

Fall Cheer season 2025 Information

Flag Cheerleader- Kindergarten

Super Lightweight Cheerleaders - 1st and 2nd grade

Lightweight Cheerleaders - 3rd and 4th grade

Junior Varsity Cheerleaders - 5th and 6th grade

Varsity Cheerleaders – 7th and 8th grade

*Team breakdowns will be based on final registration numbers.

**All athletes will cheer for the grade level they are in for the 2025-2026 school year. Due to the competition season and ICA rules, we are not able to take any team requests.

Kindergarten Flag Football Cheer;

Fees: \$175

The football season fee covers the rental of the cheer uniform, homecoming attire, practice t-shirt, game day cheer bow, breast cancer awareness bow, Cals Angels bow and practice space fees (no shoes).

Practice will be held 2 days a week starting the week of August 4th, 2025, and 1-2 days a week after school starts in late afternoon/evening. Athletes cheer at home games for the flag football season at Schussler Park. Practices end by Sept 12th, 2025. Cheerleaders will still attend all games after this time.

FOOTBALL ONLY CHEERLEADERS (NO COMPETITION)

Fees: 1st through 8th Grade; \$295 (resident)/ \$370 (non-resident)

The football season fee covers the rental of cheer uniform, cheerleading shoes, homecoming attire, practice t-shirt, game day cheer bow, breast cancer awareness bow, Cals Angels bow, practice space fees and a professionally taught jump class.

Between August 4th-Sept 12th practices will be scheduled as follows; All athletes will practice 2x a week focusing on stunting, sideline cheers, jumps and halftime routine.

The football only cheerleaders will return for 1-2 additional practices in October/Nov to keep their skills sharp. This will be a total of approximately 13-14 practices (weather permitting; not all-weather related cancels can be made up).

COMPETITION CHEERLEADERS

We encourage all our sideline cheerleaders to join our competition squad!!! However, competition cheer is not for the casual athlete. Competitive cheer is a team sport that involves tumbling, stunting, jumping, choreography and dance. Teams are scored on the level of performance, difficulty, and creativity in all these different aspects. The time commitment is much more than sideline only cheer. Tumbling classes are also strongly encouraged.

Fees: 1st through 8th Grade: Football fees; \$295 plus competition fees of \$265 for a total of **\$560** residents and **\$635** nonresident (resident and non-resident)

Kindergarten is not eligible for competition cheer.

The competitive cheer season fee covers the cost of the athlete's admission into 2 ICA competitions which was raised this year (NOT including State Competition fees), choreography by professional choreographers, indoor practice space, competition hair bow, and competition music. Additional fees include the competition uniform and State Championship fees (\$165 unless they are raised this year) if the athlete's team earns a State bid.

All athletes registering for the competition season will need to have a competition uniform. **These will be the same uniform from the 2024 competition season.** The uniforms are an additional fee and need to be purchased by the athlete. This uniform is only worn for competitions. Athletes will be fit for the competition uniform at the May 20th uniform fittings and the uniform needs to be paid in full at that time. The cost of the competition uniform if needed to purchase will be approximately \$165. If you only need a top or skirt, they can be purchased separately. Competition athletes will also need to buy a second pair of all white gym shoes for football games. The shoes that come with their registration fee will be for competition ONLY and cannot be worn outside.

There will be 2-3 practices July 9-11th for competition cheerleaders in preparation for choreography clinic sometime the week/weekend of **July 12th -15th**. We are in the process of confirming these dates and times with our choreography gym.

This choreography camp is mandatory for all competing athletes. This is when they will learn their routine for the entire season. **ALL ATHLETES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CAMP TO COMPETE. VACATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES TO MISS CAMP.**

Our TENTATIVE competition dates are Cheer Rodeo September 20-21st and Spirit Spooktacular October 25-26th. These will not be confirmed until ICA registration occurs on May 10th.

State Championships have been made two weekends this year.

If teams earn a bid to State, they will compete for their first day score of 25% on the weekend of November 15-16th. They will compete Day 2 for 75% of their score on the weekend of November 21-23rd. All teams will compete both weekends. These changes were made by the ICA and we were just notified. The Pioneer organization was not responsible for any changes made to these dates.

PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE ANY VACATIONS AFTER PRACTICES START IN JULY. ALL PRACTICES, CHOREO CAMP, COMPETITIONS AND THE STATE COMPETITION ARE MANDATORY.

The outdoor practice location is at Schussler Park and Sandburg until mid-September before we move indoors to district 135 schools and Sandburg. Competition athletes will practice with sideline only athletes 2x a week from August 5-Sept 12th and 1x a week competition only. They will continue to practice once they move indoors to district 135 schools 2-3 days a week. Days and practice times will be released closer to the start of the season once the schools allow us to

book dates. There may be some indoor practices at other local gyms as well. (THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON COACH SCHEDULES, WEATHER, PRACTICE SPACE AVAILABILITY).

