

## **Cheerleading Candidates & Parents/Guardians Parent Tryout Permission Form**

Thank you for your interest in trying out for the 2021-2022 Mammoth Spring High School Cheerleading squad! We appreciate your enthusiasm and interest in the program. It is very important that you understand the commitment that Cheerleading involves. **The overall commitment expected from both parents and students is tremendous.** The commitment requires enthusiasm and dedication not only from the cheerleaders but from the parents as well. The team can be at its best only if we have your support. Prior to your child's tryout read the Cheerleading Constitution along with the following conditions, rules, and expectations. If both parents and students can agree to the following terms, please sign along with your student.

### **Cheer practice & tryouts will be held:**

(All forms included in this packet must be returned on Saturday, June 12th .)

**We understand:** the decision of the coaches is final and NOT negotiable after tryouts and that tryouts are closed to parents, friends, and spectators. \*Please understand that cheerleading is somewhat of a subjective activity. You, your parents, and friends may have a different opinion, but the coaches are going to make the final decision when selecting the squads.

**We understand:** the cost involved with being a part of the Mammoth Spring High School cheerleading program. (Cost are outlined in the Cheerleading Constitution)

**We understand:** and agree that coaches will not enter into any discussion with parents regarding coaching decisions about squad selections.

**We understand:** the coaches will be happy to discuss our child's weaknesses, with them, in order to help your child increase their skills, and that the coaches have to consider the team as a whole rather than individuals when selecting the squads.

**We understand:** that cheerleading must become a high priority in terms of commitment. Jobs, other clubs, organizations, etc., must be arranged around practices and activities for cheerleading. We will do our very best to work around other activities. We understand this is a small school and our students want to be involved in other activities.

I sincerely hope that you understand that while every one of your childrens are important to us, it is impossible to make them all happy, especially when it comes to the selection of the squads. An impartial and an experienced panel of judges will be used to help select the squads. **The final squad selection will be determined by the coaches.** We are looking for students who can represent Mammoth Spring High School both as excellent cheerleaders and as excellent role models for the student body. I realize that this is a lot to take in, especially those of you who have never participated before. But I would like to be as clear as possible to prevent misunderstandings later.

We have read and understood the Cheerleading Constitution and the Parent Permission to Tryout Form. **We also understand that all decision of the coaches at tryouts are final and are prepared for the financial obligation of Cheerleading.**

**Signing below indicates that you agree to abide by these rules and standards and understand that you will be held accountable to these rules and standards throughout the season.**

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, will do my best as a Cheerleader to always set a positive example for the MSHS High School student body. I plan to follow the rules set forth in the Cheerleading Constitution and understand the consequences if I fail to adhere to the rules and regulations. I will commit myself to attending all practices, fundraisers, games, and competitions and I will always strive to have a positive attitude. I will respect my coaches and fellow squad members at all times.**

**Student Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**I/We give permission for our child  
\_\_\_\_\_ to tryout.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS PAGE TO SCHOOL**

**The students will be learning and will be judged on:**

2 Chants

2 Cheers

A 1 minute Dance routine

**Spirit and Confidence**

Tumbling (This is not mandatory – if they don't tumble that will not be held against them)

All girls will tryout at the same time. They will be put into lines and once one line is done they will move to the back and let the next line move up. This is to try and keep the nerves down. We will try and keep it as fun and stress free as possible!

**The squad members will be announced the day of tryouts.**

## **Attitude Trumps Talent!**

**Just like muscle outweighs fat, your work ethic and attitude far outweigh your natural talent. If you work to improve one and neglect the other you are doing yourself a disservice. Your attitude trumps EVERYTHING!**

Please do not worry if you have never cheered before. We are looking for more than students who can tumble across the floor. **We want students who have a positive attitude and are willing to learn.** We can teach you everything you need to know about cheerleading **if you have the right attitude** and want to learn. We really want to build on what we have already done this year and have lots and lots of ideas for this next season. The only thing missing is a group of students who love their school and want to be a part of our cheer family.

**We want students and parents to know up front what our expectations are.**

We really want this to be a fun experience for all of us!

# ***Mammoth Spring High School Cheerleading Constitution***

## **MSHS Cheer Program Mission is to:**

- Promote and uphold school spirit, unity and pride.
- Represent the school to the highest degree
- Set an example of good behavior and sportsmanship at all times *(whether in uniform or not)*
- Promote friendship with each other *and with schools with whom we compete.*
- Promote the development of lifelong values and skills.

