

RIVER CITY CHEERLEADING TRYOUT INFORMATION

Friday, April 12, 2024

Thank you for your interest in trying out for the RCHS cheerleading squads. This is a leadership position of great responsibility. Cheerleaders must commit their time for the entire year. This includes time during the summer, Football and Basketball season, and some event in the spring. Cheerleaders are not able to participate in other RC school sports for the fall and winter seasons. Throughout the year, squad members attend community events, games, practices, camps, and school and/or City functions. The estimated cost of cheerleading is approximately \$1300.00 to \$1700.00; this includes full uniform, warm-ups, shoes, poms, bows, bag, camp-wear, and cheerleading camp. Please read and understand all the enclosed information before tryouts.

CHEER DRESS CODE FOR CLINICS & TRYOUTS

- T-shirt (neatly tucked in)
- Shorts, work out pants (no zippers)
- Tennis shoes (white cheer shoes preferred)
- TO BE ELIGIABLE FOR CHEERLEADING
 - Be an incoming or currently enrolled student at RCHS for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Have achieved a 2.0 grade point average for the previous semester.
 - Have been present 85% of the previous semester.
 - Have no major disciplinary issues at school in the past year.
 - All paperwork turned in by due date.

STEP 1: APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

Please register for tryouts using this link: <u>https://rcraidercheer.weebly.com/</u>

UPLOAD DOCUMENTS – to upload you must use your personal email, not your WUSD student email.

- Teacher Evaluation Forms
- A copy of your most recent report card

STEP 2: CLINICS | Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 6-8pm on the track

Graduating seniors will be at clinics to help teach, review, and perfect the material needed for tryouts. Please bring your water bottle each day.

STEP 3: TRYOUTS | Friday, April 12 Varsity starts at 5:30pm & JV 7pm | RCHS GYM/Dance Room

Tryouts are CLOSED to the public. Tryouts will be done in groups of 2-3 people assigned by the coaches. Candidates will be scored on the execution of the skills and sequences reviewed in the clinic in addition to jumps. Judges scores will be used as a guideline. The coaches have final decision-making based on the candidate's overall attitude, effort, ability, teacher evaluations, grades, and team need.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please know, there is a point system in place when making cuts. Judges use a score sheet to score each candidate. The coaching staff determines team size and final invitations based on cohesion of skills and stunt group position needs. All current members of the squad are required to tryout each year.

- Hair pulled back in ponytail or braid
- No jewelry/piercings/visible tattoos

SEASON COSTS

- 1. Uniform & warm-ups- To keep the costs low we use our uniforms for a minimum of two years, we also reuse team apparel and/or accessories.
 - New uniforms will be purchased this year. approximately \$750
- 2. Cheer camp/practice attire approximately \$400
- 3. Cheer Camp approximately \$550

SELEECTIONS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING

- Cheer, Jump, and dance
- Scholastic achievement, eligibility, and school attendance
- Teacher Evaluation Forms
- Strength/fitness evaluation during clinic
- Conduct at school, attitude, initiative, teamwork, leadership, work ethic, enthusiasm, and coachability

RESULTS POSTED

Sunday | April 14th | <u>https://rcraidercheer.weebly.com</u>

Results will be posted by NUMBER on the website by 5pm.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CHEERLEADER AT RCHS?

With any honor comes a certain degree of responsibility. The honor of representing River City High School always requires that a cheerleader maintain a conscientious attitude, both in extracurricular, academic, social activities and social media.

- Attend cheer camp with their squad.
- Cleared Physical Form and online account due before 1st day of clinic.
- Attend school each day and be punctual to each class.
- Always maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Follow all district, school, athletic and squad rules and policies.
- Lead by example in behavior, attitude, and sportsmanship at school and at events.
- Respect coach and teammates and work coherently as a team.
- Scheer at all home and away football games and home basketball games, regular season & play-offs.
- Attend all scheduled practices. All practices are mandatory both in-season and summer.
- Participate in parades or other public appearances.
- No jewelry, long or artificial nails allowed at any time.
- Wear the appropriate uniform attire for games, rallies, and other events.
- Participate in fund-raising events for the cheerleading program.
- Must refrain from inappropriate posting on Social Media. Remember good internet etiquette and that fact that you are part of a highly visible team, representing your school.

