

Piner Middle School

Sherman ISD

Cheerleading/Mascot Guidelines

Philosophy and Purpose:

The purpose of the cheerleading/mascot program is to support the activities of Sherman ISD and Piner Middle Schools by promoting school spirit and crowd engagement. The cheerleading/mascot program develops the students in the areas of sportsmanship, showmanship, leadership, and citizenship with wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit. The members are expected to be skilled in all aspects of cheerleading and performance, as well as understand their responsibility as representatives of their school, district, and community. The student members exemplify the expectations as stated in the Sherman ISD Athletic and Student Code of Conduct, Campus Handbooks, and Cheerleading/Mascot guidelines both on and off campus while maintaining a high standard of behavior and academic achievement.

Commitment:

Students selected as members of the cheerleading/mascot program are expected to make a commitment from the day the team is posted until the last day of the following school year. Any cheerleader/mascot whose intention is to leave the school and/or district forfeits their cheerleader/mascot position. This process is final and may not be revoked once the cheerleader/mascot forfeits their position

Parent Expectations:

- ★ Parents must agree and sign the Cheer Parent Code of Conduct and Student Code of Conduct.
- ★ They must also abide by the Sherman Cheer Constitution
- ★ Parents are to be positive role models and to support the collective efforts of the coaches, principals, and staff
- ★ Parents are to support the cheer team and ensure that their athlete has every opportunity to meet the attendance requirements

Tryout Checklist:

- Complete the application for tryouts
- Complete tryout permission forms
- Bring a current physical on the SISD form unless already on file (verify with cheer coach)
- Bring 2 teacher recommendations
- Wear appropriate clothing for clinic and tryouts
- Be on time and attend the tryout clinic every day
- Practice at home

2022 Piner Middle School Cheerleading Tryout Application

Candidate for (please check one):

- Cheerleader
 Mascot

Personal Information:

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Zip:

State:

Grade Level:

Date of Birth:

Guardian's Name:

Guardian's Phone Number:

Medical Information:

Doctor:

Doctor's Phone Number:

Insurance Company:

Policy Number:

1. Are you allergic to any medications? Yes No

If yes is circled, please list:

2. Are you currently taking any medications? Yes No

If yes is circled, please list:

3. Are you currently being treated for any injuries? Yes No

If yes is circled, please list:

4. Are you currently a member of any club, organization, or team requiring extra practice time?

Yes NO

If yes is circled, please list:

5. Please list any obligations that may interfere with attending cheer camp in the summer:

Cheerleading Tryout Permission Slip

March 11, 2022 Starting at 4:15 In the small gym at Piner Middle School

I am fully aware of the risk and possibility of injury involved in cheerleading and voluntarily consent to have my child participate in programs offered by Piner Middle School. I agree to waive and release any rights and claims for damage that my child or I have against Piner Middle School and its employees now and in the future. I certify that my child is mentally and physically capable of participating in any class, performance, trip, and/or event participated in with Piner Middle School Cheerleading.

I grant permission for Piner Middle School Cheerleading and its employees to seek medical treatment, and give permission for medical treatment in the event of an emergency/injury to my child. I am the legal guardian of the child named below. I acknowledge that there are no health problems that will interfere with the tryout process. I give permission for my child to participate in cheerleading tryouts for Piner Middle School Cheerleading.

I understand that my child will be attending a clinic which involves physical fitness and agility that ultimately will lead to tryouts for a position on the squad.

Furthermore, I recognize that my child may or may not be given a position on the squad and that the decision is at the discretion of the Cheer coaches and based upon the requirements outlined by the program and Sherman ISD Athletics. I have no grounds to contest any decision made and therefore accept the process as final. My child will be allowed to: stunt, condition, cheer, dance, jump, kick, tumble if possible, communicate intent and experiences, knowledge, and strengths.

I will have my student at tryouts each day of the clinic in the required attire and ready to start promptly at 4:30. Failure to comply may disqualify my child from participating in tryouts for the cheer program.

