

Elementary Spirit Group Appendix

- I. Objective
 - a. To be a spirit group

- II. Sponsors
 - a. Sponsors must be a UISD employee, and currently working at the campus in which they are instructing unless cleared through Human Resources
 - b. There must be 1 sponsor per 10 girls (i.e. a group of 20 girls need 2 sponsors, 30 girls – 3 sponsors, etc.)
 - c. Sponsors responsible for practices 2 – 3 hours a week at most except during seasons/competitions where they might need extra practice. (Not to exceed 5 hours and **no practices during TAKS testing**)
 - d. Sponsors will ensure that practices take place after tutorials or other academic activities
 - e. Sponsors are responsible for getting forms out and returned that need a parent's signature to be kept as documentation as to information given

- III. Uniforms
 - a. \$ 475.00 (maximum) fee for both formal uniform and practice outfits and tennis shoes effective May 1, 2005.
 - b. Costumes and props for parades, competitions, or programs...need to be purchased with fundraiser monies unless donated

- IV. Camps
 - a. Sponsor must attend UCA/UDA or NDA/NCA etc. camps for summer safety training and latest info... It is recommended that your entire spirit group attend a local camp or at least your officers to receive expert training. Parents paying and/or fundraising can help alleviate costs. Principals should cover costs of sponsor attending through activity account if need be

- V. Safety Concerns/Training
 - a. Stunts – basic/intermediate stunts can be done at the elementary level. **Spotters are required.** Refer to **NFHS Spirit Rules Book.**
 - b. Sponsors need to attend and receive training from certified UCA/UDA NCA/NDA, etc. trainers as mentioned above
 - c. Ask your principal to be a part of the Campus Crisis Response Team so that you can be certified in First Aid Safety
 - d. Sponsors not receiving certified training cannot have their squad/team stunting (basic or intermediate) whatsoever
 - e. Squad/teams must have mats to stunt; otherwise it is forbidden.

- f. First Aid Kit (travel worthy) is required. Needed items are in your Sponsor Handbook. Check with Director of Health Services if you have any first aid questions.

VI. Membership Requirement

- a. Grades of at least 70 are required for individuals to perform
- b. Students with grades falling below 70 will be on scholastic probation and not permitted to perform until grades have improved to passing.
- c. Attendance at practice and at school is required to perform
- d. Member's parents responsible financially for uniform costs whether student continues or not (refer to Parental Release Form and Spirit Group Guidelines)
- e. Membership tryouts are open to both genders.
- f. Member responsible for turning in all signed registration, uniform, permission slips, etc. on time
- g. Member receiving discipline referral will immediately be put on probation and not perform at next event. Refer to Spirit Group Guidelines in regards to consequences of Level I, II, III referrals.
- h. A meeting will be called by sponsor and administration with parent/guardian after a member is not picked up on time twice. Member will receive demerit. Refer to Spirit Group Guidelines

VII. Tryouts

- a. Closed tryouts – only participants and judges allowed in actual tryout area. Sponsor is there to organize and help run tryouts smoothly.
- b. Results will be sealed in envelope and sent home with each participant to be opened after leaving the premises
- c. Three judges are needed to judge the tryouts for fairness and tiebreakers. It is recommended that they be from out of town and as well be UCA/NCA or UDA/NDA, (etc.) certified
- d. Invite feeder schools (middle and high) cheer and dance squads to help you with tryouts. They can help teach a new dance or cheer to elementary participants
- e. Insure that the cheers or dances are brand new (as of your tryouts) and have not been taught to any of the girls previously by an older friend/relative from a middle/high school squad
- f. All participants need to wear the same attire for tryouts such as a plain white t-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes. No school, cheer or dance clothing of any type will be permitted
- g. Tryouts will be held after TAKS testing on your assigned week in spring.
- h. All forms must be signed by parents and turned in for participant to tryout including Spirit Group Guidelines Signature form (at the end of booklet) and after you have gone through it with them
- i. Officer positions and procedures will be determined by sponsor and principal of the campus – it is recommended that a combination of points received during tryouts, leadership skills demonstrated and attendance at

practices be considered in the selection process – some may want to wait until after camp to select officers

Please note: At the elementary level all cheer and dance sponsors are on a voluntary basis and this is only if the principal decides to have a cheer or dance team on his or her campus. Thus, the principal and sponsor have the final say as to expectations and design of the team which includes how tryouts are done. The Elementary Appendix, Spirit Group Guidelines, UIL Parent Manual, UIL Side by Side, Spirit Group Forms, etc. can be used as guidelines, reference and clarification at any time the sponsor and principal chooses to use them.

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