



Season VII

2024-2025

**Competitive Info
&
Agreement**

<https://ssallstarcheer.com>

Shining Stars All Star Welcomes You to Season VII

If you are a returning cheerleader/parent WELCOME BACK!! If this is your first season with SSC, we are excited to have you be a part of the SSC Family! Together we will start the journey of Season VII, making memories, improving our skills, and reaching goals.

Shining Star's Mission

We promote attributes that will influence all aspects of athletes' lives, including:

- Being positive
- Teambuilding
- Enjoying the spirit of cheer
- Working with others
- Building self-esteem

We encourage each athlete to work toward these goals:

- Strive for excellence by always doing your best
- Work hard
- Be disciplined
- Have fun
- Be positive
- Exhibit good sportsmanlike conduct

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Team Placement

Athletes are divided into teams based on age and skill level. Age requirements can be different for each level/division. SSC will always prioritize the healthiest age group for your individual athlete based on age, maturity, experience, and skill. *These age groups may be subject to change according to USASF updates.

Skill Level Breakdown

Athletes are evaluated based on their execution of tumbling, jumps and stunts. All are important and taken into consideration when putting together successful teams. Required skills vary from team to team. The level of execution of each skill will also vary from program to program. Athletes will be placed according to their performance and skill. All skills must be maintained to remain on any given level/team. SSC reserves the right to move an athlete from one team to another at any point in the season (up OR down) based on performance, ability, necessity ect.

Please make sure you understand that this criterion (Performance Ready/Mastered/Basic Skill) is going to be applied to ALL aspects of cheerleading. This includes tumbling, jumps, stunts, memory, and performance. After the initial evaluation, athletes will be placed in workout groups based on their results. Teams will officially be set by choreography camp.

Show

Our show team is a perfect starting point for our youngest All-Star athletes. This team practices once a week and will perform at several competitions throughout the season. This option gives our athletes an age/skill appropriate cheer experience and is the team that many of our prep athletes stated on years ago. Show team athletes will be exposed to practice structure, beginner cheer skills, tumbling elements, and so much more. Often, they may receive a trophy/medal for their awesome performance.

Novice

Novice teams are composed primarily of first year All-Star athletes that are looking for the experience that the show/exhibition category does not offer. **It is a great introduction to the All-Star experience.** Our novice athletes are trained to progress and develop skills to achieve individual and team goals. Novice teams will be put together according to the current USASF age grid. The most significant difference is that this category does not travel, minimum tumble skills and they do not compete against other teams. They will be performing their routine at competitions to be scored by the USASF judging panel for a “rating” of outstanding, excellent, or superior.

Prep

Prep teams are made up of new and experienced athletes alike. The time commitment is like Elite teams, however Prep team are subject to less travel. Prep teams are selected by age, but experience and skill level may vary widely across athletes of the same team. Prep team is a step above novice team

USASF Tumble Skills Requirements

	Prep	Novice	Show
Minimum Required	Cartwheel, BWO	None	None
Advanced Skills	FWO, Cartwheel 2 BWO Cartwheel BWO Series Valdez BWO switch leg	Cartwheel Round Off Front Walkover Back Walkover	Forward Roll Cartwheel

Comparison by Category 24-25 Season

	Prep	Novice	Show
Number of days a week at SSC	2-3	2-3	1-2
Number of training hrs. a week	2-4	2-4	1.5-2.5
Estimated total competition events (Regular season only)	5-6	4-5	4
Travel competitions	2 In-state	2	0

Financial Obligation & Payment Agreement

2024-2025 Season

Please note, monthly training fees for the full season and are scheduled for convenient of payment planning purposes. These fees cover regular practices as well as all extra practices. Some months may have fewer practices due to holidays and some may have more, but the fees will cover the entire season. Therefore, you are entering into a full year (8 month) agreement. There will be no make-ups, refunds, or no credits reimbursement for missed practices due to an athlete being absent or the gym being closed.

