



2023-2024 West Texas High School Varsity Cheerleader Tryout Application

(Please Print Legibly)

Name: _____ Age: _____ 2023-24 Grade: _____

Address: _____ City/St/Zip: _____, _____

Student's phone #: _____ Parent's phone #: _____

(Preferably Cell Phone Numbers Please-This is our main mode of communication)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

By choosing to tryout, you are acknowledging that cheerleading is a time-consuming responsibility and will require much time outside of other activities. Cheerleaders are expected to conform to a higher standard of behavior than others; they are leaders. Cheerleaders will abide by and uphold all of the athletic rules, cheerleading rules, regulations, and traditions as well as the policies of PSP CISD. All of these are set forth in the student handbook each year. **Do not take this decision lightly.** Cheerleading is a special privilege and is not a right. It is a privilege for which you will earn a varsity letter and one for which you should take great pride in by maintaining the standards and dignity of the leader role and in due respect to those who elect you to this role.

Student Agreement

I, _____, have read, understand and agree with the statement above. I have also read the WEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK (attached) in its entirety including the EXPECTATIONS and I agree to abide by these rules if I am chosen as a member of the squad. I am agreeing to the information in the packet pertaining to try-outs and understand that failure to adhere to any of these policies could result in punishment including possible dismissal from the squad.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian of _____, have read and understand the WEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK (attached) and the 2023-2024 TRYOUT INFORMATION. I agree to abide by the policies described if my child is chosen as a member of the squad. I also agree to the financial obligations as they are described in the information provided, including scheduling times to be gone. I understand that failure by me or my child to adhere to these policies could result in my child's dismissal from the squad.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

<<< Candidates & Parents should sign up for the Try-Outs Remind to >>>
<<< stay informed by texting @wttryout23 to 81010 >>>

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Office Use Only:

Date Received _____

Candidate Name: _____

2023-24 Grade: _____

***You must get teacher evaluations from 5 teachers to be eligible to try out.**

***They do not have to be your current teacher, but you must have had them for class.**

Following is the teacher assessment form. You must give an assessment to each of 5 teachers and have them return it in a sealed envelope. They must sign the envelope across the seal and you must not open the seal.

Return the envelopes to the Varsity sponsor by the deadline Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

****List the teachers you will use for your evaluations here, and turn this page in with your Varsity Cheer Tryout Application***

****Do not check the boxes, those are for office use only****

List your 5 teachers here:

1. Teacher _____ Subject _____

Evaluation Received ☐

2. Teacher _____ Subject _____

Evaluation Received ☐

3. Teacher _____ Subject _____

Evaluation Received ☐

4. Teacher _____ Subject _____

Evaluation Received ☐

5. Teacher _____ Subject _____

Evaluation Received ☐

Candidate's Signature

Date



WTHS Cheerleading Teaching Assessment Form

Student _____ Teacher _____ Subject _____ Current Average _____

Dear Teachers,

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this assessment for cheerleader tryouts. Each cheer candidate will have a teacher assessment count as a percentage of the total tryout score. Therefore, it is extremely important to give an honest, accurate, and fair rating based on your knowledge of the student. Please rate the student according to your knowledge of the student based on performance and actions in your class or classes.












Please keep these assessments confidential and return them to me in a sealed envelope by Wednesday, March 1, 2023. These assessments will NOT be shared and will be kept strictly confidential. Assessments will be tallied with the judge's scores and student body votes on the day of tryouts.

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation,

Shannan Harrah
Varsity Cheer Sponsor

****Teacher: Please return in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal****

Please circle the number that best represents the above candidate's character and abilities.

 Please circle the number that best represents the above candidate's character and abilities.							
	1 – Poor	2 – Below Average	3 – Average	4 – Above Average	5 – Excellent		
 Candidate has good attendance/punctuality			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate has a good attitude/behavior			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate shows commitment/dependability			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate has the ability to work well with/interact with others			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate has a strong work ethic			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate is motivated/willing to work			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate has the ability to accept constructive criticism			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate is willing to follow rules/directions			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate exhibits leadership ability			1	2	3	4	5
 Candidate is a positive representative of WTHS (spirit/appearance/attitude)			1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments are welcome: _____

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

****Teacher: Please return in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal****

WEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK

PURPOSES

The purposes of the cheerleading program are to promote and uphold school spirit, develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students and adults, promote a unification of crowd involvement during athletic events, to strive to build better relationships between schools, and to strive to uphold the highest personal as well as cheerleading standards.

