

Welcome to Victory Cheer All Stars

Thank you for your interest in the 2020-2021 Victory Cheer Academy All Star Teams!

We are looking forward to another fantastic year!

Being an All Star Cheerleader is a truly rewarding experience. Members will gain not only athletic skills, but life lessons as they gain friendships, learn to accept victories with honor and defeat with grace, gain confidence, and so much more!

As a member of a Victory Cheer All Star team, athletes become part of a program that strives to provide a competitive outlet for local athletes in the sport of cheerleading. Our goals are to teach athletes the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication, while allowing them to develop skills and build confidence in a fun, positive, and safe environment.

Our professional coaching staff has extensive experience in cheer, dance, youth sports, overall fitness, and FUN! We have all had experience with competitive cheerleading and know what it takes to be successful.

In this All Star Information packet, you will find basic information about our program, policies, and philosophies. Please read over each item carefully and don't hesitate to call with questions! Again, thank you for your interest in our program.

All Star Program

The All-Star Cheer program requires a strong commitment from the athlete as well as the athlete's family. It is a great way for athletes to learn new skills, develop a sense of what it means to work together as a team for a common goal and to develop a sense of pride and sportsmanship while making life-long friendships.

All-Star Elite, Prep, and Novice teams are typically composed of athletes with similar skill levels and of similar ages. Based upon the skill, age, size and make-up of the team, the teams are categorized into different divisions. Each team is taught a competition routine that has elements of tumbling, stunting, jumping and dance skills to music. Depending on the division, routines range from 1:30- 2:30 in length. At a competition, the team performs their routine for a panel of judges who score/rate the performance based upon the level of difficulty, precision, creativity and entertainment value. In Elite and Prep divisions the team's placement within their division is based upon the score they received compared to the scores of the other teams within their division. Novice divisions are given a rating based on the performance of their routine.

The following defines the general program aspects of the Elite, Prep, and Novice Cheer Program:

Team Type	Ages	Time Commitment	Weekly Practices	Extra Tumbling	# Competitions	Choreography Camp
Novice	3-11	4- 4.5 Months	1.5 Hours/Week	None	2	Taught during Practice
Prep	5-18	7 Months	2-4 Hours/Week	1 Class suggested	4-5	October or November
Elite	5-18	11 Months	4 Hrs/Week	1 Class	6-9	August

*Extra practices may be called if needed to at any membership level.

Evaluations and Placements

Team Placements:

Due to the current conditions of Covid-19, we have decided to do placements a little differently this year. All athletes who would like to participate in the 2020-2021 season will register online (see below for more details). During June we will hold practices that will be in accordance with state regulations and will focus on skill development, technique, and conditioning. This will allow athletes time to get back into the gym and gain back their confidence and skill. At this time we do not know exactly how many will be allowed to practice at one time, but we are hopeful that we will be able to have a productive start to the season. Sometime during the month of July we will begin forming teams based on skill level and age. As long as all goes as planned teams will be decided by the end of July. In the event that we are unable to practice, we will conduct zoom practices that will focus on strength and conditioning for your athlete at home until we are able to have in person practices.

Athletes will be placed on teams based on the following factors: age, skills mastered, potential for skill mastery, and overall team need (flyer, base, backspot)

Below you will find the age breakdown used to help form teams.

Division	Birth year must be on/between the following
Tiny Novice	2013-6/1/2017
Tiny	2013-2015
Mini	2011-2015
Youth	2008-2015
Junior	2004-2014
Senior	06/01/2001-2008

Practices

Practice days and times will be arranged after teams have been formed. If there is a day/time of day that your athlete would not be able to practice due to the inability to get them there please let us know. We do everything we can to accommodate these requests; however, we cannot promise that all conflicts will be able to be worked around.

Elite Teams:

Elite teams will practice 2 times per week for 2 hours beginning in June. Athletes will also be required to attend a tumble class and flyers are required to attend an additional stunt class. We do everything possible to practice during the school week; however, we sometimes hold practice on Sunday afternoons as well as one time during the week.