I acknowledge that if my child makes the squad, I will attend the mandatory Parent/Cheerleader Induction

Guardians Name:

Contact Number:

Guardian's Signature:

Date:

Teacher Recommendation Form For Cheerleaders

Dear Teacher/Coach:

Please evaluate this student on the following qualities. Also, please provide any comments concerning the student. If you would like to keep this evaluation confidential, please return the form to Ms. Hanson when completed. Otherwise, return to the student.

Thank you for your time!

Please rate the following categories with a 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest) based on your opinion.

Maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Dependable and Reliable	1	2	3	4	5
Cooperation with others	1	2	3	4	5
Behavior in the classroom	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership qualities	1	2	3	4	5
School spirit	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to handle problems	1	2	3	4	5
Punctual to class and with assignments	1	2	3	4	5
Shows a desire to learn and improve	1	2	3	4	5
Has an overall positive attitude	1	2	3	4	5
Grades are and have been passing	1	2	3	4	5

Student Name:

Teacher Name:

Additional Comments:

Tryout Clinic

- ★ The tryout clinic will be March 7-10 in the small gym from 4:10-6.
- ★ This is mandatory. If you miss any portion of the tryout clinic, you will not be permitted to tryout
- ★ Tryouts are open to tryout participants only

Tryouts

- ★ The tryouts will be March 11th beginning at 4:10 in the small gym
- ★ Once the candidate has completed their tryout they will need to exit the building immediately

Eligibility

- ★ Students must be currently enrolled and attending Sherman ISD prior to the first day of the tryout workshop
- ★ Students must disclose medical conditions that may affect the safety of themselves or others prior to tryouts. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with Sherman ISD Board of Policies
- ★ Students must never have received DAEP, been suspended or expelled during the current school year. If a student quits or is removed from the Sherman ISD cheer/mascot program during the current school year for any reason, the student will not be allowed to tryout the following year without approval from the cheer coach and campus principal
- ★ **Each student must have 2 teacher recommendations from their current teachers in order to participate in the cheer clinic and tryout**

Cheer Clinic and Tryout:

- ★ The cheerleading coach is responsible for the tryouts and will be present during the tryout process
- ★ The cheer tryout consists of performing a cheer, dance, and jumps
- ★ The clinic and tryout will be closed to everyone except cheer coaches, the district cheerleading coordinator, principals, and appointed judges
- ★ Parents and non-participating individuals are not permitted in the tryout area during any phase of the tryouts. There will be no other students or parents allowed in the tryout area. Anyone in violation of this could cause the student trying out to become ineligible.
- ★ The cheer clinic will be March 7-10 in the small gym
- ★ Students must have a current completed physical turned in by the first day of the tryout clinic. All physicals MUST be completed on the approved SISD UIL Physical Evaluation Form. Students who do not currently have a physical on file may get the SISD physical form online at <https://shermanisd.rankonesport.com/New/NewParentLogin.aspx>
- ★ If a student is currently participating in athletics in SISD, the physical currently on file will suffice for tryouts.
- ★ Parent responsibility is to make sure that your student attends each day of the cheer clinic
- ★ All students must dress in appointed attire to cheer, dance, and jump. No sweats, extremely loose fitting garments, dresses, or pants will be allowed. Shirts should be tucked in and hair should be pulled out of the face and secured in a high ponytail. No jewelry should be worn and nails must be neutral color and sport length
- ★ Once the tryout is concluded the student must leave the building immediately
- ★ Selections will be posted to our school website first followed by our school Facebook page. Each candidate will be given instructions on how to find the results of the tryouts
- ★ No results will be distributed at the tryout site on the final day of tryouts

