

VICTORY ACADEMY LIONS

2011-2012 Evaluations Information Packet



Be a part of Central Illinois' FIRST and BEST All Star Cheerleading Program

Now entering our 12th competitive season, we have proven to be not only the longest running program in Central Illinois, but also the most successful. Since our program first began in 2000, we have grown and improved into one of the top programs in the entire state of Illinois. We pride ourselves in being able to offer the complete competitive cheerleading experience for all ages and all ability levels in a positive atmosphere. While the most obvious way that we help the youth in our program is by bettering their skills and helping them reach their athletic potential, we believe our program serves a higher purpose. We consider our program to be one big family and our primary goal is to teach our athletes how to work as a team and support each other. Whether in their professional or social life, teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication are lifetime lessons much more valuable than tumbling skills. While we have collected more than enough trophies and banners to fill our gym, we are most proud of the life lessons that we have been able to instill in the athletes in our program.



What is All Star Cheerleading?

The sport of All-Star Cheerleading has grown immensely from its roots over 20 years ago. In the 1980s and early 1990s, teams were typically formed of athletes who were interested in improving their skills so that they would stand a better chance of making their high school or college cheerleading teams. As the sport continued to develop, more and more athletes and their parents viewed All-Star Cheerleading as a viable activity in and of itself. Athletes began to recognize that All-Star provided them a way to focus more on their skills, teamwork and athleticism and less on sideline cheering and support of other athletic teams. Teams and athletes in All-Star now focus on gymnastic and acrobatic moves. The hybrid sport of today is a combination of gymnastics, acrobatics, athletic dance, and many elements unique to All-Star. Today's All-Star athlete can learn exciting skills in a fun, safe environment.

All-Star teams are comprised of 5-32 (5-36 for some level 5 teams) athletes with a variety of skills and abilities. The coaches and choreographers create a competition routine performed by the group that has elements of tumbling, stunting, jumping, dance, and other skills set to music. The routines are typically 2 1/2 minutes in length. At competitions, the teams are divided by age and ability level. The routines are judged by their level of difficulty, execution, precision, creativity, and entertainment value.

There are thousands of all-star programs of all types across the country. While not every program is a perfect fit for every athlete, we believe that we have a solid program that is the right choice for everyone from the brand-new beginning athlete to the elite veteran. All-Star cheerleading is a great way for young athletes to learn new skills and make lifelong friendships while building teamwork, goal-setting, sportsmanship, and numerous other social skills.



Evaluations

ELIGIBILITY

We have teams for girls and boys ages 4-18 of all ability levels, beginner to advanced. Your age on **August 31st, 2011** determines your “competition age” for the season. Absolutely no experience is necessary to join our program, only a desire and ability to learn the skills of all-star cheerleading. Almost all of our athletes start out with little to no experience when they first join. We take pride in having a team for everyone and believe that with hard work, determination, and dedication on our part and on yours, we can teach you all aspects of cheerleading and help you reach your potential.

REGISTRATION & PARENT MEETINGS

Ages 4-5 and 6-8 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 9:30am Registration, 9:45am New Parent Meeting

Ages 9-11 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 11:00am Registration, 11:15am New Parent Meeting

Ages 12-14 and 15-18 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 12:30pm Registration, 12:45pm New Parent Meeting

*Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please go to www.victoryacademylions.com/evaluations for all the forms.

EVALUATION DATES

Ages 4-5 and 6-8 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 10:00am-11:00am

Thursday, April 14th – 5:45pm-6:30pm

Ages 9-11 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 11:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, April 14th – 6:30pm-7:45pm

Ages 12-14 and 15-18 (age as of August 31st, 2011)

Saturday, April 9th – 12:45pm-2:00pm

Wednesday, April 13th – 6:45pm-8:15pm

All athletes must attend **both** sessions for their age group. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Jen Nettleton to schedule an alternative time.

EVALUATION FEES

This fee must be paid on or before April 9th.

New Athletes - \$10/person by April 7th, \$15/person after April 7th

Returning Athletes - \$5/person by April 7th, \$10/person after April 7th

START-UP FEES

This fee must be paid on or before the date of the second evaluation session. The Start-Up Fee will be applied to yearly fees and is non-refundable.