GOALS

- *Develop leadership abilities
- *Develop physical fitness and coordination
- *Develop courtesy, tolerance, and self-control
- *Develop good sportsmanship
- *Develop sports appreciation
- *Develop responsibility, patience, and respect for self and others
- *Develop communication skills
- *Develop self-confidence
- *Develop character and citizenship

MEMBERSHIP

Varsity cheerleaders will be selected from members of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The Varsity squad will consist of 8 members. If a vacancy occurs after the cheerleading squad has been determined, the sponsor(s) and administration will determine whether or not the vacancy will be filled. The vacancy will not be filled after the last instructional day of the school year.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

At all times, the discipline policy of West Texas High School will be in effect. Several terms used in defining the discipline policy for cheerleading include the following:

- *Dismissal from the squad: termination of all cheerleader activities for a full year, specifically, will result in no recognition for the full year such as yearbook pictures, or awards.
- *Suspension: Will include withdrawal from participation for a temporary time period set by the sponsor. Attendance *may* be required and student will sit with the sponsor in stands during suspension time.
- *Emergency: Includes accidents, family crisis or medical reasons.
- *Tardy: Cheerleader is five minutes (5) late after the scheduled time for any activity.
- *Discipline can be either demerits or as laid out in the athletics handbook
- *Demerit policy is in place regarding specific infractions

TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held each spring. Each person trying out must sign up prior to deadline. Students trying out for cheerleader must have an overall grade average of 75 and must not be failing any subject at time of tryouts. Students will participate in a group cheer and perform one individual cheer before student body and judges. Judging will be 25% student vote, 25% teacher assessment, 50% judge's decision.

CO-CAPTAIN POSITIONS

The selection of co-captains will be determined by members of squad **and** the sponsors. Duties include coordinating all decisions as requested by sponsors, calling and assuming control of all practices, meetings and performances, being responsible for actions of the squad, beginning practices on time, helping to eliminate all problems or disagreements within the squad, reporting all violations to the sponsor.

CHEERLEADER CONDUCT

- *Cooperate with co-captains, sponsor, officials and other squad members.
- *Be enthusiastic, well-groomed and in command of the situation
- *Promote school spirit throughout the student body
- *Plan pep-rallies, contribute ideas and help control attitude of crowd
- *Help with revenue projects during the year
- *During football season, help make posters to decorate the town, field and gymnasium, attend all games, practice sessions, meetings with sponsor and assisting with homecoming activities.
- *While cheering, cheerleaders (1) will be on time to all activities (2) will be in clean and proper uniform (3) will not eat or chew gum while on the field or court, nor wear jewelry (4) will not sit in stands or leave the squad until the end of the game (5) will not participate in excessive display of affection with members of the opposite sex while in uniform or while representing West Texas High School as cheerleader (6) will arrive at least 30 minutes before game time during football season (7) will arrive 15 minutes early for games in the gymnasium (8) will go directly to the bus after game is over.
- *Students will be respectful at all times to the sponsor and school authorities***
- *At all times the majority of the squad will determine all decisions. Everyone will abide as the majority decides. ***The Sponsor will have the final say.***

ELIGIBILITY

All cheerleaders must maintain eligibility under current UIL rules and Senate Bill 1 in order to participate. Once elected, each student must maintain an overall average of 70, and not be failing any subject.

DRUGS – ALCOHOL – SMOKING

Use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco will warrant immediate dismissal from the squad. Please conduct your behavior so that it will reflect highly on the student body you represent.

EXPENSES

Cheerleaders are responsible for the cost of some items. When ordering items, each student must be present. The sponsor must approve all items ordered. These items must be paid in full on the date set by sponsor unless other arrangements have been made.

GAMES

Varsity squad will cheer for all varsity football and basketball games. If the cheerleaders are required to miss school for tournaments, etc., the cheerleaders will not cheer at those games. Varsity will also cheer for pre-district home basketball games and all District & Post-District games.

TRANSPORTATION

All cheerleaders are required to ride as a group to all games. Written notes from parents will be required **PRIOR** to leaving for the game in order to ride home with parents.

PRACTICES

All practices are required and will be held with sponsor or parent in attendance. They will be scheduled whenever possible to avoid conflicts. ***Two (2) unexcused tardies will result in suspension of cheerleading for the next activity.***

ROUTINES

Only two pep rallies may use a dance routine that was learned at cheerleader camp as long as there is no display of inappropriate body movement.

MUSIC

All taped music to be used for routines and pep rallies must be approved by the principal prior to the beginning of school.

ABSENCES

All activities are required. Any absence will be determined excused or unexcused by the sponsor. Excused absences may include illness, funeral of relative or family member, and other reasons approved by the sponsor prior to the activity. A written excuse should be turned in to the sponsor within two days of the absence. Unexcused absences will result in suspension of cheering for the next activity. Students will be required to sit with the sponsor during the activity. Parents will be notified of any unexcused absence. If a student has two (2) unexcused absences this will result in permanent dismissal from the squad. Two (2) unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence.

EVALUATION

The sponsor will evaluate the squad regularly. Evaluations will be used as a measuring device and lack of acceptable evaluations will result in suspension or dismissal.

FUND-RAISING

All profits from fund raising projects will be used for the operation of the squad's program.