Tryout Criteria

- ★ All students must turn in 2 teacher recommendation letters, from their current teachers, in order to tryout. If a student fails to receive at least 2 positive recommendation letters, they will not be permitted to tryout
- ★ Students must arrive on time and in appropriate attire
- ★ Students must be in good health in order to participate in the clinic and tryouts
- ★ Students will tryout in groups and will be assigned a random number to determine their tryout
- ★ Students will be given a number and expected to wear that at tryouts. Failure to bring it the following day will result in a loss of points
- ★ Students must be present-no videos will be allowed
- ★ Students are evaluated on the execution of the following skills for tryouts and each week of the cheer season to maintain performance and minimum conditioning standards. It is a UIL requirement and essential for the safety of the cheerleaders and mascots that a conditioning program be implemented and enforced. A tremendous amount of physical strength and endurance are required to stunt, tumble, and cheer during games and performances
 - Cheerleader: ability to lead a crowd, ability to work well with others, appearance, jumps, cheer, choreography, coachable, core and upper body strength, leadership qualities/skills, memory, spirit, voice projection, work ethic, overall impression and improvement
 - Mascot: ability to lead a crowd, ability to work well with others, appearance, choreography, coachable, core and upper body strength, creativity, crowd appeal/ability to lead crowd, enthusiasm, memory, overall impression and improvement, work ethic

Tryout Day

- ★ All students must come in dark colored shorts, a plain white t shirt with no visible logos tucked into shorts, a sports bra that cannot be seen through a shirt for females, white tennis shoes, and hair secured out of the face with a ponytail and/or clips
- ★ No jewelry may be worn (including smart watches)
- ★ Makeup and nails must be a neutral color palette and sport length
- ★ Failure to comply with the dress code may result in student being dismissed from the tryout and ineligible to tryout for a position on the team

Clinic and Judging

- ★ Judges will be guests from outside of our program, all with cheer experience, and will determine a score that reflects the criterion by the candidates to make the cheer squad
- ★ Students will spend 4 days of clinic instruction where they will learn the components of a short dance, sideline cheer, jumps and kicks before the day of the tryouts
- ★ The tryout material will be provided via a private link
- ★ Students will be judged on the following:
 - Band chant
 - One sideline cheer
 - Toe touch and a jump of their choice
 - Technique
 - attitude

Tryout Procedure: Mascot:

- ★ Must be at all clinic practices to work on their skit for tryouts
- ★ Skits must not be longer than 1 minute, with an additional minute allotted for setup and breakdown (maximum 3 total minutes)
- ★ Skits must be entertaining and be performed alone
- ★ The use of props is encouraged
- ★ Mascot candidates will wear the same tryout attire as cheerleaders with the addition of the mascot head, hands, and feet

Mascot(s):

- ★ Mascots are considered part of the cheer team and will be subject to the same rules, regulations, and consequences as cheerleaders
- ★ Mascots are occasionally required to make special appearances at local events
- ★ The coach must approve all skits and music prior to performances
- ★ No other person than the selected mascot will be allowed to wear the mascot uniform, unless previously approved by the coach
- ★ Mascots are required to participate with the cheerleaders during dances, cheers, and on the sidelines
- ★ Mascots are required to attend cheer practices to prepare for performances
- ★ Mascots at NO TIME remove the head or pieces of the costume in public

Financial Responsibility:

- ★ It is the responsibility of the cheer candidate's guardian for the payment of camp, clothes, bows, shoes, bags, warmups, megaphones, and other cheer equipment
- ★ Extra expenses such as pictures, big/little gifts, t-shirts, etc. should be expected throughout the year

***Estimated Cost*:**

NCA Camp at Austin College (July 21-24): \$290 per athlete

Practice gear (shirt and shorts): \$37.22

Maroon warm up: \$95.40

Cats Uniform: \$ 121.50

Accessory package: \$127.80 (individual prices: shoes- \$57.56, briefs-\$ 13.46, bow-\$8.96, backpack- \$52.16, poms- \$23.40)

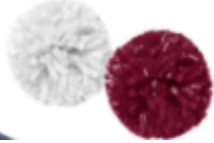
Sherpa w/name (optional): \$88.16

P uniform: \$ 98.78

Cats Uniform: \$ 121.50

Body liner: \$20.66

Socks: \$7.14



Uniforms:

- ★ It's the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot to take proper care of his/her uniform
- ★ The mascot costume is considered part of the uniform and should be taken care of properly
- ★ cheerleaders/mascots MUST attend the fitting date- there will not be multiple fitting dates
- ★ If not in attendance at the fitting, sizes will be selected and ordered for the cheerleader by the cheer coach
- ★ Cheer fittings will be April 8th at 4:30 in Coach Hanson's room (214)
- ★ The coach must approve all alterations. If a uniform is altered without the permission of the coach, the cheerleader/mascot will not be allowed to wear the uniform until it is in compliance with the standards set by the cheer coach or a replacement uniform is ordered at the expense of the cheerleader/mascot
- ★ Orders for the team will not be held up for non-payment by individuals
- ★ If individuals miss the payment deadline, extra fees for minimum quantities may be applied and those additional expenses will be the responsibility of the individual

Payment:

- ★ The cheer tuition will be completed in two parts. You will pay varsity directly for uniforms, the megaphone, the cheer backpack, other cheer wear, and the home camp
- ★ A letter will be sent home outlining how you will pay varsity directly
- ★ We will also have two fundraisers that will benefit the Cheer squad as a whole

Camp:

- ★ All cheerleaders and mascots must attend summer camp
- ★ cheerleader/mascots may not leave early or arrive late without written notification that must be approved by the coach prior to camp
- ★ The amount of money for camp is the responsibility of each cheerleader/mascot
- ★ Refunds are not given for missing camp

Participation in the cheer program is a time commitment

Below is an approximate outline of the time commitment that is required for our upcoming cheerleading season. Please note this is an ESTIMATE, so additional practices or activities may be added with minimal notice

Season Length: July 2022- March 2022

Practices during the school year: Monday afternoon from 4:15-5:15 & Tuesday mornings from 7:15-8:00

Football Months: August through November 2022

*Approximate dates: Football games are normally on Thursday evenings. We will only cheer at home games. 7th grade cheers for 7th games. 8th grade cheer for 8th grade games

Basketball Months: January through February 2023

*Approximate dates: Basketball games are generally Monday or Thursday nights each week. We will cheer at home games

Other Events: Other time requirements include pep rallies, fund raising, Arts Fest performance, BOTA, homecoming parade, Christmas parade, and various other school events

Parent Meeting: April 4th, Piner room 214, 5:30-6:30

Fittings: April 8th, Piner room 214

Summer Camp: Austin College, July 21-24 2022

General Conduct Guidelines

- ★ All school and academic policies will be enforced
- ★ Must meet UIL academic requirements for eligibility as outlined in the UIL Eligibility calendar
- ★ Attendance must meet state criteria
- ★ Must abide by all expectations stated in the SISD Student Code of Conduct, the SISD Student acceptable Use Policy, SISD Middle School Cheerleader & Mascot Guidelines, as well as campus Student Handbook
- ★ Members placed in ISS will lose all extracurricular privileges for each school day of said placement with additional consequences decided at the coach's discretion
- ★ Must be responsible, dependable, and a leader/role model for other students
- ★ Responsible for promoting school spirit during the week, pep rallies, games, performances, and other events
- ★ Students should be aware they are representing the school and school district at all times
- ★ Maintain and consistently perform all skills demonstrated during tryouts
- ★ Failure to maintain and perform those skills as well as the minimum conditioning standards may result in loss of performance and/or dismissal from the team
- ★ Attend and participate in cheer camp
- ★ Demonstrate proper behavior at all times as designated by the cheer coach
- ★ Must not engage in inappropriate messaging, dialogue, use of content (pictures, labels, artwork, etc.) on any form of media including social media, email, text, etc.
- ★ Arrive at practices, performances, and events on time and in required attire
- ★ Contact coach 24 hrs ahead of absence
- ★ Students are expected to be groomed in a manner in which our community, schools, and coaches will be proud
- ★ Students will be properly and uniformly dressed and hair neatly cut/worn per Student Code of conduct