FOR THOSE WHO MAKE THE SQUAD:

Uniform Fitting	April 18
Parent/Cheerleader Meeting	April 25

- \$410.00, Camp clothes, shoes, brief, & bow, May 3
- 🏶 \$550.00, Camp fee, Split into two payments \$275 due April 18 & \$275 due August 2
- \$400.00, Uniform: skirt, shell, liner, bag, and poms, due June 3
- \$400.00, Warm-ups: jacket, pants, sweater, and pink socks & bow, due July 1
- We realize that cheerleading is an expensive sport, however we try to cut the cost down as much as possible. Each year we reuse selected items and typically keep uniforms for two years.

Camp clothes, poms, Uniform (Skirt, Shell, bodyliner, and briefs), Warm-ups (jacket, pants, and sweater), cheer shoes, duffle bag or backpack, 2 hair bows, and overnight cheer camp. Total = \$1300-\$1600

PHILOSOPHY

Cheerleaders are representatives of the student body. They have an unusual opportunity and a significant responsibility for promoting school spirit, unity, good sportsmanship, and teamwork. By setting a good example, the cheerleaders can influence and help control the reactions of student spectators.

To maintain a high standard of excellence, our squad members must pledge themselves to maintaining a squad of superior performance in academic skills as well as in technical skills. Therefore, it is imperative that each member accepts the responsibilities and duties as outlined in this contact as well as the Student Athlete Handbook.

SCHOOL WORK

- Your decision to cheer is a fulltime/yearlong obligation and responsibility and is considered first priority behind your schoolwork.
- Time management is the key to keeping your grades up and participating in cheerleading, family functions and socializing. Planning a head and utilizing weekends and non-practice days are expected to keep from missing games, functions, or practices.
- If a squad member falls below a GPA of 2.0, the member will be suspended from performances and cheering at games until the next grading period (unless an appeal is applied for and granted by the school's administration). Cheerleaders may be required to attend the academic outreach program.
- If a member has a subsequent GPA of less than a 2.0 in the next grading period, they will be removed from the squad, permanently. This will eliminate their ability to attend any other cheerleading functions including the banquet and may prevent their eligibility to trying out for the following year. If a cheerleader is dropped from the team due to grades, they will be required to meet with the coach to develop a plan before being eligible to tryout the team for the following year.
- If a parent/guardian desires, a member may take a short leave from the squad to focus on grades and then return upon approval of the parent/guardian and coach.

GAMES/PERFORMANCES/PRACTICES/EVENTS

- All absences during a game week (basketball and football) must be cleared with the advisor/coach. This rule is made from courtesy to other members who have not missed a practice and since a formation or stunt may have to be changed due to your absence.
- ALL cheerleaders will CHEER/PERFORM the entire duration of football and basketball games. No one will be allowed to leave early or arrive late, unless already authorized by the coach prior to the event.
- During football games, your focus should be on the game and the crowd. You will not be permitted to walk up to the fence/crowd to talk with friends, significant other, parents, or relatives. Also, you should not talk to people in the crowd from your track line position. If your parents need to speak with you, please get permission first and make sure we are not in the middle of instruction. Games will not be used as a photography session. All 'posing' pictures can be taken before or after a game; cheerleaders will not pose for pictures during games. Parents are free to take action shots during the games.
- You are required to participate in ALL fundraisers, community service events, and team bonding activities. You must attend ALL team bonding activities, even if it is scheduled on a weekend. These event dates will be given out ahead of time for arrangements to be made.
- If you are going to be absent from cheer, the coach must be notified by the <u>cheerleader</u>, either call, email, or text message. All messages and emails should explain in detail exactly why you are absent. Word of

mouth cannot be passed through another cheerleader. You are not able to participate in scheduled events or games if you miss school that day.