Prep/Half Year Teams:

Half year all star prep teams will only practice 1 time per week for 2 hours until October in which they will begin 2 practices per week. Athletes who wish to work on tumble skills outside of practice time are allowed to also enroll in a tumble class.

Novice Teams:

Novice Teams will practice 1 time per week for 1.5 hours (Tiny Novice- 1 Hour). Athletes may enroll in an additional tumble class for an additional fee since most of practice time will consist of working on the routine.

All Team Types:

Attendance to practice and tumble classes are crucial to the success of the team and the progression of the athlete. Athletes are only allowed to miss with an excused absence. The following is considered an excused absence:

- Contagious Illness (accompanied by a doctor's note)
- Family Emergency such as death in the family, accident, etc.
- High School/Middle School Cheerleading
- School function that results in a grade (proper documentation from the school should be provided)

Please understand that as coaches we must be strict to these policies with all athletes. If your child is going to miss a practice you should contact your child's coach BEFORE practice. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from the program. **A \$5 fee will be added to your account for any absence that is not communicated and/or approved by the coach prior to practice or until documentation for the excused absence is provided for missing practice (doctors excuse, school excuse, etc.)**

For teams practicing during the summer (June-July) athletes are allowed 3 excused absences. Vacation is considered an excused absence as long as it is told to your coach 1 week prior to vacation time.

During the teams' season (August-April) athletes must get all absences approved by a coach. In addition to the \$5 fee mentioned above, unexcused absences, absences not approved by a coach, or excessive absences may result in the dismissal from the team. Athletes should not miss practice the week of competition, doing this may result in your athlete having to sit out from competition. If your child is not contagious they are expected to be at practice; however, we will make sure they are not overworked.

Extra Practices during the competition season will more than likely take place. Please know that these practices are mandatory and will only be called if we feel as if the team is in need of it.

Family vacations should be limited during the months of November-April (February-April for prep teams) due to it being competition season. Please notify a coach immediately of any already scheduled vacations during these months. Competition dates can change from the original schedule so if something that can't be changed is scheduled at any point during the competition season that should be communicated with your coach.

Competitions

Elite All Star Teams: Teams will attend 6-7 competitions between the months of November- April. Competitions are typically held on a Saturday and will be no longer than a 4 hour driving distance. Nationals and Finals will be a 2 day event and may require overnight stay. Extra competitions may be added to try to receive a better bid to the finals event. Please make plans to attend both the Nationals and Finals event.

Half Year/Prep Teams: Teams will attend 4-5 competitions between the months of February-April. Competitions will be no longer than 3 hours of driving time in exception to a possible overnight stay for nationals and/or finals. A decision on attending Finals will be made after the first 2 competitions.

Novice Teams: Teams will compete at 2-3 competitions during the month of November/December or the month of February-April depending on the session they are participating in., they may choose to compete in both sessions. Competitions will be no longer than a 3 hour drive (goal is to stay in the Birmingham and Huntsville area).

Important Dates

Elite Teams:

1st week of June- Practices begin

July 3rd-July 11th Closed for the 4th of July- Great week for vacation!

August 1st- Skills Day Times TBD

August 7th-9th-Choreography Camp-- Exact days/times will be announced after team placements...this date could change

August 5th- Fall Session Begins

These dates are currently tentative dates; however will be set after team placements.

Prep/Half Year Teams:

1st Week of June- Summer Schedule Begins (1 Team Tumble/Stunt Class)

July 3rd-July 11th- Closed for the 4th of July

August 5th- Fall Session Begins

August 7th-9th- Possible Choreography Camp

Novice

1st Week of June- Summer Schedule Begins- (Optional Tumble Classes Available for a discount rate of \$40/month)

August 5th- Practices Begin- First Payment of \$155 is due

Financial

Although this is a financial commitment, please do NOT let this be the only deciding factor as to whether you participate or not. We will make sure to do everything possible to assist VCA Athletes and their families in alleviating as many costs as possible by fundraising and payment plans. We do have some financial aide opportunities to help with the tuition cost for those who may need financial assistance. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call VCA at any time. All Fees include Tax, and Shipping & Handling. **All fees are non-refundable and by registering you are committing to and responsible for all financial obligations.**

Payments:

All payments will be due on the 1st business day of the month and will be auto-drafted unless other arrangements are made by filling out a form with the front desk. You must have a valid credit/debit card on file. If an alternate payment plan is not made by the indicated date, your card will automatically be charged the amount due. Please understand that your child will not receive practice attire, uniforms, or be choreographed into the routine until account is brought to \$0. If at any point a payment is behind an arrangement must be made at the front desk on when and how it will be made up. If this payment plan is neglected your child may be asked to sit out at practice until account balance is brought back up. Communication is key!

