

NORTHSIDE ***CHEER ACADEMY***

2026 Fall Cheer Season Overview



NorthsideCheerAcademy.com
contact@northsidecheeracademy.com

Welcome to the Northside Cheer Academy fall 2026 competitive cheer season!

Our 8,300 square foot elite facility includes 2 full competition sized cheer floors, a 40 foot tumble track, a 40 foot rod floor, and much more equipment to help our athletes achieve their goals in the most effective and safe way. We continually upgrade our equipment, and we pride ourselves on keeping a clean and safe environment for all of our athletes and employees.

Our coaching staff have years of experience and are dedicated and determined to offer the best coaching for your athlete. All NCA coaches are USA Cheer Coach Members; CPR and First Aid Certified; Concussion Certified, Safesport Certified; and have passed background checks in order to train at our facility. They are passionate, dedicated, involved, and willing to go above and beyond for each and every athlete. We will work hard to ensure that we provide the best possible experience for our athletes and their families.

Teams:

Fall Team levels are based on 2026/27 grade levels:

Team	Grades	Practice Days
Tiny Tigers*	Kinder - 2nd graders	Tuesday: 4 - 5pm Thursday: 4 - 5pm
Little Lions	Kinder - 2nd graders	Wednesday: 4 - 5pm Sunday: 2 - 3pm
Leopards*	3rd - 4th graders	Wednesday: 5 - 7pm Sunday: 3 - 5pm
Jaguars	3rd - 5th graders	Monday: 4 - 6pm Sunday: 3 - 5pm
Tigers*	5th - 6th graders	Tuesday: 5 - 7pm Thursday: 5 - 7pm Sunday: 5 - 7pm
Panthers	6th - 8th graders	Tuesday: 7 - 9pm Thursday: 7 - 9pm
Lions*	7th - 8th graders	Monday: 6 - 8pm Wednesday: 7 - 9pm Sunday: 5-8pm

*Super Rec level squads.

Skill Expectations by Squad (Super Rec):

Tiny Tigers (Kinder/2nd grade): walkovers

Leopards (3rd/4th grade): back handsprings

Tigers (5th/6th grade): back handsprings, tucks

Lions (7th-8th grades): back handsprings, tucks

We understand not every athlete currently has these skills. Feel free to reach out to the cheer director if you have any concerns about your child's skills or to make a plan for your child to get them where they need to be.

We want to see our athletes continue growing each season through:

- Tumbling classes
- Clinics
- Private lessons
- Practicing at home

Fall 2026 Season Kickoff

Bootcamp begins: Monday, May 4

Regular season practices start: Sunday, May 17

Season runs through State Championships on November 22

This season, we will compete in **three** regular competitions with the goal of qualifying for State! Competitions will take place on either Saturday or Sunday—not both days. (8th grade squads will compete on the Fridays of State weekends)

Official competition dates will be confirmed on May 9, as registration opens that day. We'll have the exact schedule available that evening.

Bootcamp

Similar to the spring season, we will be offering bootcamp practices to help athletes prepare for the upcoming fall season. These sessions will focus on stunting, tumbling, and jump conditioning to build strength and technique. Bootcamp will run from May 4-16 during normal practice hours. These practices are included in your May tuition and are a great way to get ahead before the fall season officially kicks off!

Cheer Camp – Camp Castaway 2026!

Our Lions, Tigers, and Panthers squads will be attending ICA's Camp Castaway from June 7-9 at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. This three-day overnight camp is an exciting opportunity for athletes to grow their skills, bond with teammates, and have an unforgettable experience! The team will ride a bus together on June 7, accompanied by 3-4 coaches and will return on the bus together on June 9. Athletes will share dorm rooms, and all meals are included. If your child has food allergies, please inform us so we can notify ICA in advance. A parent meeting will be held on April 27th to go over all camp details, packing lists, schedules, and expectations. Each athlete will receive a custom bow and t-shirts to match every day of camp.

Camp Highlights Include:

- Elite coaches teaching new techniques
- Lip sync battle
- Movie night
- Dance party
- Games, team bonding, and much more

This camp is mandatory for all Lions squad athletes. The cost per camper is \$475 due on April 30, which includes:

- \$375 ICA camp fee
- Bus transportation to and from camp
- Custom camp t-shirts and bow

If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to the Cheer Director. We look forward to an amazing camp experience!

Listed below are all of the fall 2026 competitions:

Competition	Date	Location
Cheercago	9/12-9/13	Hampshire High School
Red Carpet	9/19-9/20	BMO Center, Rockford
Cheer Pink	10/3-10/4	Location TBD
Cheer Rodeo	10/10-10/11	Location TBD
Spirit Spooktacular	10/24-10/25	NIU Convocation Center
State	11/13-11/15	NIU Convocation Center
State	11/20-11/22	NIU Convocation Center

Tuition:

Fall season tuition is due the first day of each month May-November. Tuitions vary by team due to the amount of weekly practice time. The first tuition payment will be due May 1st.

Monthly tuition includes:

- 2-7 hours of practice each week in our clean and dedicated facility
- Experienced coaching
- Professional competition routine choreography
- Practice bow
- ICA Membership
- End of season gift

Team	Monthly Tuition
Tiny Tigers	\$125
Little Lions	\$125
Leopards	\$160
Jaguars	\$160
Tigers	\$200
Panthers	\$160
Lions	\$225

Each additional sibling will receive a 10% discount on monthly tuition.

