



Jr. Cougars Sideline Cheer 2023

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who is eligible for Jr. Cougar Cheer (JCC)?

A: All students who will be in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade during the 2023 fall season. You must reside in the Chattahoochee High School District to cheer in our program.

Q: What does a “Sideline” Cheerleader do?

A: The sideline teams cheer for the middle school football teams. They learn cheers, jumps, stunts and dances, then do those during the football games. In addition, they perform a half time routine during home games.

Q: Is there a pre-set number of cheerleaders per squad?

A: JCC does not pre-set the number of cheerleaders per squad.

Q: What is the time commitment? Can my child do other activities?

A: Jr. Cougar Cheer involves 2-3 practices per week in the evening on Mondays, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays (August thru end of October), Saturday football games (end of August thru potential November playoffs), and mandatory Summer Choreography Camp and CHS Mini-Camp. While many of our cheerleaders are able to do other activities throughout the week, that is an individual question based on your child's activity schedule. Our season ends by November.

Tryouts:

Q: What is the tryout process?

The first two days are devoted to teaching a 16-count dance routine and cheer. The third day is the actual tryout day, where your cheerleader will be given a 15 minute timeframe to attend. **Note: Tryouts are closed to parents for all three days.**

Q: What do the girls wear to tryouts?

A: All cheerleaders must be dressed in the following:

- Black athletic shorts (it is fine if they have a stripe down the side or around the edges or logo)
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos or writing)
- White no-show socks, and tennis shoes
- Hair must be pulled back off your face and your shoulders. We prefer a ponytail. Bows are optional, but must be white, royal blue, or gold.

Q: Does everyone make a team?

A: No, not always. At tryouts, cheerleaders are primarily judged on their ability to follow directions, their attitude throughout the process, their enthusiasm, their abilities, and their willingness to learn. While learning the cheer and dance are part of the tryout, it is not the main part of the judging. Jr Cougar Cheer is a feeder program so we expect to teach the girls the cheers and dances with proper technique during the season.

Q: Is tumbling required or expected?

A: No, tumbling is not required. However, we will work on tumbling techniques to help prepare your cheerleader for high school and competition cheerleading. We highly recommend placing your child in a weekly tumbling class to help them prepare for the cheer season.

Q: How do I know if my cheerleader made a team?

A: Results will be posted on our website on April 30th by 8pm.

Practices:

Q: Where do the Cheer Teams practice?

A: At the Chattahoochee High School Gymnasium. Weather permitting the practice will be occasionally outdoors.

Cheer/Football Season Dates:

Q: When does cheer begin / what is the schedule?

- **Camp:** The mandatory attendance policy begins with our Choreography Camp on July 31st through August 3rd. (9-2pm). This is where the cheerleaders learn the half time routine. This camp will be at the Chattahoochee High School Gymnasium.
- **Weekly Mandatory Practices:** Mandatory weekly practice begins on Monday, August 7th and continues every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, (with the exception of school holidays) through the end of October.

• **GAMES:** Plan on a game every weekend, including holidays, during football season (through November). Cheerleaders are required to arrive 1hr prior to the start of their game.

Q: When does football season begin? What is the commitment?

A: The football season typically begins the 3rd weekend in August and runs through the end of October, with playoffs into November. The final schedule for Football is available by the beginning of August and will be posted on our website once available.

Important: JCC expects cheerleaders to cheer for the entire season including ALL PLAYOFF GAMES. Plan on a game every weekend, including holidays, during football season.

Q: What if I cannot attend the Summer Choreography Camp?

A: The camps are all mandatory. We are posting the camp dates prior to tryouts, so that families can make arrangements. We have made every effort to minimize the time required of the girls during their summer break and know that it can be hard to organize family schedules. Please make absolutely every effort to make alternate arrangements, as missing any of the camp may result in your cheerleader not having a spot in the routine until she can be worked in at a later date. The choreographer creates the routines based on the number of girls at the camp, and it is very difficult to try and work someone in later in the year.

Q: What happens if my child must miss a football game?

A: Refer to the JCC Program Guide for attendance policy. The main thing is to communicate this well in advance so coaches can rework and plan the half time routine in your child's absence.

Commitment & Volunteering:

Q: As a parent/guardian, what time commitment is expected of me?

A: Besides ensuring your cheerleader is **on time** to all practices, camp, events and games, we ask that at least one parent/guardian is **onsite at all games** in case of an emergency.

JCC requires a minimum of (5) volunteer hours from each family. We appreciate your support and participation in helping the JCC program. We cannot keep the program running without help from volunteering. You may choose to opt-out of the mandatory volunteer hours by paying a fee of \$150 to JCC.

Website & Contacts:

Q: Where can I find up-to-date information about the JCC program?

A: Please use our website for information about our program **www.jrcougarcheer.com** There is also a calendar of events, so that families can prepare in advance.

Q: Who do I contact if I have a question or concern?

A: Please send questions or concerns to our JCC Board
jrcougarcheerleading@gmail.com