## **MSHS Cheer Program Standards:**

Cheerleaders understand that teamwork and maintenance of discipline is key to the success of the cheer program. Cheerleaders are dedicated to promoting spirit, enthusiasm, and a positive winning attitude through example. Adherence to the Cheer Program Standards is vital to achieving these goals. All members realize that the manner in which they conduct themselves, in or out of uniform, directly reflects on the entire team and regulations. It is recognized that these standards are necessary to maintain squad morale, squad and individual discipline, and effective learning. Consistent enforcement of rules and regulations is also necessary to ensure the safety and general well being of each individual cheerleader. ***Participation in cheerleading is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked by the school personnel when a cheerleader violates the rules and regulations.***

## **Conduct:**

- Positive attitudes towards the coaching staff and teammates is expected and required at all times.
- Promoting good sportsmanship by way of example is required at all times. Members must not use foul language at practices, in school, at games, camp or competitions, etc.
- Being part of cheerleading, you are accepting the fact that your actions are more prominent than those not associated with such an activity. Because of this, exemplary behavior is mandatory at all times, anywhere in the community and at all school functions where you are a representative of MSHS High School.
- Members must cooperate with all faculty members, squad members, game officials, and coaches.
- Cheerleaders must display proper behavior in class.
- Each case of discipline will be judged individually. The coach, with the assistance of the administration if deemed necessary, has the final decision in any disciplinary situation.

- Every attempt will be made to discipline fairly/equally, and to make consequences of actions known ahead of time. Parents will be kept informed of problem situations. Severity of, or repeated offenses may dictate harsher action.

### **Absences**

- Absences should always be avoided when possible.
- Absences must be excused prior to practice/game. The coach must receive a note, call, or text from your parents if you are sick.
- **Absences due to work schedules are unexcused. Jobs must be worked around the cheer schedule.**

### **Practices**

- Practices are mandatory. • Cheerleaders must arrive to practice on time wearing proper shoes and clothing **with hair secured in a ponytail.**
- **No Jewelry...no exceptions!!!! This is a AAA rule that all athletes must follow. All piercings must be taken out prior to practices or games. Taping or covering the piercing is not allowed due to safety concerns!**
- Nails must be athletic length and no Acrylic nails are permitted.
- A positive attitude is required at all practices. There is no room for poor attitudes anywhere in cheerleading!!!!
- **Missing practices that have valid excuses can still lead to being removed from a routine, a position or stunt, due to not physically being available to practice.**
- **Safety is our first priority. No excessive horse-play. Never stunt without the coach present!**
- ***Everyone is required to help get mats out and put them away before and after practices***
- ***There is no cell phone use during practices or games. This means that when we take a water break it is not time to be on your phone. Cell Phones are to be turned off during practices and games.***

### **Games:**

- All games are mandatory!
- Members are required to arrive at least **30 minutes** before the game time.
- Hair must be pulled back away from the face and secured in a ponytail if shoulder length or below. Bangs must not cover the eyes.
- No Jewelry and nails need to be athletic length with no acrylic overlays
- Tattoos must be covered
- No chewing gum or eating during games
- Socializing with friends while the game is in progress is not allowed

**Transportation:**

- Cheerleaders are not allowed to drive to away games or competitions. They must ride in either school transportation or authorized transportation.
- Cheerleaders must be fully dressed in uniform or warm –ups including cheer shoes when they arrive to ride the school transportation. Hair must be up. This is to promote team unity and identity.

**Discipline Policy: The following violations will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the cheer squad (including but not limited to):**

- All the district policies in the school handbook will be in effect at every cheer practice/event.

**Academic Eligibility:**

The requirement for eligibility shall include:

Passing four academic courses; and

A minimum semester GPA of 2.0 for the previous semester.

**Cheer Program Expenses:**

Squad members are responsible for the purchases of briefs, bodysuits, shoes, hair bows, bags, and warm ups.

- The squad will be participating in fundraisers to try and offset any expenses. We try to keep the cost to the bare minimum. Last year the total out of pocket was \$60.00
- At the end of the season uniforms must be washed before being turned in.

Participation in the MSHS cheerleading organization is a privilege, not a right. In order for the cheerleader to retain this privilege, the policies and procedures contained in the constitution must be adhered to in the spirit of discipline, education and overall goals and objectives of the MSHS High School cheerleading program.

Thank you for your interest in the MSSD Cheer Squad! Please don't forget to sign and turn in the signature page. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me @ [nmay@mssd.us](mailto:nmay@mssd.us)

I can't wait to start (or continue) this journey with you!

-Mrs. May