If at any point your athlete decides they no longer want to take part on the team you are responsible for all fees due prior to the decision to quit, along with the following fee. Please understand that because of the payment plan we are using, you may still be responsible for additional fees even if your account is at \$0. A lot of work is put in by the athletes and when an athlete quits a team a new athlete must be recruited and taught the routine and/or the routine must be re-choreographed to fit the new team make-up.

After team placements but Before Choreography Camp: \$200

After Choreography Camp: \$500

*If there is a season ending injury to your child, careful consideration will be given to the above fees; however, all prior fees are non-refundable and your account should have a \$0 balance.

*Please note that payments run from June-April, and this is not affected by the date of the last competition. If our last competition is at the end of March or beginning of April, this payment still must be made.

*Please see Covid19 refund and alternate plans at the end of the packet for more information.

Monthly Payments

Fundraising opportunities are held throughout the year. Fundraising may be applied to the next month's payment. Example: If the fundraiser is due in July, the profit will be applied to the payment due in August. Some of the previous fundraisers we have done are Ad Sales, Sheet Sales, Boston Butts, T-shirt Designs, Raffles, Dominos Cards, Rada Cutlery. A parent volunteer will be in charge of all fundraising. All fundraising must be approved by Josh or Lacy before beginning.

This year we have broken all fees and tuition up into an easy minimum monthly payment. Please see the below payment plan for each type team. A list of what each team's fees cover throughout the year can be found on the pages to follow. Many of our fees are due at the beginning of the season which is why the 1st few payments are higher than the remaining payments. We hope this new payment plan will make it easy to budget costs throughout the entire season. **In the event the season must end earlier than planned due to unforeseen circumstances please be aware that you may still be responsible for continuing payments to cover costs that have already occurred.**

Below payments include ALL fees and Tuition for the season in exception to Finals Registration which would not be determined until January or February and the \$30 Registration Fee due at sign up. In the following pages you will see the fee breakdown and price estimation for each type team.

Elite All Stars Payment Plan:

June- August: \$375/ month

September-April: \$240/month

Prep Team/Half Year All Star Payment Plan:

June-August: \$270/Month

September-April:\$200/Month

Novice Team:

August-December: \$155/Month

Discounts

Family Discount: Receive \$40 off your monthly payment for any additional athlete in your family who is also a member of the all star program. Receive \$10 off your monthly payment for any additional athlete who is part of the Tumble Academy.

Pay in Full: Pay your full amount upfront and receive \$100 off your final bill.

All Star Cheer and Club Cheer Combo: Be a part of both programs and your Cullman United Tuition is only \$100 for the entire season. That's a savings of \$550.

Refer a Friend: Receive a \$100 credit to your account for any NEW All Star or Club Cheer Athlete that signs up for the program. You can be a new athlete yourself and receive a credit by getting a friend to join with you!

Elite All Stars

Fee	Amount
Registration	\$30-Due at time of Registration
USASF Fee	\$55
Yearly Tuition	\$1045
Shoes	\$85
Practice Attire	\$55
Uniform- <u>new uniforms</u>	\$450
Choreography	\$300/Team On
Bag*	\$100
Bow	\$35
Make Up	\$35
Warm Up Jacket*	\$100
Registration Fees	\$550
Coaches Fees	\$200

*Optional Items: If chosen to not purchase, amount will be subtracted from April payment.

-Registration Fees do not include Finals Event Registration.

-Above items are estimations and may vary slightly. Any major changes will be relayed to you and adjusted accordingly.