PRACTICES

- Practices will be held anywhere from one to four times per week. The schedule will be set in advance as much as possible but is subject to change with as much advance notice as possible.
- Members who miss a practice for any reason, will be responsible to obtain the material covered at the missed practice on their own time and prior to the next practice.
- Gum, or sunflower seeds will not be allowed at any time during any cheerleading function.
- Each cheerleader needs to practice, jump, tumble, and stretch on his/her own time. Additional practice at home is vital to mastering material and gaining skills. ALL cheerleaders will be responsible for knowing all cheers, chants, and assigned material. You can receive a bench for not knowing material.
- Videos of new material will be issued to each cheerleader during the summer, all material must be learned and mastered prior to the start of Football season. All teams (JV, and Varsity) will have several practices together at the beginning of the season.
- There will be a skills check in August, and anyone who has not learned provided materials and/or does not improve on their skill may be benched or suspended from the team until ready for performing.
- Stunting and Tumbling is not allowed unless the coach is present and has approved the stunt or the tumbling skill. The coach will also decide, based on what is best for the team, each position of a stunt group, placement in the track line, and each position of a formation.

ABSENCES/TARDIES

- Squad members are required to attend all practices, games, rallies, performances, etc.
- You must inform the coach, in advance, prior to missing a practice, game, event etc. No Call/No Show will not be tolerated for any reason. No Call/No shows = 2 absences.
- Each member will be allowed three absences, to be used for any reason (including vacation, family functions, medical and/or illnesses). These absences must be approved by the coach prior to absence.
- Any absence should be for an appropriate reason: illness, emergency or required school function.
- Absences beyond the three allowed, will affect the member's ability to perform at games, rallies, and other events.
- Unexcused absences medical appointment, birthdays, and other events.
- Excessive absences could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the squad.
- Three summer absences = ½ a game benching.
- Absences during season will result in ¼ game benching.
- Long-term medical issues will be the only exception to this rule (i.e., under doctor's orders). Cheerleaders must continue to attend practices and events if they want to remain on the team and/or return once cleared by doctor. If they are unable to attend, they will not be included in the end of season banquet.
- Each squad member will make a commitment to be on time and ready for all functions.
- Tardiness will not be accepted. Extra conditioning or staying after practice may be required.
- Please note that there are no exceptions unless previously cleared by the advisor/coach.

DRESS CODE

- Be COMPLETELY and CORRECTLY dressed upon arrival to ALL scheduled cheer events (from head to toe, shoes to bow). Do not arrive with your hair down, without shoes, or halfway dressed. This includes practice.
- No jewelry, long or artificial nails allowed, at practices, at camps, in the gym, games, etc. If a cheerleader has jewelry or long nails, they will not be able to participate at game/event or practices and will count as an unexcused absence. NO NOSE RINGS. Do not get anything pierced in the middle of the cheer season

because you will be expected to remove the piercing during the event. This includes, but is not limited to, your ears, nose, or your belly button.

- Hair must always be worn in a secured ponytail; you may wear bangs as long as the bangs do not obstruct your view.
- Each squad member is required to bring all pieces of uniform at all events (this includes poms & bow). Squad members without required pieces of their uniform may not be able to perform at that game or performance.
- Each squad member will dress as follows for all practices: appropriate cheer shoes, t-shirts, sports bra, sweatshirts/pants/shorts (no denim jeans, tops with zippers or buttons or hoodies).
- Once camp is completed, you will be expected to wear your camp clothes to practice.
- Game Days Each squad member will <u>dress in uniform to school</u>, all Football games and Basketball home games.
- No one outside the team will be allowed to wear team attire, this includes friends as they are not representatives of RCHS and the cheer team.

AACCA Rule B-11) All jewelry is prohibited during participation. Religious medals and medical medals are not considered to be jewelry.

TRANSPORTATION FOR AWAY FOOTBALL GAMES

School transportation not guaranteed to the cheerleaders, without an additional cost, it may be the responsibility of the parent to ensure their cheerleader has a way to and from the away football games. Students may be allowed to drive themselves to the games if approved by parent and coach if transportation is not provided.