New Athletes and Returning full season Athletes - \$110

Returning Athletes who did not fulfill a full season - \$210

EVALUATIONS PROCESS

The first step of evaluations is to fill out the appropriate paperwork and read through the Lions Handbook. Our handbook outlines all of the information that you need to know about the program. We encourage pre-registration in order to speed up the sign-in process on April 9th. Please visit www.victoryacademylions.com/evaluations to print all of the forms to pre-register.

The following items must be turned in prior to the first evaluation session:

- 1)** Lions Evaluation Information Sheet
- 2)** Victory Academy Registration/Insurance Waiver (new members only)
- 3)** 2011-2012 Lions Handbook Agreement Form
- 4)** Payment Option and Drop from Squad Policy Agreement Form
- 5)** Credit Card Authorization Form (if going on auto-bill)
- 6)** *NEW* Copy of child's birth certificate (required by USASF this season)
- 7)** Evaluation Fee

These items can be mailed in to Victory Academy 1015 Ekstam Dr Bloomington IL 61704 or can be dropped off in person at the gym.

On April 9th, all athletes need to sign-in to receive their name tag and turn in registration forms if you did not pre-register. All new parents will need to sit in on the brief parent meeting that day following registration.

After the new parent meeting, two evaluation sessions will be held on different days to evaluate each child. Everyone must attend both sessions. If you are unable to make a session, please talk to Jen to set up an alternative time.



Our evaluations are used to assess each child's ability level in order to place them on a team most appropriate for him/her. In determining each team, we look at all the following considerations:

1. Age and maturity level
2. Skill level and experience in the following areas: Jumps, tumbling, stunting, strength, flexibility, and motion technique
3. Potential stunting position (side base, back base, or flyer). Keep in mind with stunting, that for a team of 20, there are only 4-5 flyers in comparison to 15-16 bases. We try to ensure the ratio of flyers to bases is around 1 flyer to 3 bases.

A child may be put on a team with people who have a higher, lower, or equal level of skills. Children are also likely to have teammates that are both younger and older, as the age divisions cover a few different ages in each.



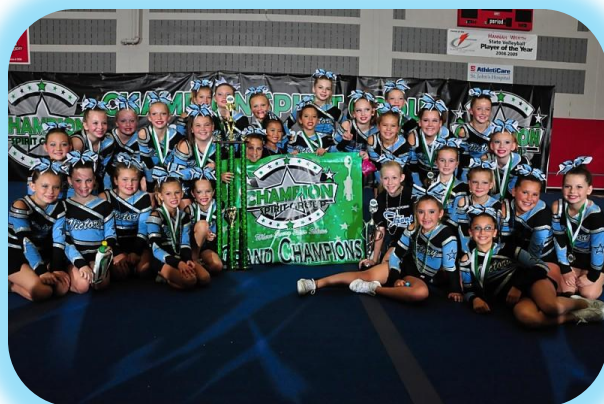
In order to be placed on a team for the upcoming season, each athlete must pay their Start-Up Fee no later than by the end of the second evaluation session. The Start-Up Fee will be applied to your yearly fees and is non-refundable. Upon the completion of evaluations, each athlete will receive a form with their current level in each skill area, as well as a number which will be used to identify them when team

placements are posted on our website. The staff will then meet extensively to assemble the rosters for the upcoming season. The staff will work together to come up with teams that each have the best possible chance of a successful competitive season. This means that each team would ideally be comprised of a variety of athletes with a variety of talents. After our meetings are completed, we will post the teams on our website. There will be a required parent meeting and registration time before the new teams will begin practice. This is required for **all** parents, both new and returning.

All athletes will be placed on a team. If there are any concerns about them being placed on a team, a coach will contact you to decide the best course of action.

The number of teams that we have and the divisions that each will compete tends to vary from year to year. The exact teams that we will have will be determined after evaluations. The number of teams will be determined after evaluations. The divisions they will compete in will be determined later in the summer, after we have had sufficient time to practice with all the teams. Here are all of the possible age and level divisions (as set by the USASF):

- Tiny – Age 5 and under – Level 1
- Mini – Age 8 and under – Levels 1-3
- Youth – Age 11 and under – Levels 1-5
- Junior – Age 14 and under – Levels 1-5
- Senior – Age 18 and under – Levels 1-5



Questions? Contact Head Coach, Jen Nettleton at 309-662-4927 or VictoryAcademyLions@hotmail.com