



2023-2024 West Texas High School Middle School 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 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 _____

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