HEALTH

- Cheerleading/dancing, as in any sport, require a lot of energy and strength. All members must be in good health to carry out commitments. The River City Administration requires an Athletic Clearance, which includes a physical examination for each squad member.
- The clearance must be approved by the River City Athletic Director prior to the first day of clinic.
- Squad members will be required to be covered under a health insurance plan. A health insurance plan can be purchased from the school, at an affordable rate.
- A medical release must also be completed for each squad member.
- Squad members and/or parents will be required to inform the coach if there is a change of information regarding the medical release and will be required to complete a new release.

CAPTAINS/COMMITTEE CAPTAINS

- Coaches will consider the following criteria when selecting captains: attendance, participation and effort at practice, in community event, and fundraisers, cooperation with coaches and fellow team members, leadership skills, good representative of the team & school, responsible and respectful on social media, leads by example, and votes by fellow team members.
- Please respect this position and act in a manner towards these squad members, as you would like to be treated.
- The Captain(s) or Asst. Captain(s) will handle all administrative issues as requested by the advisor/coaches. They can delegate to other squad members if they wish. If a Captain(s) or Asst. Captain(s) requests you to perform a duty, please do so as if the advisor/coach has asked you.
- The position will not be misused in any way. If this occurs, the coach will deal with the situation at hand and if necessary, direct the member to resign from their position as captain/asst. captain.

DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

- Only the coaches may enforce consequences (bench, suspend, etc.) on a squad member.
- Unexcused absences, tardiness and improper behavior will be dealt with by the coaches. Continuing problems in these areas are subject to dismissal from the squad.

Disciplinary Definitions:

- Benching A squad member will be required to attend ALL practices but will be required to sit on the bench in uniform, with the coach.
- Suspension A squad member will not be allowed to attend practices, games or special events, even as a spectator.
- As Coaches we do not punish cheerleaders. We are responsible for following through with consequences brought on by actions of teammates. Being benched, suspended, or removed from the team is not a punishment, it is a consequence on one's actions.
- All squad members will always treat the coaches and each other with respect.
- The coach will have the final say in all matters. Any concerns by the members or parents can be directed to the Head Coach.
- If a member quits or is removed from the team, they will not be allowed to tryout the following year. They will also no be included in the banquet or any end of the year functions. This does not include seniors that graduate early. * Exception If a cheerleader is dropped from the team due to grades, they will be required to meet with the coach to develop a plan before being eligible to tryout the team for the following year.
- Every cheerleader has earned the same right as everyone else to be a part of our program. If you are a senior, you will not get special privileges or be treated any differently from anyone else. The role of the senior cheerleader is to be a leader and a mentor to the other girls. Seniors should make sure that all team members feel like they belong to the program and are not to treat other squad members as outcasts.
- Profanity, fighting or mispresenting the team will not be tolerated at any time. You are always a representative of RCHS and the cheer team, on campus or off.
- As a member of the RCHS cheer program, you are always a representative of the school (in or out of uniform). All cheerleaders need to be cautious of all electronic means of communication-including, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, TIK TOK, etc. All cheerleaders should not, at any time, misrepresent the school when using electronic devices, including, but not limited to, inappropriate language, pictures, behavior, comments, bullying, harassment, fighting etc. If the coach and administration identify a situation as misrepresenting the school, he/she can be subject to removal from the team.
- PDA (public displays of affection) in or out of uniform will not be tolerated. You are always a representative of the program.
- If you have a job or participate in ANY other activities/sports, YOU MUST communicate with your other activity/job/sport of all your cheerleading events. It is your responsibility to get schedules and calendars turned into your other obligations. If you forget to make arrangements with your other obligations, and you miss an event, you will receive a bench. The calendar of events is issued in plenty of time to get your schedule on track, especially with a job. You must also notify your coach two weeks ahead of time if an event must be missed due to another school-related activity. Communication is the key! Failure to communicate to your coach properly will result in a bench.
- You are responsible for informing the coach if you receive a school warning, referral, failing grade or consequence. You are to inform your coach of such on the SAME day received. The coach should not find out about referrals, or issues after the fact. Failure to tell your coach will result in consequences. Not only can you get a bench based off of your consequence, but you can also receive another bench for not informing your coach first.