Uniforms:

Uniforms are not included in the monthly tuition. NCA has implemented a 2-year uniform program. This fall season we will be ordering a newly designed uniform. We will use these uniforms through spring 2027.

A mandatory uniform fitting will be scheduled on Sunday, May 17th from 10 - 2pm. If you cannot make that date, please contact the Director of Cheer, Bethanie Kaulfield, to schedule a different time to come in and get sized. Please note that we only have access to the sizing kits for a few days. If you can't make it during those days, we will need to take measurements and estimate the sizes to be ordered.

Uniform fees are mandatory and include taxes and shipping. Please note there will be a 3% processing fee for credit card payments. Financing through Afterpay or Klarna will be available, additional fees may apply.

All athletes are required to purchase plain white cheer shoes. You can find more affordable options on Amazon, or you can visit The Cheer Shoppe at Woodfield Mall to try on higher-end brands and ensure the proper fit. I do recommend investing in a good-quality pair, as shoes can significantly impact jumps, stunting, and especially tumbling.

We will also have team jerseys and jackets available for purchase in June or July (jackets are currently being designed). These items will be completely optional. Personalized backpacks are also available year round and can be purchased in the gym merch area.

Girls Uniform Items	Cost
Competition Uniform (includes snap leotard and skirt with brief)	\$410
Bow	\$30
Total :	\$440 Due by June 1

Boys Uniform Items	Cost
Competition Uniform (Top & Pants)	\$400
Total	\$400 Due by June 1



Registration:

Little Lions and Tiny Tigers (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade)

Registration for the Little Lions and Tiny Tigers will open March 18 at 9am for current NCA cheerleaders, March 20 at 9am for NCA members, and March 22 at 9am to the public. We will be opening 50 spots for these two squads and will have a mandatory placement practice on Sunday, April 12 from 12-2 pm.

3rd Grade - 8th Grade

All of our remaining squads 3rd-8th grade will have tryouts/placements for our fall season. Athletes will essentially be trying out for the Super Rec squads in their grade level, but may be placed on a Rec squad instead. Tryouts/placements will be held April 12 and April 19. Registration for tryouts opens March 10. All athletes must be registered for tryouts by March 31. [[Tryout Detail Links](#)]

Registration fees due are due no later than 4/28:

- \$355 (Includes tshirt, yard sign, spotter wristbands, comp fees, athlete banquet ticket, trophies, comp music, pin party, goodie bags)
- \$35 NCA Yearly Membership Fee*

**Yearly membership fees cover gym maintenance and insurance costs. You only pay this fee one time a year per athlete regardless of being a tumbling class member or a competitive cheerleader.*

All Tryout and Registration Fees are Non Refundable

Additional Fees

Due in October:

- \$170 State Championship Competition
- \$TBD End of Season Banquet Parent and sibling tickets

We plan on having 1-2 fundraising events throughout the season to help parents with the costs of State and the banquet fees. Banquet location will be decided once we have a better estimate on squad sizes.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is essential to the success of each season. Attendance will be taken at the beginning at each practice and competition. Each Cheerleader's 100% commitment is required as each position on the squad is dependent on the other. When one Cheerleader is absent, it places hardship on the entire squad and can become a safety issue. It is for these reasons the athlete and the parents must be advised of the importance of compliance to the attendance policy. Attendance is mandatory at every practice and every competition. Each cheerleader is expected to be there on time and remain throughout the entire practice. We understand things may come up throughout the season. For that reason, each cheerleader is allowed three (3) unexcused absences during the summer and (3) unexcused absences during competition season (once school begins). Excused absences include: medical, school functions, religious obligations, or family emergencies. Consistent tardiness or leaving practice early (3 or more times) is considered 1 UNEXCUSED absence. We do not expect any issues with attendance. However, if a cheerleader has an excessive amount of unexcused absences, they will be asked to have a meeting with the head coach and cheer director to discuss next steps which may include removal from a competition or ultimately removal from the squad. **We understand that many families plan vacations during the summer and that some athletes attend overnight camps. If your athlete will be absent for more than one week, please discuss those plans with the cheer director before committing to a team.**

Per ICA guidelines, we have two designated no-contact weeks during the summer to give our athletes and families a well-deserved break. For 2026, our no-contact weeks will be June 29-July 5 and August 3-9. During these weeks, cheer practices will be paused, allowing time to relax and enjoy family time. However, tumbling classes will continue as scheduled.

There will be no practices held on:

- May 3rd (coaches will be at Cheer University classes)
- Memorial Day Weekend 5/24-5/25
- Mother's Day 5/10
- Father's Day 6/21
- No contact week 6/29-7/5
- No contact week 8/3-8/9
- Labor Day Weekend 9/6-9/7
- Thanksgiving Week Nov. 23-29th

If you have any concerns with the attendance policy, please contact the Director of Cheer before registering.

Fees Summary

Date	Expense	Cost
April (Registration)	Registration/Tryout Fess	\$355
April 30	Cheer Camp (Lions, Tigers, Panthers only)	\$475
May 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
June 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
June 1	Uniforms	\$430 / \$400
July 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
August 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
September 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
October 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225
October (tbd)	State Fees	\$170
October (tbd)	Banquet	tbd
November 1	Tuition	\$125 / \$160 / \$200 / \$225

We look forward to an amazing cheer season with all of our families!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Bethanie Kaulfield (Owner and Director of Cheer)

bk@northsidecheeracademy.com