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL LEVELS

Uniform Fitting Information

Cheer uniform fittings will be scheduled for Tuesday May 20th 6-9pm at the OYA office at 10649 W. 163rd Place. This is our only uniform fitting date.

It is essential that ALL registered cheerleaders are fit for their uniforms during these fittings. This will ensure that we have all uniform pieces needed on time to begin the season. No special requests for individual fittings will be made.

On the uniform fitting day, the cheerleader will be fit for the following items:

- Football season uniform vest
- Football season uniform skirt
- Cheer shoes (not flag)
- Camp & Homecoming T-shirts
- Competition season uniform (Additional cost of approximately \$165)**
- Warm-Up Jacket & Pants (If needed, additional cost of approximately \$90)*

*All cheerleaders are required to have warm-up pants and jackets which are not included in the registration cost. We will have **NEW** warm up uniforms this year and ALL cheerleaders will be required to purchase one. They will stay the same for a 2-3 year period.

**Competition uniforms will remain the same as 2024 season. They will change next year.

A \$250 football season uniform deposit fee will also be required for each registered cheerleader at the time of uniform fittings. Checks should be made payable to Orland Park Pioneers and post-dated December 1, 2025. These checks will not be cashed; they will be held until uniform return. When the uniform has been inspected and turned in on time, the \$250 check will be returned to you. If uniform pieces are missing and/or uniform is turned in damaged, the deposit check will be cashed.

Attendance Policy

It is expected for athletes to attend all practices and games through the entire football season. Cheerleaders are required to stay for the entire game. Dismissal after half time is not allowed. Missing practices or games is always a concern. If even one girl is missing, we cannot practice stunts or formations properly since every girl plays an important role in the routine. Vacations or out-of-town travel should not be planned during the cheer season if it interferes with games or practices. As a courtesy to the coaches and fairness to the team, it is expected that parents will communicate any situation that may require the athlete to miss practice or games to the head coach well ahead of time. Athletes who miss practices or games related to vacations or other activities can have their spot in a routine adjusted. Medical excuses are the only excused

absences considered. **Please be aware that if a cheerleader has 3 or more absences from games and/or practices, they can be dismissed from the squad without a refund.** We certainly recognize that there are extenuating circumstances that may lead to a cheerleader missing practices, but please discuss these with your head coach should they arise.

Practice attire

Athletes should wear athletic shorts/leggings (no jeans or jean shorts) and t-shirts, gym/cheer shoes (no sandals/flip flops, crocs or bare feet), no bare midriff tops/crop tops, and no jewelry or long nails are allowed. Hair must be pulled back into a ponytail or braid.

Games

For the 2025 football season, all cheerleaders will follow the football schedule and cheer for their appropriate team level. Cheerleaders will cheer at all home and away games, as well as any play-off games, and are expected to cheer even during inclement weather. Games can be played on Saturday or Sunday. A schedule will be distributed at the start of the season. It is usually not until early August. All cheerleaders are required to participate for the entire football season and cheer for playoff games (depending upon your team's schedule). The fee of \$200.00 is required at the time of uniform fittings. Checks can be made payable to Orland Park Pioneers in the amount of \$200.00 and postdated to December 1, 2025. If all volunteer hours are completed, then the check in the amount of \$200.00 will be returned at the end of the season. There will be no partial refunds. If the volunteer hours are not completed during the season, the volunteer check for \$200.00 will be cashed when the season ends. There will be plenty of opportunities offered to complete these hours during the season.

Mandatory Fundraiser

All Orland Park Pioneer participants are required to participate in the organization's annual fundraiser. The fundraiser takes place at the beginning of the season. For the 2025 season, athletes will be selling Double Good Popcorn. Each athlete is required to sell \$300 or more of popcorn. If you choose not to participate in selling fundraiser items, there will be a buy-out option for a set fee determined by the Board. More information will be given at the beginning of the season.

Stunt Groups

All routines and stunt groups are chosen at the discretion of the coaching staff with the strengths and safety of each cheerleader being a priority. Every member of the squad is an integral part of the team. The coach's responsibility is to do what is best for the team. No cheer position is more important than another nor is any position guaranteed for the entire season.

Parent Meeting

Before the season begins, the cheer athletic directors will host a **mandatory** parent meeting on **Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm**. The meeting will be approximately 30 minutes long. At this meeting, we will review the expectations of our cheerleaders and families. We will explain

important ICA rules and we will discuss volunteer hours and other important information. The meeting will be on Zoom and the link will be sent out the day before via email.

If you are interested in volunteering for our coaching staff for Fall 2025, please reach out to the cheer athletic directors at oppioneerscheer@gmail.com. Prior cheer and/or coaching experience is not mandatory but is extremely helpful. All coaches must complete a background check and safety class online. Coaching decisions will be made by the current staff and the athletic directors. If a coaching position is not available, other opportunities to help will be offered!

We are looking forward to a great 2025 cheer season!

Orland Park Pioneers Cheer Athletic Directors

Jill Lenzen

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