- Drama will not be tolerated. If a conflict, situation, or problem arises between you and someone else on the squad or your coach, you need to discuss the matter with your coach first so it can be mediated. You will not get other squad members or other squads involved with your problem(s). Backstabbing, namecalling, bullying, or bad-mouthing your teammates or coach will not be permitted. Everyone is expected to maintain a positive relationship the entire year with ALL squad members, other squads, and coaches. It will not be in your best interest if the coach finds out about the problem first.
- Cell phones are not allowed out during any scheduled cheerleading event. You will not be allowed to use your phone during breaks, practice, games, etc. This includes anyone who sitting out injured or sick. Your phone must remain silent or off. You will be allowed to call parents from games and practices at designated times set aside by the coach.
- Hazing, practical jokes, and inappropriate initiation with new members or coaches of the RCHS teams will not be tolerated.
- Any cheerleader who defies the coach's authority, whether at a game, practice, event, etc., can be put on automatic suspension. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespect, back-talking, walking away from the team or coach, disobeying instruction, etc.

COACHES

- As Coaches we do not punish cheerleaders. We are responsible for following through with consequences brought on by actions of teammates. Being benched, suspended, or removed from the team is not a punishment it is a consequence on one's actions.
- It is understood that the coaches have the authority to override any decision made within the squad as needed to maintain the squad's best interest, not an individual's best interest.
- The coaches will act in good judgment and make decisions for the good of the squad as a whole. Please remember it is not possible to please all squad members/parents and have 100% agreement by everyone.
- The COACH is the only coach for the squad. Everyone is welcome to offer suggestions and ideas, as long as you handle yourself politely and respectfully. You are not allowed to tell each other what to do, criticize each other, become demanding, or make anyone feel inadequate. Everyone will be treated equally no matter your talent or experience. No one will receive special treatment.
- Squad members or parents, who have questions or concerns, are encouraged to discuss the matter directly with the coach. You may also go to RC's Administration (Athletic Director), but it would be appreciated if you first started with the coach. RC's Administration is kept aware of any issues which may be of a critical nature, by the coach.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraiser may include car washes, candy/items sales, Sponsored Restaurant nights, etc. All cheerleaders are expected to help with fundraising.

These rules are subject to changes as deemed necessary. Please remember, the Coach's job is to ensure that the best interest of the whole squad must be the first priority. If you or your parents disagree with any issue, you are encouraged to discuss the issue with the advisor/coach directly.

I look forward to seeing you at tryouts. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Hall at <u>RCHScheerleading@gmail.com</u>

THESE RULES AND STUDENT ATHELTE HANDBOOK RULES WILL BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED AND ENFORCED. EFFECTIVE ONCE THE TEAM HAS BEEN SELECTED (AFTER TRYOUTS) THROUGH THE SUMMER AND FOLLOWING YEAR.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE REPRESENTING RIVER CITY AND YOU SHOULD ALWAYS ACT IN A MANNER, WHICH BEST REPRESENTS, THE STUDENT BODY OF RIVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL!!!



RIVER CITY CHEERLEADING TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

To obtain placement on the squad, a candidate must receive a minimum total score as indicated below:

Junior Varsity (Freshman/Sophomore):	70%
Varsity (Junior/Senior):	80%

Category			Possible Points
Jump			1
	Toe Touch or jump of your choice		15
	Pointed toes (2)	Sharp motions (5)	
	Chest up (3)	Correct motion placement (3)	
	Clean landing (feet together on mat) (2)	bonus *hyperextension (2)	
Cheer			
	Communication Skills		15
	loud, clear voice (5)	Knowledge of chant (5)	
	facials (2)	Eye contact (3)	
	Motion Technique		15
	Proper motion placement (5)	Arms straight (2)	
	Sharp controlled moves (5)	No broken wrists (1)	
	Claps sharp, loud, hands cupped (2)		
Dance			
	Skills, Rhythm, & Knowledge of dance		30
	In step with music (6)	Exhibits rhythm (6)	
	Begins & ends on time (6)	Sharp motions (6)	
	Smiling, comfortable & having fun (6)		
Overall P	resence		
	Energy, Enthusiasm, and Spirit		5
	Smile, enthusiasm (1)	Hair off face (1)	
	Confidence (1)	Correct attire (1)	
	Rally motions/words (1)		
Coaches	Score		
	Attendance & fitness Eval (5)	grades (5)	20
	Teacher Evaluations (5)	potential, previous year performance (5)	

Tumbling Scores (extra points) 1 point = cartwheel, 2–3 points = round off, 3– 4 points = round off back handspring, 4– 5 points = pass including back tuck or multiple back handsprings.