PAYMENT POLICY (Effective May 1st)

- Shining Stars All Star Cheer automates the payment process of monthly payments by via ACH and credit/debit card.
- Monthly Training Fees are billed on the first day of each month and become due upon receipt. Any unpaid amount will be due on the 3rd of each month (whether these are for tuition or other fees), will be charged a \$10-day late fee added to the account.
- Any account with a pending balance due after the 15th day of each month will be charged a \$25.00 late fee and the athlete associated with the account will be withheld from participating in any activities at Shining Stars All Star. This includes accounts in which the ACH or credit card transaction of their account is declined for any reason.
- Please ensure the card on file has not expired. THIS IS SOLELY YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
- Please ensure your billing address is the same as the address on your payment method to avoid declined charges. THIS IS SOLELY YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
- Late fees will continue to accrue monthly until the outstanding balance has cleared.
- Shining Stars All Star Cheer does NOT refund any monies that have been paid for any reason.
- If for any reason your ACH, and / or credit card declines, Shining Stars All Star Cheer may continue (daily) to charge those funds until they have cleared your account, or you have provided an alternative form of payment.
- If the athlete leaves (some exceptions are considered) or is removed from Shining Stars All Star Program for any reason, you are still financially obligated to pay the monthly tuition fee from December 2024-May 2025.
- If the athlete leaves or is removed from Shining Stars All Star Cheer Program for any reason, you understand that any past due balance is still owed to Shining Stars All Star Program, we will not issue a stop payment on the account or credit cards for these funds.
- You agree to not initiate any “chargebacks.” Any chargebacks will incur a \$25.00 penalty.
- Any unpaid accounts may be sent to collections after 90 days of non-payment.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If for any reason you decide to withdraw from Shining Stars All Star Cheer, you must do so with a written notification. **Shining Stars All Star Cheer requires notification via email to shiningstarscc17@gmail.com by the 15th of the month to stop monthly training fees for classes for the following month**, assuming it is not passing the season cancellation deadline.

(For example: To stop tuition drafts beginning September 1, notification must be received no later than August 15). If, however, proper notice is not given by the 15th calendar day of the month, you will be responsible for the training fees for the upcoming month. All monies paid prior to the cancellation are nonrefundable and non-transferable

2024-2025 Season VIII Information

SSC = COMMITMENT

Below you will find essential information that you will need to be familiar with as the parent/guardian of an SSC competitive cheerleader. Please be sure to take your time reading. The contents of this agreement will be an invaluable reference point throughout the season. When joining SSC Cheer team, WE are also committing to YOU, to uphold the high standards of our SSC Motto. You and your athlete are making an important commitment as well. An important part of commitment is communication. We at SSC will do our part to communicate and you are asked to do yours by remaining informed throughout the season.

COMMITMENT = FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Competitive cheer is considered a luxury sport. SSC strives to be upfront with all anticipated regular season fees and have included a detailed payment schedule as well.

SSC does not offer financial assistance. The Booster Club (ran by amazing SSC parent volunteers) offer successful fundraising opportunities to help with related costs. You are strongly encouraged to participate in the fundraisers.

We strongly encourage everyone interested in competitive cheer to consider all the costs involved. Not only will you incur charges on a regularly scheduled basis, but you will also find other expenses will add up throughout the season. Gas/transportation to-and-from practices and competitions, admission tickets to competitions, event parking, travel related expenses, such as hotels, food, souvenirs and even airfare/bus fare. These are all very real cheer-related expenses and should be considered carefully before taking on this financial responsibility.

COMMITMENT = ATTENDANCE

You are making a TEAM commitment. Athletes are expected to report to every practice prepared and ready to begin training with their team, ON TIME. In this sport, it takes 100% attendance to hold a full TEAM practice. The absence of just one team member impacts the team unit.

Please be sure your cheerleader does not miss practice or arrives late. Attendance is considered a direct reflection of your commitment (and theirs) to all the athletes, parents, staff, and the program.