PREGNANCY

The sponsor should be notified immediately if any cheerleader becomes pregnant.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Willing and capable of directing the program
- *Making all final decisions for the program
- *Be aware of and approve every action taken by the cheerleading squad
- *Make sure that all cheerleaders follow rules and guidelines
- *Encourage the use of previous uniforms to help cut down costs

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

- *Aid student in meeting responsibilities and duties of cheerleading
- *Help student understand that cheerleading is a demanding as well as exciting job
- *Ensure student's attendance at all cheerleading activities
- *Support the cheerleading squad by your presence at games and pep rallies
- *Cooperate with other cheerleading parents
- *If needed, provide transportation for students

~~~~~

## **Cheerleader Expectations:**

- \*Attend all practices leading up to camp to prepare for camp
- \*Be on time and ready to work at practice and games – This includes having the proper attire and having removed any and all jewelry, watches, etc.
- \*Be open to instruction and direction – includes taking the direction and putting it to action
- \*Work together to be the best the team can be
- \*Have the positive attitude and team spirit of a good role model and leader
- \*Abide by all school and athletic policies
- \*Know that cheer coincides with basketball and doing both is a big responsibility
- \*Attend summer camp with team and participate in all aspects of camp for the team to do well
- \*Participate fully in all fundraising projects, including concessions, whether a bill is outstanding or not
- \*Remember, being a cheerleader is not just about dressing up in a cheer uniform.

***If you don't actually want to be a cheerleader, don't try out to be a cheerleader.***



# 2023-24 IMPORTANT DATES

Please make note of all activities and dates throughout the year and attempt to schedule Vacations, trips, and appointments, etc. around them

| <u>What is it?</u>                        | <u>Who is Involved?</u>                                                                                                     | <u>When is it?</u>                                                                                       | <u>Where is it?</u>                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signed Forms Due                          | All Varsity & MS Cheer Candidates                                                                                           | Sun: Feb 19 <sup>th</sup><br>(We prefer to have these before but you may bring your form to the meeting) | Cheer Sponsor:<br>Shannan Harrah-Varsity and Middle School<br>(or Secondary Office) |
| <u>Mandatory</u> Meeting                  | Candidates AND Parent/Guardian Varsity & MS<br>( <u>All</u> who wish to tryout <u>AND</u> a parent or guardian must attend) | Sun: Feb 19 <sup>th</sup><br>4:00 PM                                                                     | HS Commons                                                                          |
| Tryout Clinic #1                          | Varsity & MS Candidates<br><u>CLOSED TO SPECTATORS</u>                                                                      | Sun: Feb 19 <sup>th</sup><br>4:30 PM-7:00 PM<br>(approx-start time depends on meeting length)            | HS Gym (Hot Box)                                                                    |
| Tryout Clinic #2                          | Varsity & MS Candidates<br><u>CLOSED TO SPECTATORS</u>                                                                      | Wed: Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>6:00 PM-8:00 PM<br>(or immediately after softball practice)                 | HS Gym (Hot Box)                                                                    |
| Tryout Clinic #3<br>Includes Mock Tryout  | Varsity & MS Candidates<br><u>CLOSED TO SPECTATORS</u>                                                                      | Sun: Feb 26 <sup>th</sup><br>4:00 PM-6:00 PM<br>Could end slightly early                                 | HS Gym (Hot Box)                                                                    |
| Student Body Tryout                       | Varsity & MS Candidates                                                                                                     | Fri: Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>8:00 AM                                                                      | HS Gym (Hot Box)-<br>MS & Varsity                                                   |
| Judges Panel Tryout                       | Varsity & MS Candidates<br><u>CLOSED TO SPECTATORS</u>                                                                      | Fri: Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>8:45 AM - MS<br>9:15 AM - Varsity                                            | HS Gym (Hot Box)                                                                    |
| Meeting/Pictures/<br>Preliminary Fittings | New Varsity Squad & Parents                                                                                                 | Sun: Mar 19 <sup>th</sup><br>2:00 PM                                                                     | HS Commons                                                                          |
| Fitting Session<br>w/Varsity Rep          | New Varsity Squad                                                                                                           | Thu: TBD<br>4:00 PM                                                                                      | HS - Location TBD                                                                   |
| MS Track Meet Conc<br>(If there is one)   | New Varsity Squad & Parents                                                                                                 | Sat: TBD<br>Start to Clean-up<br>Time TBD                                                                | Comanche Stadium                                                                    |
| After School Practice<br><u>MANDATORY</u> | New Varsity Squad                                                                                                           | TBD (May)<br>Based on other sports & schedules                                                           | HS - FH Gym                                                                         |
| Daily Practice<br><u>MANDATORY</u>        | New Varsity Squad                                                                                                           | TBD<br>After last day of school-<br>Based on squads' schedules<br>Until leaving for camp                 | HS - FH Gym                                                                         |
| Progressive Dinner                        | New Varsity Squad                                                                                                           | Mon: Jun 12, 2023<br>5:30 PM                                                                             | Locations TBD                                                                       |
| Summer Camp<br><u>MANDATORY</u>           | New Varsity Squad                                                                                                           | Tues-Fri:<br>Jun 13-16, 2023<br>Leave approx. 5:00 AM                                                    | Texas Tech University,<br>Lubbock, TX                                               |
| Mini Cheer Camp -<br>Pending approval     | Varsity Squad                                                                                                               | TBD                                                                                                      | TBD                                                                                 |
| Practices Begin for<br>Meet the Comanches | Varsity Squad                                                                                                               | Beginning<br>Aug 1, 2023<br>Times TBD                                                                    | FH Gym                                                                              |
|                                           |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                     |
|                                           |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                     |