Prep/Half Year

Fee	Amount
Registration Fee	\$30- Due at registration
USASF Fee	\$55
Yearly Tuition	\$965
Shoes	\$85
Practice Attire	\$55
Uniform	\$225
Choreography	\$250
Make Up	\$35
Bow	\$35
Team Gifts/Activities	\$35
Registration Fees	\$350
Coaches Fees	\$120
Backpack*	\$100
Warm Up*	\$100

*Optional Items: If chosen to not purchase, no April payment will be due.

-Registration Fees do not include Finals Event Registration.

-Above items are estimations and may vary slightly. Any major changes will be relayed to you and adjusted accordingly.

Novice

Fee	Amount
Registration Fee-	\$30- Due at time registration
USASF Fee	\$55
Tuition for Season	\$240
Uniform	\$115
Bow	\$20
Shoes*	\$65
Choreography	\$75
Registration Fees	\$150
Coaches Fees	\$50

***Optional Items: If chosen to not purchase, amount will be deducted from December payment. Athletes must wear white cheer shoes.**

-Above items are estimations and may vary slightly. Any major changes will be relayed to you and adjusted accordingly.

Club Cheer

Victory Cheer Academy is excited to also be the home of the Competitive Club Cheer Team, Cullman United. This team is a great tool to prepare athletes to cheer on the sideline for Middle and High School teams. Although some aspects are the same it has many elements that are different from All Star Cheer. Athletes may participate in both club cheer and All Star Cheer; however, they must realize that it is a big time commitment to do both since they are considered two different programs.

For more information please visit the website: www.cullmanunitedcheer.com.

How to Join Us

At this time, if you plan to be on one of our competitive teams this season we ask that you please register on the website (www.victorycheeracademy.com) by May 29th . We ask that you register for the type team (Elite, Prep, Novice, Club) that most interests you. For example, if you and your athlete are willing to commit to an Elite All Star Team please register for that class. However, if you know that you can only commit to the Novice team time expectation and/or financial requirements then please only register for that class. Athletes will be placed on the team that best suits their age and ability level and signing up for an Elite Team does not necessarily mean that your athlete will be placed on that type team. We may feel as if they would be better suited on a Prep or Novice team. Please choose your class based on what you are willing to commit to not where you feel like your athlete's skill level or experience is at. A prep or Novice team does not always mean less skill. We will have a sign up for class times at a later date when we know more details on how many will be allowed at a practice at one time. Please remember that if your athlete is wanting to do both All Stars and Club Cheer you must register for both classes.

Covid-19 Plan

Covid-19 has brought a lot of uncertainty to us right now. However, we do not want to let that uncertainty take away something that so many athletes have grown to love. We may have obstacles to jump through this season, but we are committed to make the best of it for you and the athletes. Below you will find some answers to questions to how we plan to handle some of the obstacles we may end up facing at some point this season. Some of these are taken to the extreme and we hope we do not face them; however, we want you to be assured that we have thought about them and are looking out for you!

Temporary postponement in Practices:

In the event that practices must temporarily be cancelled, we will continue to hold practices using Zoom. We will focus on conditioning and sharpening choreography so that athletes will still maintain in contact with each other and stay conditioned. This may require extra practice time when we are allowed to meet again; however, we hope by maintaining contact with the athletes it will keep this to a minimum.

Delayed Season:

In the event that practices must be stopped or another outbreak occurs there could be a delay in the start of the competition season or cause the season to extend into May. If this occurs we will make the best decision as possible as to how to continue on.

Cancellation of Season:

This would be the most extreme case we could see. In the event this occurs, we would refund as many costs as possible. Possible refundable costs would be as follows: Competition registration Fees, Coaches Fees, future tuition costs, team gifts/activities. Items that have already been ordered or services such as choreography camp will not be able to be refunded. Refundable fees would be dependent on at what point of the season this would occur. Event producers do have a plan in place on how reimbursements would be made; and most all registration fees will be credited back to the gym owners to be able to distribute to you. Depending on when this occurred we would look at discounts on the next season and the reuse of items such as practice attire, shoes, uniforms would remain the same, possible reuse of some choreography and music.