Practices and Absence Policy:

- Each All-star and prep team will have a 2-hour practice twice a week. One practice will be a weeknight and the 2nd could be on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, but it is not guaranteed. This will start immediately in the month of June so practicing twice a week is the minimum (even during the summer months). Extra practices will also be called on an as-needed basis and could be called any day of the week (Monday-Sunday). The two weekly practices and any extra practices are included in the monthly tuition. Tuition does not increase for months where teams practice 10 times and does not decrease for months where teams may only practice 3 times. It is an average that will not be prorated or discounted for absences.
- The same policies go for our novice programs which practice once a week but will potentially have a MANDATORY extra practice scheduled closer to competition time.
- The only excused absence is a mandatory school cheer function or a school function that results in a grade. All other absences are unexcused. Part-time jobs, dances, concerts, musicals, banquets, long distance driving, family reunions, weddings, recitals, school/church socials, and any other non-related school activities are unexcused.
- Absences are NOT allowed for any reason the weekend prior to a competition or the week of a competition.
- Every athlete will be allowed to miss four practices during the summer. CHOREOGRAPHY CAMP IS MANDATORY.
- If for any reason there is a need to miss a practice you must submit the Absence Request Form at least 2 weeks in advance and it will either be approved or denied via email by Cequisha P. (Absence request form at the front desk.)
- Forms left on a desk will not be valid – you must email the form to shiningstarscc17@gmail.com Emailed forms the day of a scheduled practice will not be accepted. This includes school cheerleading, gymnastics, choir, band, and all other school sports. Your school activities are planned well in advance. Please submit your request in advance. A completed form does not automatically excuse the absence.
- ALL absences must be approved by Cequisha, no other staff member has this authority. If an emergency arises the day of a practice, you will need to communicate directly with your head coach which will then notify Cequisha. Other staff cannot excuse athletes or pass along messages.
- We will verify with school administration and the teaching staff if we think that someone is being dishonest with an absence request. Be prepared to show documentation from a teacher or instructor. You will be removed immediately if the request is falsified. No absences are permitted the week of an event. The greater the team's attendance, the less extra practices will be needed.

- If an athlete is injured, please notify SSC coaching staff immediately. SSC coaching staff reserves the right to replace an injured individual for some or all the remaining events.
- All ordered items are final and non-refundable.
- SSC practice wear must be worn to all practices. If an athlete is missing any practice wear pieces at practice, a replacement item will be provided and charged to your SSC account (this includes the bow). Athletes always represent his/her team – it is imperative to be disciplined.
- Cheer shoes are not optional. We are a cheer gym so please always keep your shoes on.
- No jewelry can be worn in the gym at any time.
- Only water is allowed in the gym area.
- No long fake nails during competition season Jan-May.
- We are here to work so please turn your cell phones off. SSC is not responsible for lost or stolen items so please use discretion when bringing valuables to the gym.
- There is a lost and found, however, any unclaimed items will be donated bi-weekly.
- You must arrive to practice on time. Five minutes early is better than five minutes late! • If you are not working on a skill and you arrive early to practice, please stay off the equipment, sit/stretch quietly and wait for your practice to start without disturbing other classes in the gym.
 - If you are not an SSC athlete or staff member, do not enter the gym area at any time. Parents are NEVER allowed to spot an athlete at the SSC facility or at an SSC event.
 - Parents (including team moms) should NEVER coach a team, call extra practices, or provide any kind of cheer instruction for athletes.
 - No unsupervised tumbling! An instructor must be always present.
 - SSC reserves the right to close practices to parents or any other spectators.
 - Please try and stay healthy both in and out of the gym to help prevent any injuries from occurring. We encourage athletes to eat healthy, stay active and get plenty of rest.
 - Every athlete must be respectful to teammates, staff, and parents always.

Competitions:

- The tentative Shining Stars All Star Cheer competition schedule for the 2024-2025 season will be determined and sent out no later than August 31, 2024.
- ALL COMPETITIONS ARE MANDATORY FOR EVERY ATHLETE.
- Every athlete must not only attend every competition, but they must be available the entire week/weekend of the event and the entire week/weekend leading up to the event. Failure to do so will result in permanent removal from the SSC program.
- Athletes should be prepared to practice the entire weekend prior to and the week leading up to any event/ competition, even if emergency practices are scheduled last minute. Please be aware that once the competitions start, it will be very time consuming.
- Upon arriving at competition, every athlete must be in full uniform from head to toe. This means a clean uniform top and bottom, SSC warm-ups, hair out of face w/assigned competition bow, full make-up, no show white socks, clean white cheer shoes and no jewelry, nail polish, or gum. No cell phones tucked into skirts. Appropriate undergarments should be always worn so as not to distract from the uniform design (i.e., no hot pink). Athletes will remain in uniform the entire time he/she is at an event – even after performing. This means every article of the uniform must stay on, zipped, buttoned and in place. Cheer shoes/bow always stay on.
- All athletes must attend ALL awards ceremonies pertaining to their team.
- For awards athletes should look “performance ready” – meaning no backpacks, no cell phones, no warm-ups, and no t-shirts. Athletes should still be in full hair and make-up and look as if as if they are about to take the floor to compete.