- ★ Not haircuts/hair color outside of UIL Guidelines or Student Code of Conduct
- ★ Nails must be kept neutral color and in sport length
- ★ Long hair must be secured out of the students face during practices and performances
- ★ Absolutely NO Jewelry may be worn during an practice or performance
- ★ All rules become enforceable the day the cheerleader/mascot is selected and remains in effect until the end of the cheerleading season
- ★ If a student misses a school event/game, they will be suspended the following corresponding number of events/games
- ★ No electronic devices allowed during practices, performances, or games unless the student is on a break
- ★ A parent's note will be accepted for a student to sit out of practice due to an illness/injury for a maximum of two days. After two days, a note from a doctor will be required to indicate the injury and anticipated inactivity. If after the two days, the coach does not have a doctor's note, the absences will be counted as unexcused absences and consequences will be assessed according to the coach's discretion
- ★ A student may not participate in an activity if absent the same day of school
- ★ School Expectations: ALL school practices, performances, and games will take priority over any activities or events outside of school
- ★ Students can participate in a select/club/ all star team while participating on a school team; however, missing a scheduled school event to participate in a non-school event will count as an unexcused absence
- ★ Students should be promptly dropped off and picked up by their guardian at the site of the games, practices, and performances
- ★ Any infraction of school rules/policies will result in disciplinary action and may cause removal from the squad
- ★ The cheer coach has the authority to bench or remove members of the team for misconduct
- ★ The UIL No Pass/No Play rule requires all students to maintain a 70 in classes each 9 weeks in order to participate
- ★ If an athlete makes the cheer team at one campus and moves to another campus, the athlete forfeits the position and will not be placed on the team at the new campus

Cheerleader/Mascot Agreement 2022-2023

Mission Statement:

Assist the school and community in creating an atmosphere of spirit and support by encouraging and coordinating direct crowd involvement at school sponsored or other permissible events.

Admission Procedures:

1. Student must be physically able to participate as a cheerleader/mascot
2. Student participated in the three-day cheerleader/mascot clinic
3. Student meets performance standards throughout tryouts
4. Student must participate in all fundraising activities

Expectations:

- Be committed to the cheerleading/mascot program-have an 'all or nothing' attitude when it comes to attendance and expectations
- Exhibit exemplary student behavior- conduct oneself as a leader, taking pride in oneself, the cheerleading/mascot program, the school, and its traditions
- Discourage any unsportsmanlike conduct among spectators such as booing, throwing objects, etc.
- Follow the student code of conduct
- Maintain a 70 average in all classes in accordance with UIL regulations
- Be cooperative, attentive, and flexible to directions
- Cheer during the football and basketball seasons (this requires cheering at all home games)
- Attend and participate in all cheerleading activities (games, pep rallies, parades, etc)
- Attend each practice with an attitude to work and be punctual
- Practice on own individual time outside of scheduled practice
- Provide cheer sponsor with 24 hour advance notice from guardian for absence from practice or event
- Pay cheer tuition in full
- Dress in appropriate uniform for all practices, pep rallies, games, and events
- Provide own transportation to and from all activities

Demerit System:

- Use of cellular device during football or basketball games (unless contacting transportation)
- Tardiness to practice, game, or other cheering event without 24 hr notice
- Inappropriate practice or uniform attire
- Leaving the practice area, game, or event without permission
- Leaving activity early without 24 hour notice from guardian
- Talking or visiting with friends during game instead of fulfilling cheerleading/mascot responsibilities
- Rudeness or disrespectful behavior to squad members, coaches, or administrators
- Absence from practice without 24 notice from guardian
- Absence day of even without notice from guardian (absence from school the day of an event disqualifies that student from participating in the event due to school policy)

Consequences for Demerits:

Suspension for a 3 week period:

- 2 demerits
- After school detention due to behavior issues
- Failure to meet UIL academic eligibility
 - ★ Guardian and student will be notified in writing when suspension has occurred

Suspension for a 6 week period:

- In school suspension (ISS)
 - ★ Guardian and student will be notified in writing when suspension has occurred

Dismissal from cheer program:

- Suspension from school
- Failure to pay all of cheer tuition in full
- 2 unexcused absences from practice, game, or event
- 2 grading periods (2 report cards) with a grade below 70 in any subject
- 2 referrals from a principal resulting in after school detention
- 2 placements in ISS
- Placement in DAEP
 - ★ Guardians and student will be notified in writing when dismissal has occurred

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date:
