Wildcats Cheer Program: Parent Information Packet

Welcome Letter

Welcome to the Wildcats Cheer Program! We are thrilled to have your athlete join our cheer family. This packet includes everything you need to know about the upcoming season. Please read through it carefully and don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Mission Statement

Wildcats Cheer Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to empower and inspire young athletes through the exciting world of competitive cheerleading. We are dedicated to building strong, confident teams by combining skill-based training with a supportive, inclusive environment. Our goal is to help every athlete grow in strength, spirit, and self-belief—on and off the mat—while fostering teamwork, discipline, and a true love for the sport of cheer.

Program Overview

• Program Options:

- There is 1 half year team, and 3 full year teams.
- Registration opens in May and closes in August

• Participation Models:

- With Fundraising (mandatory fundraising commitment)
- Without Fundraising (monthly fee)
- Financial Assistance (available for 6 athletes across all teams)
- **Commitment:** Every cheerleader MUST COMMIT to ALL competitions

Teams

Team	Ages	Level	Half or Full yr	Session Dates
Baby Jaguars (BJ)	4-7 years	Novice	Half	8/4/25 - 1/11/26
Little Leopards (LL)	7-9 years	Beginner	Full	8/4/25 - 5/10/26
Servals (SS)	9-18 years	Intermediate	Full	8/4/25 - 5/10/26
Caracals (CC)	9-18 years	Advanced	Full	8/4/25 - 5/10/26

Team Fees & Payment Breakdown

HALF YEAR (6 mo.) - Baby Jaguars (Ages 4-7)

Option	Sign Up Fee	Monthly Fee (LLC)	Monthly Competition Fee (Non-Profit)	Uniform Fee	Fundraising Required	Total Cost (out of pocket)
With Fundraising	\$260	\$140 (x6)	\$50 (x6)	\$150	\$300	\$1,550
Without Fundraising	\$260	\$140 (x6)	\$110 (x6)	\$150	None	\$1,910
Financial Assistance	\$200	\$110 (x6)	\$25 (x6)	\$100 rental	Mandatory (\$425)	\$1,110

FULL YEAR (10 mo.) - Little Leopards (Ages 7-9), Servals and Caracals (Ages 9-18)

Option	Sign Up Fee	Monthly Fee (LLC)	Monthly Competition Fee (Non-Profit)	Uniform Fee	Fundraising Required	Total Cost (out of pocket)
With Fundraising	\$260	\$140 (x10)	\$50 (x10)	\$150	\$600	\$2,310
Without Fundraising	\$260	\$140 (x10)	\$110 (x10)	\$150	None	\$2,910
Financial Assistance	\$200	\$100 (x10)	\$25 (x10)	\$100 rental	Mandatory (\$850)	\$1,550

Fee Notes

- Sign-up Fee: Includes music, bow, first competition fee, insurance
- Monthly Fee (LLC): Covers coaching and facility use. We are unable to offer sibling discounts at this time.
- Monthly Competition Fee (Non-Profit): Covers competition costs/fees
- Uniform Fee: Due on the first practice (installments available for assistance recipients)
- Families that opt out of fundraising will be responsible for paying any additional competition fees, for example athlete crossover fees, etc.

Financial Assistance Process:

- Families seeking financial assistance must submit a letter of financial hardship explaining their situation.
- All eligible letters will be entered into a lottery, as funds are limited.
- All information is kept confidential.

Uniform Policy

- Uniform fee: \$150 (or \$100 rental for assistance)
- Uniform buyback Credit: \$80 if team/uniform unchanged
 - If a uniform size needs to be changed, you may check with Wildcats to see if they have the correct size available for an even exchange.
 - If a new size needs to be ordered, the cost will still be \$80.
- Assistance athletes must forfeit uniform if leaving team
- Payment plan: \$25/week installments available for assistance

Fundraising Information

- Fundraising is mandatory for selected packages
- Wildcats Booster organizes all fundraising events
- Sponsorships go to the non-profit, not individual athletes
- Donations must be labeled by athlete/team/non-profit
- Each athlete is responsible for their portion

Practice Schedules

Half-Year Program (August 4 – January 11):

Our half-year team, **Baby Jaguars (3-7)**, will participate in two competitions on the following dates:

- December 13/14
- January 10/11

Full Year Program (August 3 – May 3):

This program includes all five competitions. Our full-year teams are:

- Little Leopards (7-9)
- Servals (9-18)
- **Caracals** (9-18)

Team Placement Practice (July 20–31):

• Ages 9–18: Caracals and Servals are *different level* teams within the *same age group*. Placement is based on each athlete's skill set to make sure they're on the most appropriate team.

Tuesday: 5:00–7:00 PMThursday: 6:00–8:00 PM

Regular Season Practices (Starting August 4):

- Baby Jaguars (Ages 3–7): Tuesday 4:45–5:30 PM
- Little Leopards (Ages 7–9): Tuesday 5:30–6:30 PM + Saturday 9:00–10:00 AM (9/6 onward)

- Servals: Tuesday 6:15–8:00 PM, Thursday 6:00–8:00 PM + Saturday 9:45–11:45 AM (9/6 onward)
- Caracals: Monday & Wednesday 6:00–8:00 PM + Saturday 11:30 AM–1:30 PM (9/6 onward)

Team Age and Practice Grid

Team	Ages	Half or Full yr	Placements	Session Dates	Practice Sched. starting 8/4
Baby Jaguars (BJ)	3-7	Half	No placements	8/4/25 - 1/11/26	• Tuesdays 4:45-5:30pm
Little Leopards (LL)	7-9	Full	No placements	8/4/25 - 5/10/26	 Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm Saturdays (starting 9/6) 9-10am
Servals (SS)	9-18	Full	Placements 7/20-7/31 Tues. 5-7pm Thurs. 6-8pm	8/4/25 - 5/10/26	 Tuesdays 6:15-8pm Thur. 6-8pm Saturdays (starting 9/6) 9:45-11:45am
Caracals (CC)	9-18	Full	Placements 7/20-7/31 Tues. 5-7pm Thurs. 6-8pm	8/4/25 - 5/10/26	 Mondays/Wednesdays 6-8pm Saturdays (starting 9/6) 11:30am-1:30pm

Competition Schedule

Date	Location	Host Organization	Teams Competing
Dec 13–14, 2025	Providence, RI	Liberty Spirit Cheer	All teams
Jan 10–11, 2026	Providence, RI	Deep South Spirit	All teams + CheerAbilities
Mar 28–29, 2026	Foxwoods, CT	Deep South Spirit	LL, Servals, Caracals
Apr 11–12, 2026	Boston, MA	Liberty Spirit Cheer	LL, Servals, Caracals
May 2–3, 2026	Destin, FL	Liberty Spirit Cheer	LL, Servals, Caracals

Travel Information

- Baby Jaguars: Local only (within 2-hour drive)
- Florida Trip (May 2026): Not included in standard fundraising
 - o Airfare: \$200–\$300/person (est.)

- Hotel: \$170–\$230/night (resort shuttle included)
- Families are encouraged to coordinate lodging for cost savings

(*More detailed information about each competition will be shared as the event dates approach.)

Contact Information

Wildcats Cheer and Athletics, LLC
Wildcats Cheer Inc.
567 South County Trail
Suite 105
Exeter, RI 02822
P: 401-291-8690

E: wildcats@wildcatsri.com www.wildcatsri.com @wildcatsri

#wildcatsri

• Owner: Katelyn Mayberry

• Office Manager: Kerry Emerson

• Programs Director: Kate Arver (former Bond)

• Coaching Staff: Kelly Emond, Giselle Palmer, Nicole Sankey, Katelyn Mayberry

• Wildcats Booster Club: Nicole Sankey

We're looking forward to a fantastic season! Go Wildcats!

PARENT & ATHLETE CHEER HANDBOOK/CONTRACT

Wildcats Cheer and Athletics

567 South County Trail, Suite 105

Exeter, RI 02822

P: 401-291-8690

wildcats@wildcatsri.com

Mission Statement

At Wildcats Cheer and Athletics, our mission is to empower, support, and inspire the youth in our community through curriculum-based classes that promote physical and socio-emotional development. We strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where physical fitness and emotional strength are valued, and where every individual has the opportunity to grow and thrive in the world of recreational sports.

WELCOME TO WILDCATS CHEER AND ATHLETICS!!

We are so happy to share our love for cheer and athletics with you and the community. Our mission is to create a supportive and empowering environment where every athlete can thrive and reach their full potential. Our coaches will emphasize the importance of overall cheer skills, safety, conditioning, tumbling, stunting, and above all, respect for others while enjoying the thrill of this sport. Most importantly, we focus on the athletes having fun. All athletes and teams are important to us, from our cheer/ tumbling classes to our competing teams!

Along with our loyal staff, WCA has worked hard to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the Wildcats family! We make it our mission to get to know each athlete and parent; help them set and reach goals, teach the value of commitment, dedication, and teamwork, and ultimately help each athlete see their dreams become a reality. Although our goal is to make each team competitive, we strongly encourage all our Wildcats athletes to learn lifelong lessons in dedication, dependability, pride, teamwork, time management, and helping others.

We pride ourselves in promoting the balance of all athletes' education in conjunction with their sport.

If you find any questions that may not be directly answered in this document or have further concerns, please reach out to the gym directly at 401-291-8690 or the gym's email wildcats@wildcatsri.com. Wildcats Cheer and Athletics is under the direct supervision of Gym Owner, Katelyn Mayberry, "Coach Kate". Once again, WELCOME to Wildcats Cheer and Athletics!

Wildcats Cheer and Athletics ATHLETE & PARENT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The following applies to every athlete and members of their family.

SPORTSMANSHIP

We hold high expectations for our WCA athletes to be well-mannered as they represent our gym at any event or competition, as well as in our community. This includes kindness and respect for one another, respect for staff and facilities, and respect for one another's privacy. Good sportsmanship is also a must. Any negative behavior towards other teams, teammates, and coaching staff may result in immediate removal from the program. Here at WCA, we want an approach that encourages a positive mindset, and confidence, promotes strong teamwork skills, and celebrates their hard work and accomplishments throughout our entire season.

- Be modest when successful and be gracious regardless of placement.
- Members of all teams are to show respect for the coaches, fellow teammates, other WCA athletes, parents, judges, officials, and spectators from opposing organizations.
 - o This includes but is not limited to sitting outside the practice facility.
 - o Disrespectful attitude, back-talking, and any form of ill-mannered behavior towards coaches and other athletes is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
 - o In the spirit of good sportsmanship and all-around team morale, we encourage that any questions, comments, or concerns be brought to management directly.

- Exhibit good sportsmanship at the gym as well as during and after all competitions.
- Encourage youths to abide by the rules and respect all other teammates, athletes, coaches, judges, officials & other parents.

GYM AND PRACTICE POLICIES

- 1. Athletes will NOT be allowed phones during practice/class. Phones must be left in the cubby area. If you need to contact your athlete you can call the gym phone.
- 2. Athletes that come to practice unprepared and without their practice bow, must pay \$3 to purchase a new one. If your bow was left at home, you will get the \$3 back once the gym bow has been returned and attend practice with your own. This is to teach accountability and responsibility to our athletes and ensure all elements of their uniforms are in order.
- 3. Throughout the season we may call CLOSED PRACTICES. This is for the optimal athlete focus and participation.
- 4. Respect the privilege of the use of our facility. All cheerleading equipment is for the progression of skills and will be used by all athletes and coaches appropriately. NO PARENTS ARE ALLOWED ON ANY CHEER FLOORS OR EQUIPMENT. Siblings are not allowed to wander or be left unsupervised.
- 5. If you are running late to practice for ANY reason, you must call/text to inform your coach.
- 6. No food, gum, candy, or drinks are permitted in the gym area. Only water and Gatorade are allowed. Snacks and drinks are to be maintained in the waiting/cubby area. NO SNACKING during water breaks.
- 7. The use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language is prohibited. This behavior will result in IMMEDIATE dismissal from the WCA program. No excuses or exceptions.

Failure to abide by any of these policies may result in removal from the program and/or Wildcats Cheer and Athletics.

STUDENT/ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

A coach or staff member will review the expected behavior and rules with the participants each week.

1) Participants are expected to follow staff directions.

- 2) Participants are expected to treat peers, coaches, facilities, and equipment with respect.
- 3) Participants must stay within the gym area.
- 4) Any behavior that jeopardizes the safety of other children or staff will not be tolerated (i.e. spitting, throwing objects, pushing, hitting, biting, threatening violence, bullying, etc.).
- 5) No foul language, drugs, or inappropriate clothing is allowed.

If general rules are not followed, a coach/staff will:

- 1. Counseling: When a discipline incident occurs, the athlete will be counseled and given a description of the behavior change required.
- 2. Parent Contact: If a series of disciplinary situations occur, the athlete's parent or guardian will be contacted.
- 3. Suspension: An athlete who continually disregards instructions will be suspended for 1 day. The parent/guardian will be advised.
- 4. Termination: If the child's behavior remains unacceptable, then the parent or guardian will be informed and the child will be dropped from the program.

Parents may be notified of disciplinary issues by phone/email. Children who receive 3 disciplinary reports are subject to dismissal from the programs depending on the severity of their behaviors. Wildcats Cheer and Athletics reserves the right for immediate dismissal of any child.

ABSENCES

- 1. Absences will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- 2. Anything beyond 3 unexcused absences is highly unacceptable.
 - a. Excessive absences may be grounds for:
 - i. Change or replacement in competition team routines
 - ii. Withholding items or services
 - iii. Dismissal from the program

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

1. Include but not limited to:

- a. Death in the family
- b. School-related functions that reflect a grade, coaches and front staff must know at minimum 2 weeks before any function to plan accordingly.
- c. Jobs:
 - i Handled on an individual basis
- d. A contagious illness with a doctor's note

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- 1. Include but not limited to:
 - a. Sickness, without a doctor's note
 - b. Going to another athletic or team practice
 - c. Going on vacation or a special event

COMPETITIONS

- 1. Parents, relatives, friends, and athletes are never allowed to speak to, call, text, or e-mail competition officials/judges for any reason. All competition communication will be dealt with directly through gym management and coaches.
- 2. All competitions are MANDATORY. You are financially responsible for each scheduled competition.
- 3. Athletes and Parents MUST remain respectful and remember they will be representing WCA.
- 4. All competitions are subject to change; not all teams will attend the same competitions.
- 5. All competitions are MANDATORY for all competing athletes.
- 6. Competition fees vary according to team, level, and Competition Company.
- 7. All competition fees MUST be paid in advance and promptly upon the due date.
- 8. When ALL athletes arrive at the competition venue, they must be in full uniform:
 - a. BE ON TIME!!
 - b. Uniform Top and Bottom
 - c. Designated Cheer Shoes and socks

- d. Designated colored/Nfinity backpack
- e. Designated Hair and Makeup
- f. NO jewelry
 - i. NO nail polish allowed
 - ii. NO gum
 - iii. NO unnatural hair colors
- 9. Athletes must remain in full competition uniform with competition shirt over uniform throughout the competition (Different shoes, boots, different colored hoodies, and different warm-ups, are NOT allowed.)
- 10. Once athletes have checked in with their team coach, no parents are allowed in warm-up areas.

FUNDRAISERS

Wildcats' Cheer Competitive Teams are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing young athletes with the opportunity to excel in competitive cheerleading. To support this mission, we host fundraisers during the season, aimed at covering;

- Tuition fees
- Bows
- Cheer sneakers
- Additional uniform fees (shipping/handling)
- Remainder of competition fees
- Travel expenses
- League registration
- Team bonding events

The funds raised through our Fundraising/Booster Club initiatives are exclusively allocated to enhance the Wildcats Cheer Team experience. This ensures that every contribution goes directly toward supporting the growth, development, and success of our cheerleaders.

Our commitment to using these funds solely for Wildcats Cheer Team activities highlights our dedication to strengthening community support and creating pathways for aspiring athletes to thrive in their sport. By supporting our fundraisers, you're helping provide opportunities for our participants to grow, compete, and achieve their full potential.

SOCIAL MEDIA & NETWORKS

- 1. No athlete or parent may post inappropriate/negative messages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, or any other social media platform, website, and/or message board about WCA, another program, or an individual. Any posting of this nature will result in immediate dismissal from the program or team.
- 2. No WCA team videos and/or music are allowed to be posted on YouTube or any other website <u>without permission</u>. Including live videos. Violation of this rule or the theft of music is grounds for immediate dismissal. We strongly encourage our parent(s)/spectators to have their phones down and hands up to enjoy a visual performance of their athlete.

COMMUNICATION

- 1. We will be sending messages via text, team apps, and emails to keep the lines of communication open with all parents and athletes. Please make sure all your contact information is always current.
 - a. Weekly: practice schedules and attire, day of competition details.
 - b. Monthly: due dates, calendars, newsletters, and invoices.
- 2. Team app notifications MUST be left on at all times for any changes and/or reminders.
- 3. Team apps, group chats, or message boards are used for information ONLY. Any complaints, concerns, or questions should be addressed to the manager PRIVATELY.

WCA APPAREL

- 1. Each athlete must purchase practice wear and competition uniforms through the WCA shop.
 - a. Practice wear and competition uniforms are MANDATORY.
 - b. Practice bows are MANDATORY and can be purchased through the front desk.
 - c. Cheer Shoes:
 - i. White ONLY for competition
 - ii. White or black for practice
 - d. Cheer Backpack:
 - i. Solid black, black glitter, or WCA backpack.
- 2. Practice wear including practice bow, correct shoes are required, and hair must be worn on the correct day for each athlete.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1. EVERY parent and athlete must complete and initial both the WCA handbook and contract before the first practice.
- 2. If a competition is canceled by WCA, we will replace it with a comparable event if able to and adjust fees accordingly.
- 3. If a competition company cancels, it will get replaced and money will roll over.
- 4. TENTATIVE COMPETITION SCHEDULES AND FEE DUE DATES WILL BE GIVEN ONCE DATES ARE POSTED BY EACH CHEERLEADING OR LEAGUE COMPANY.
- 5. WCA logo, name, and team names are NOT to be reprinted on any apparel or other items for distribution or sale.
- 6. WCA management has the right to dismiss your athlete from the Wildcats Cheer and Athletics program for any of the following reasons (not limited to):
 - a. Inappropriate behavior
 - i. This includes behavior from both the athlete and the parents or family of said athlete.
 - b. Excessive absences
 - c. A pattern of tardiness
 - d. Not showing up for a competition
 - e. Delinquent payments

ATHLETE DROP OFF/PICK UP:

1. Athletes can be dropped off 10-15 minutes before class time. Athletes are NOT allowed on the equipment until their class or practice has started. They will only be allowed to stretch in designated areas. Practice starts promptly.

PRACTICE CONDUCT AGREEMENT

- 1. Athletes will NOT be allowed phones during practice/class. Phones must be left in the cubby area. If you need to contact your athlete you can call the gym phone.
- 2. Athletes that come to practice unprepared and without their practice bow, must pay \$3 to purchase a new one. If your bow was left at home, you will get the \$3 back once the gym bow has been returned and attend practice with your own. This is to teach accountability and responsibility to our athletes, and ensure all elements of their uniform are in order.
- 3. Throughout the season we may call CLOSED PRACTICES. This is for the optimal athlete focus and participation.
- 4. Respect the privilege of the use of our facility. All cheerleading equipment is for the progression of skills and will be used by all athletes and coaches appropriately. NO PARENTS ARE ALLOWED ON ANY CHEER FLOORS OR EQUIPMENT. Siblings are not allowed to wander or be left unsupervised.
- 5. If you are running late to practice for ANY reason, you must call/text to inform your coach.
- 6. No food, gum, candy, or drinks are permitted in the gym area. Only water and Gatorade are allowed. Snacks and drinks are to be maintained in the waiting/cubby area.
- 7. The use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language is prohibited. This behavior will result in IMMEDIATE dismissal from the WCA program. No excuses or exceptions.

Failure to abide by any of these policies may result in removal from the program and/or Wildcats Cheer and Athletics.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- 1. Parents are to fulfill their financial obligations on time.
- 2. There is a strict NO REFUND policy.
- 3. Tuition MUST be paid through Automatic Credit/Debit Card or ACH/Bank Draft on file in our secure management software.
- 4. There is a \$35.00 decline fee on all payments.
- 5. Extra payments such as uniforms, competitions, bows etc. can be paid in cash or through any form of payment offered such as Venmo, or Paypal however, if your payment is not turned in by the due date your card on file will be charged.
- 6. NO PAYMENT DATES WILL BE EXTENDED OR CHANGED.
- 7. If you are DELINQUENT 10 days of tuition, choreography, uniforms or competition payments your son/daughter will sit out of practice until you are up to date. Late fees may apply.
- 8. Outstanding balances and fees will be charged to the account on file by the 25th of each month if not paid on time.

PAYMENTS:

- 1. It is your responsibility to make all payments on time.
- 2. All payments are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- 3. Late fees are acquired 5 days after the posted due dates.
- 4. Any fee reminders via email or by phone are a courtesy and are not required by gym management.

TUITION:

1. All tuition payments will be automatically withdrawn on the 1st of each month through your online portal.

Tuition is drafted through our automatic payment system. Due dates cannot be overridden or changed.

2. Declined transactions will receive a \$35.00 insufficient fund fee.

LATE FEES:

- 1. Please be aware that phone calls, text messages, and emails concerning delinquent/past due accounts are a courtesy and will be sent out as frequently as needed. Please remain up to date with your account standing.
- 2. Any other WCA fees paid after the final due date will result in a late fee of \$35.00.
- 3. Athletes will sit out until the account is up to date.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

- 1. Failure to meet the deadline for payments, lack of reasonable & fair communication regarding payments or delinquent accounts will result in one or all of the following:
 - a. Withholding services (Sitting out of practice, private lessons or other classes etc.)
 - b. Withholding purchased items (uniforms, practice wear, warm-ups, etc.)
 - c. Replacing or moving the athlete in routines
 - d. Dismissal from the program

QUITTING OR DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM

- 1. If your athlete quits or is dismissed from the program, a \$200.00 dismissal fee will be charged for breach of contract
- 2. You will still be held responsible for all subsequent tuition payments, which will be automatically drafted on the 1st of each month.
- 3. You will forfeit any money, services, and items previously paid to WCA.

a. THIS INCLUDES:

- i. Paid private lessons, other paid WCA classes (Jump or Flying Class), tumbling, competition team practices, choreography practices, camps, open gym, etc.
- ii. Uniforms, practice wear, bows, shoes, shirts, makeup, etc.
- iii. All items that may have been paid in full but have not been physically handed to the athlete or parent yet. (Additional merchandise varies to include hoodies, headbands, beanies, etc.)

Gym Closures 2025

Easter: Sunday, April 20, 2025

Florida Competition: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 - Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 11, 2025

Memorial Day: Saturday, May 24, 2025 - Monday, May 26, 2025

Father's Day: Sunday, Jun 15, 2025

Fourth of July: Monday, June 30, 2025 - Sunday July 6, 2025

Labor Day: Monday, Sep 1, 2025

Halloween: Friday, Oct 31, 2025

Thanksgiving: Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, Nov 28, 2025

Holiday Break: Monday, Dec 22, 2025 - Friday, January 2, 2026

Gym Closures 2026

New Years: Thursday, January 1, 2026 - Friday, January 2, 2026

Easter: Sunday, April 5, 2026

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 10, 2026

Father's Day: Sunday, June 21, 2026

Fourth of July: Monday, June 29th, 2026 - Sunday, July 5th, 2026

Labor Day: Monday, September 7, 2026

Halloween: Saturday, October 31, 2026

Thanksgiving: Wednesday, November 25th, 2026 - Sunday, November 29, 2026

Holiday Break: Monday, December 21, 2026 - Sunday, January 3, 2027