- Remember that you are always representing SSC. Please represent us, and yourself, well.
- Athletes and parents should NEVER post something on social media that can be perceived as negative toward SSC, another athlete, team, program, or coach, etc.
- We expect for every athlete to watch and cheer for other SSC teams. This may mean you may have to arrive earlier or leave later than required for your own performances/awards. Poor sportsmanship by athletes or parents may result in removal from the program.
- At competitions, the main priority of a coach is to safely prepare the athletes for their performances. After that, our next priority is to support our teams as they perform. Depending on the schedule, this means that all our team's coaches may not be able to stand with a team as their awards are handed out, or, in rare cases (at events with multiple venues) during a performance. We will do anything we can to get as many of the coaches there, but sometimes it is just not possible.
- Some competitions may require us to compete on a Friday and/or may require your athlete to miss a part/full day of school. When selecting competitions for our program, this is one of the first things we take into consideration. We will strive to keep our athletes from missing as much school as possible, but sometimes it is inevitable.

Choreography Camp:

- All novice travel and prep teams will attend camp in the SSC facility during the summer to learn routines. This is mandatory for all athletes.
- Prep teams will have a 3-day camp.
- Novice travel teams will have a 2-day camp.
- Each camp will run from 9AM-3PM with an hour lunch break from 11:30-12:30pm.
- For the safety of our athletes, they will not be allowed to leave the premises. Please be sure to pack a nutritious lunch.
- These choreography camps are closed to parent viewing. You may drop off lunch for your athlete at noon, but you will not be allowed to stay. This time is intended for athlete bonding.
- Dates for all team choreography camps will be released no later than the end of June.

2024-2025 Team Breaks:

There will be no regular practices for any SSC team members on the following dates.

These "holiday" closures apply to ALL classes:

Monday, May 27th (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, July 2nd — Wednesday, July 10th, 2024 (Independence Day Weekend)

Sunday, September 1st — Monday, September 2nd, 2024 (Labor Day Weekend)

Monday, November 25th — Friday, November 29th, 2024 (Thanksgiving Break)

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 – Sunday, January 5th, 2025 (Christmas/New Year's)

Monday, March 10th— Friday, March 14th, 2025 (Spring Break)

Dates are subject to change to be in alignment with our local school districts. Before signing up, please remember that we do not offer makeup days for scheduled closures, emergency closures, athlete absences and we do not prorate.

TRAVEL TEAM ATHLETES WILL HAVE MANY EXTRA PRACTICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

2024-2025 SSC Competitive Program Fees

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS Competitive all-star cheerleading requires a significant financial commitment. The following estimated costs are subject to change and while other expenses are not foreseen, they could arise. **Absolutely no special financial arrangements will be made.** Please carefully consider the financial responsibility required before committing to the season.

Please note that the All-Star Prep fees below are for a regular season and do not include out of state events (The Open Championship/The One/The Cheer & Dance Extreme Finals) and those fees associated with them.

Fees	All Star Prep (Travel)	Novice (Travel)	Show Team (No Travel)	Returning Members	Due
Registration	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	At Registration
Monthly Tuition	\$100	\$100	\$85	Refer to Team Placement	1 st of the Month (Sept-May)
Practice Wear	\$160	\$160	\$125	-----	June 14
USASF Fee	\$49	\$49	\$49	\$49	Go to usasfmembers.net and pay
Choreography Camp/Music Fee	\$450	\$325	\$200	\$450	½ July 19 Balance September 27
Competition Uniform	\$475	\$350	\$200	-----	½ August 23 Balance September 20
Competition Backpacks	\$70	\$70	\$50	-----	October 18
Competition Bow	\$35	\$35	\$25	Refer to Team Placement	October 18
Competition Shoes	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	October 18
Competition Jackets	\$75	\$75	\$75	-----	November 8
Competition Fees (Split into 4 payments)	\$850 (\$170 for 5 months on the dates to the right)	\$750 (\$150 for 5 months on the dates to the right)	\$600 (\$120 for 5 months on the dates to the right)	Refer to Team Placement	November 15 December 13 January 17 February 21 March 7

*Above prices do not include tax and may be subject to change.