AGREEMENTS

AGREED ON ONLINE APPLICATION

- NEVER stunt or tumble unless a coach is present and always practice in the presence of a coach.
- Seep cell phones turned off and put away during practices, games, or other required events.
- Not use offensive language in or out of uniform as I am now representing my school.
- I will maintain ALL my social media accounts in a respectful manner and not display any inappropriate or offensive behavior that may violate this contract.
- Do not attempt a stunt that you do not know how to perform safely and that has not been cleared by one of the coaches.
- Always use attentive spotters when stunting.
- Always use mats or a grassy area when stunting during practice.
- Never talk, laugh or mess around when performing a stunt.
- Report all injuries immediately to the coach as soon as they occur.
- Follow all trainer and doctor recommendations.
- Always represent RCHS and the cheerleading team with respect and good sportsmanship.
- Never wear jewelry of any kind, long or artificial nails, or chew gum when cheering (games or practices).
- Do not get any new piercing during the season, you will have to remove it to participate.
- Always have your hair pulled back from your face and off your shoulders.
- Eat nutritious meals, drink water, and get plenty of rest.
- Always ask a coach for assistance or advice when needed.

Player name

Parent Name

Player signature

Parent Signature

I PLEDGE....

to be drug, tobacco, and alcohol free

to do my best at all the practices, games, and performances

- to promote school spirit and sportsmanship by my words and actions
- to be a positive leader and role model for my squad, school, and community
- to be someone others can count on to be hardworking, dependable, and positive
- to follow all safety guidelines and stunt progressions set up by my coach
- to follow the Rules Addendum and the Game/Performance Rules
- to be the type of cheerleader, I would like to coach
- to help others
- to constantly work on improving my cheerleading skills
- to keep academics as my number ONE priority
- to refrain from inappropriate posting on Social Media

Cheerleader's signature



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RIVER CITY CHEERLEADING TRYOUT APPLICATION AGREED ON ONLINE APPLICATION

_____, the parent or legal guardian of ______

have read and understand the 2024-2025 River City High School Cheerleading Handbook and the 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. I understand that failure by my child or myself to adhere to these policies could result in dismissal from the squad. I understand my cheerleader must be present for ALL practices, games, and events. I understand all forms attached must be completed and returned for my child to tryout. I understand qualified judges will evaluate my child and staff and we agree to abide by the decision of the coach. I understand, by the nature of the activity, Cheerleading carries a risk of physical injury. I understand an injury could be as minor as a sprain or as serious as a broken bone, and possibly death. I understand these risks involved and will not hold River City High School or its personnel responsible in the case of accident or injury at any time.

Parent's (or Guardian's) signature

Date

Student Agreement

If you make the cheerleading squad, realize that you are making a commitment to River City High School, your coaches, your teammates, and yourself for the complete season (full year). The decision to tryout should not be taken lightly. You will be expected to put cheerleading as one of your top priorities. Furthermore, as a representative of River City High School, you must always maintain proper behavior. You must follow the cheerleading guidelines set forth in the Cheerleading Handbook and Student Athlete Handbook effective after tryouts through summer and the following year. Students who break the rules will be disciplined. By making this commitment to the River City High School Cheerleading program, you will receive many valuable and rewarding educational experiences that you will remember long after you graduate from high school. These activities will not only channel your enthusiasm and spirit in a constructive and beneficial manner but will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment in being a part of a group that values, celebrates and encourages hard work, integrity, and sportsmanship.

I, ______, have read and understand the 2024-2025 River City High School Cheerleading Handbook. I agree to abide by the policies described if I am chosen as a member of the squad. I am agreeing to the information in the packet and understand that failure to adhere to these rules policies could result in dismissal from the squad.