

De Leon Bearcat

Cheerleader and Mascot Guidelines

---Tryout Eligibility---

1. The candidate must not owe any outstanding fees/monies to the school district.
2. The candidate must have an attendance record for the year that is in good standing in accordance with the state guidelines (90%) based on the time the candidate is in the district.
3. The candidate must demonstrate acceptable behavior and leadership.
 - a. Offenses requiring a suspension from school, a disciplinary placement and/or expulsion during the current school year will eliminate a candidate from being able to try out.
 - b. Any member of the current squad that has accumulated five or more demerits in the school year will be ineligible to tryout.
 - c. The candidate and their parent/guardian must have read and signed the guidelines. The guidelines must be signed and dated by the deadline of February 27th.

---Tryouts for Cheerleaders---

1. The school will secure at least three judges with a background in cheerleading. The judges will be from a college, university or a cheerleading company.
2. Each judge will use an approved score sheet which includes the following criteria:
 - Facial Expressions/Attitude: 5 points
 - Voice: 5 points
 - Cheer Execution: 5 points
 - Jumps: 5 points
 - Tumbling 5 points
 - Spirit and Enthusiasm: 5 points
 - Overall effect/Impact: 10 points
3. Each candidate will try out by number rather than name.
4. Candidates will draw numbers immediately before tryouts.
5. Candidates for cheerleader must do a set of jumps, one tumbling pass and one individual cheer.
6. The judges, the sponsor, the principal or designated administrator, and/or the school superintendent may be present during tryouts.
7. Judges provide a written, personal critique with scores for each candidate. An individual scored may view a copy of his/her own personal scores from the campus principal. Individual scores and critiques are personal and not subject to public disclosure.
8. The sponsor, campus principal or designated administrator and/or the superintendent will validate cheerleader score sheets completed by the judges.
9. The selection of the judges is final and not subject to appeal by the candidate or the parent/guardian.
10. Any student that has been a DHS cheerleader during their freshman, sophomore and junior year of high school and meets all other requirements for cheerleading will automatically be included in the squad as a senior. They will not participate in the tryout process.
11. Once scores are tabulated and confirmed, the following criteria is used to determine the squad:

Middle School- Top 3 scores for 7th grade, top 3 scores for 8th grade, and then the next two best scores from either grade.

High School- Any 3 year veteran cheerleader will be placed on the squad. The top scores will then be placed on the squad with the maximum number of squad members being 12.

-Tryouts for Mascot-

Judges will score and select the mascot. The mascot will follow all cheer guidelines.

The mascot is judged on:

- Creativity
- Use of Performance Space
- Incorporation of Props
- Crowd Involvement
- Overall Performance

---District Costs and Responsibilities---

The following items are the property of DISD and will be issued to cheerleaders and returned to the district in good condition: uniforms, pompom, warm-ups and any other school purchased item. Cheerleaders must return all items to the sponsor. Any damage to a uniform must be repaired at the cheerleader's expense.

---Cheerleader Costs and Expenses---

Cheerleaders are responsible for the following items. The price will be an **estimate** for each item. If a current cheerleader has cheer shoes in good condition, they are not required to purchase a new pair. We will try to order a similar shoe for all new squad members.

— Cheerleading Camp- \$320

Cheer Shoes- \$65

Camp clothing- \$100

Accessories- Bloomers, socks, bows- \$25

Cheer Jacket/Hoodie- \$50

***** All items MUST be paid for by May 15th. *****

Changes to Bearcat Cheerleading for 2015--- 2016

--- Cheerleading Practice---

All cheerleaders will be enrolled in an elective cheerleading/communication class during the fall semester. Each cheerleader will be required to attend class each day and all preparation and practice will occur during this scheduled time. This will eliminate late practices and conflicts with other school events. There may be special occasions when the cheerleaders will need additional practice. In the event of an extra practice, it will be scheduled in advance.

De Leon Bearcat Cheerleading Demerit Point System

Each cheerleader will begin the year with 100 points. Once a cheerleader drops below 35 points, they will be removed from the squad and not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the year or try-out the next year. All jumps for demerits must be made up before the cheerleader can participate in the next game.

1. Not staying in spirit formation during games 5 demerit points/10 jumps
2. Talking/visiting socially with fans during game 5 demerit points/10 jumps
3. Having a cell phone on during games or practice 5 demerit points/10 jumps
4. Having food/gum while cheering 5 demerit points/10 jumps
5. Not returning to the field at the required time 5 demerit points/10 jumps
6. Wearing jewelry 5-demerit points/10 jumps
7. Not taking care of equipment (clean uniform) 5 demerit points/10 jumps
8. Not dressing out for practice 5 demerit points/10 jumps
9. Arguing with sponsor 10 demerit points/20 jumps
10. Unexcused missed game 10 demerit points/20 jumps
11. Not performing assigned duties 10 demerit points/20 jumps
(pep rally set up or strike, setting up tunnel, organizing rally towels or t-shirt, etc.)
12. ISS/Office referrals 50 demerit points/100 jumps

-Maintaining Eligibility Once Elected-

UIL rules will be met and followed for eligibility to participate in all school events.

Game Day Information

Football Games

Cheerleaders will cheer at all varsity football games and pep rallies. They will also cheer for all home JV football games. Cheerleaders should arrive on time to all events and be stretched and ready to perform by the designated time.

Basketball Games

Cheerleaders will cheer at all district home basketball games and any playoff basketball game.

Playoff Games

Cheerleaders will cheer at all playoff games for volleyball, baseball and softball.

-Travel Games-

All cheerleaders will ride with the high school band to away football games. Cheerleaders are required to arrive on time and must ride the school bus. After each game, cheerleaders may be signed out to ride home with their parent(s).

-Safety precautions-

Hair- Hair should be pulled away from the face. The sponsor will discuss appropriate hairstyles with the squad members.

Jewelry- Cheerleaders may not wear jewelry during any practice, pep rally or game.

Summer Events:

All Varsity cheerleaders and the mascot will participate in:

NCA Summer Cheer
Camp Tarleton State
University June (Dates
are TBA)

Mini-Camp Fundraiser

It will be held the last week of July.

Tryout Notes/Reminders:

Tryouts are Wednesday, March 4th.

Tryout Attire:

Girls-White tank top and black
shorts Boys-White Tee Shirt and
black shorts

Parent Permission Forms must be signed and turned in by
Feb. 27th.



Parental Permission and Agreement of Terms

My _____, has permission to try out for
child, _____ cheerleader/mascot
at De Leon ISD. I have read the cheerleading guidelines and I am
aware of the obligation and responsibilities of this position.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the cheerleading/mascot guidelines. I realize that I must
fulfill all the
obligations of a DHS cheerleader to the best of my ability. I agree to
follow rules and regulations set forth by my school. I will keep my
conduct favorable and my attitude positive at all times.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____