
- Skills & Drills Clinics

Elementary (Grades 1–6)

- House League
- 4th Grade Developmental
- Select League
- Clinics

Middle School (Grades 7–8)

- House League
- Select League
- Clinics
- Youth Referee Program

High School (Grades 9–12)

- House League
- High School Game Time Clinics
- Youth Referee Program

Beyond the Game: Life Lessons Through Basketball

Basketball is more than just a sport—it's a training ground for resilience, responsibility, and leadership. Whether it's a kindergartner learning to listen to their coach or a teen ref managing a tense moment on the court, every experience contributes to their personal growth.

GF Hoops is proud to offer an environment where players learn to communicate, resolve conflict, manage time, and support their teammates. These lessons last long after the final buzzer.

Finding the Right Fit: From Skills & Drills to Game Time

Not sure which program is right for your child? With so many seasonal clinics and camps, we make it easy to meet your player where they are.

Skills & Drills: Perfect for younger players to build fundamentals in a fun, low-pressure environment.

Game Time Clinics: Focused on team play, offensive/defensive strategy, and on-court decision-making.

Shooting & Guard Clinics: Ideal for more experienced players looking to refine technique and gain confidence.

We're happy to help you navigate the options—just reach out to our team!

Voices from the Court: "In Their Words"

"I've coached for six seasons now, and the best part is watching kids light up when they hit their first basket." — GF Hoops Coach

"This program has taught my son more about respect and teamwork than anything else he's done." — GF Hoops Parent



Did You Know?

Michael Jordan was fined for wearing his red-and-black sneakers. The NBA had a strict uniform policy, and his now-famous Air Jordans violated it.

Powered by Volunteers: The Heart of GF Hoops

None of this would be possible without the incredible energy of our volunteer coaches and staff. Each winter season, our House and Select teams are led by parents and community members who dedicate their time to teach and inspire. Many of our coaches return year after year, watching players grow from first-timers into confident teammates.

But it doesn't stop with coaches—our community volunteers help with refereeing, clinics, administration, and events throughout the year. From Clinics to House to Select to Hoops Challenge to Summer Camps and everything in between, GF Hoops is built on community spirit.

Meet the Board: Passion, Dedication & Leadership

The Great Falls Basketball Board works tirelessly behind the scenes—year-round—to make all of this possible. We're a dedicated team of volunteers, some serving for over a decade and others just beginning, all united by a love of the game and belief in its power to build community.

From organizing gym space to planning programs, answering parent questions, and supporting players at every level—we do this because we care. If you ever see us at a game, say hello—we're always looking for feedback, ideas, and future leaders.

Great Falls Basketball Board 2025–2026

Christie Shumadine	Commissioner/ Director – Referees
Brian Lochhead	Director – Boys/Girls House K–2
Chad Smolinski	Director – Boys House Grades 3–5
Ryan West	Director – Boys House Grades 6–8
Larry Zmuda	Director – Boys House Grades 9–12
Kevin Powers	Director – Girls House Grades 3–12
Adam Bovenzi	Director – Select
Karyn DeVito	Director – Equipment
Theresa Bhatia	Director – Clinics & Camps, Marketing, Newsletter
Maritsa Kondilas	Director – Merchandise/Scheduling and Facilities
Kari Carey	Director – Operations
Jim Fitzmaurice	Director – Special Events
Karen Rewalt	Director – Website and Communications
Dynne Shi	Director – Scheduling and Facilities, Registrar
Lani Hsiao	Treasurer
Amy Kelly	Secretary

Reach out to us

Contact: Info@gfhoops.com



Join Great Falls Basketball on Social Media

Stay Connected with GFHoops on Instagram and Facebook. Keep up to date on the latest happenings, games, schedules, league news, & more.



[Instagram.com/gfhoops/](https://www.instagram.com/gfhoops/)

[Facebook.com/gfhoops/](https://www.facebook.com/gfhoops/)

Fun Fact: The first NBA Slam Dunk Contest was held in 1976, with Julius “Dr. J” Erving famously dunking from the free-throw line.