*Above prices do not include travel/lodging expenses at out-of-town events.

*Above prices do not include our Out of State Events.

*All items are REQUIRED and considered a part of the uniform

BREAKDOWN OF FEES

Registration:

The \$65(class) and \$100(team) per athlete non-refundable registration fee is due each year at the time of sign up. No participants will be placed on a Shining Stars team or allowed to practice at SSC without having paid this fee each season. Returning members are required to pay this fee each season upon registration renewal. That fee is good for one cheer season, which goes from May 2024-April 2025.

Monthly Tuition:

Families with multiple athletes will receive a 10% discount off any additional sibling's team tuition. The 10% team tuition discount will be applied to the lesser value of tuition when applicable. Cousins, neighbors, etc. are NOT considered siblings. (All other fees will apply per athlete.) **Withdrawal notice must be given to shiningstarscc17@gmail.com by the 15th of any month to avoid being charged for the next month's tuition.**

Practice Wear:

*Practice wear changes every year, so this is required for new AND returning members. Prep & Novice athletes will be issued two practice outfits. Teams are only allowed to wear official 2023-2024 SSC practice wear items during all team practices and events. All other items are not approved and will not be allowed.

Competition Uniform:

*All athletes must order a uniform according to their program and level placement. Styles and prices vary by team. Please note that the uniform is designed to fit like a leotard so keep that in mind when selecting the size.

Competition Bow:

*A competition bow will be ordered for all active athletes according to their program and level placement. Styles vary by team, but all bows are \$25/\$35.

Competition Jackets:

*The SSC warm-up jacket is the only cover up allowed and other cover up items are not allowed while in uniform. Pajama pants, sweats, blankets etc. are not part of the uniform and are not what we want the kids walking around in. Jackets are a required item so please use them.

Competition Backpack:

*The SSC backpack is the only bag allowed while in uniform. All other bags/backpacks are not allowed at competitions. School cheer backpacks are not allowed.

***It is important to note that practice wear, warm-ups, uniform, bow, and backpacks cannot be changed in any way. Added bling or embroidery is NOT allowed and any alterations that change the uniform design are also prohibited.**

BREAKDOWN OF FEES CONT...

Choreography:

Prep team and novice travel athletes are required to attend a mandatory choreography camp for their team. The mandatory choreography fee includes the cost of choreography, instruction, and music production. All members MUST pay this non-refundable fee, regardless of camp attendance, which would also include members who might join later in the season. They will still use the choreography and music provided.

USASF Membership:

The United States All Star Federation (USASF) is the main governing presence in competitive all-star cheerleading. USASF requires that ALL athletes certify to be eligible to compete each season. The fee will be paid directly to USASF and will be your responsibility to register your athlete and upload the birth certificate or any information required to make them eligible. Adult athletes must also complete background checks and a course.

Competition Fees:

Competition fees are NON-REFUNDABLE (even if the athlete quits, is removed, or becomes injured.) Prep teams will attend up to 5-6 events, novice will attend up to 4-5 events per season and show team will attend 4 events per season. Competition fees include event registration for the season. The 2024-2025 SSC competition schedule will be determined based on school squad conflicts, event location, other competitors, and other various factors to ensure a competitive and successful year for all teams. Once this schedule is set the exact fee will be calculated and broken into four equal installments due in November, December, January, and February.

Please note that the above fees do not include travel and lodging for out-of-town events.

OUT OF STATE EVENTS (PREP ONLY):

Should a PREP team attend any out of state events, this will incur additional fees. National events are not factored into the regular season.

*Hotel, airfare, food, registration fee and extra expenses for these events could be a very big expense for a family. New athletes joining SSC competitive teams should keep this in mind from day 1 as our current athletes are expecting to attend each year.