



2026 Spring Cheer Season Overview

Welcome to the Northside Cheer Academy spring 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. Everything in the gym is new, and we pride ourselves on keeping a clean and safe environment for all of our athletes and employees.

Our professional 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:

Spring Team levels are based on 2025/26 grade levels:

Team	Grades	Practice Days
Tiny Tigers	1st - 2nd graders	Thursday 4 - 5pm & Sunday 2 - 4pm
Leopards	3rd graders	Tuesday 5 - 7pm & Sunday 4 - 6pm
Tigers	4th - 5th graders	Thursday 5 - 7pm & Sunday 4 - 6pm
Lions	6th - 8th graders	Monday & Wednesday 5 - 8pm

Skill Expectations by Squad:

Tiny Tigers (1st/2nd grade): cartwheels

Leopards (3rd grade): cartwheels, roundoffs, and walkovers

Tigers (4th/5th grade): cartwheels, roundoffs, walkovers, and back handsprings

Lions (6th-8th grades): cartwheels, roundoffs, walkovers, and back handsprings

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

While there will be no tryouts for the spring season, we will be holding tryouts for our Fall 2026 season for every squad except Tiny Tigers. More information will be available about our tryouts in the upcoming months.

SPRING 2026 Season Kickoff

Regular season practices start: Sunday, December 7

And the Season runs through April

This season, we will compete in one competition. It will take place on either Saturday or Sunday—not both days.

Our official competition date will be confirmed in December, once ICA opens registration to organizations. Please note that we do not find out performance times until about a week before the competition date, **so please make sure your athlete is available the whole day.**

Listed below are all of the spring 2026 competitions:

Competition	Date	Location
Sweetheart Showdown	2/14	Olivet-Nazarene University – Bourbonnais, IL
Deuces Wild	2/22	Location TBD
Chicago Nationals	3/8	NIU Convocation Center – DeKalb, IL

Tuition:

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

Monthly tuition and registration fees include:

- 3-6 hours of practice each week in our new, clean, and dedicated facility that includes 2 full-sized competition floors
- Experienced, professional coaching
- Competition music
- Professional competition routine choreography
- Practice Shirt
- Practice Bow
- NCA yard sign (New members only. We will have a new design in Fall 2026!)
- ICA Membership

Team	Monthly Tuition
Tiny Tigers	\$130
Leopards	\$155
Tigers	\$155
Lions	\$215

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. We are in the 2nd year of the current design; Athletes will continue to use these uniforms through spring season 2026. New uniforms will be designed and ordered for the fall 2026 season.

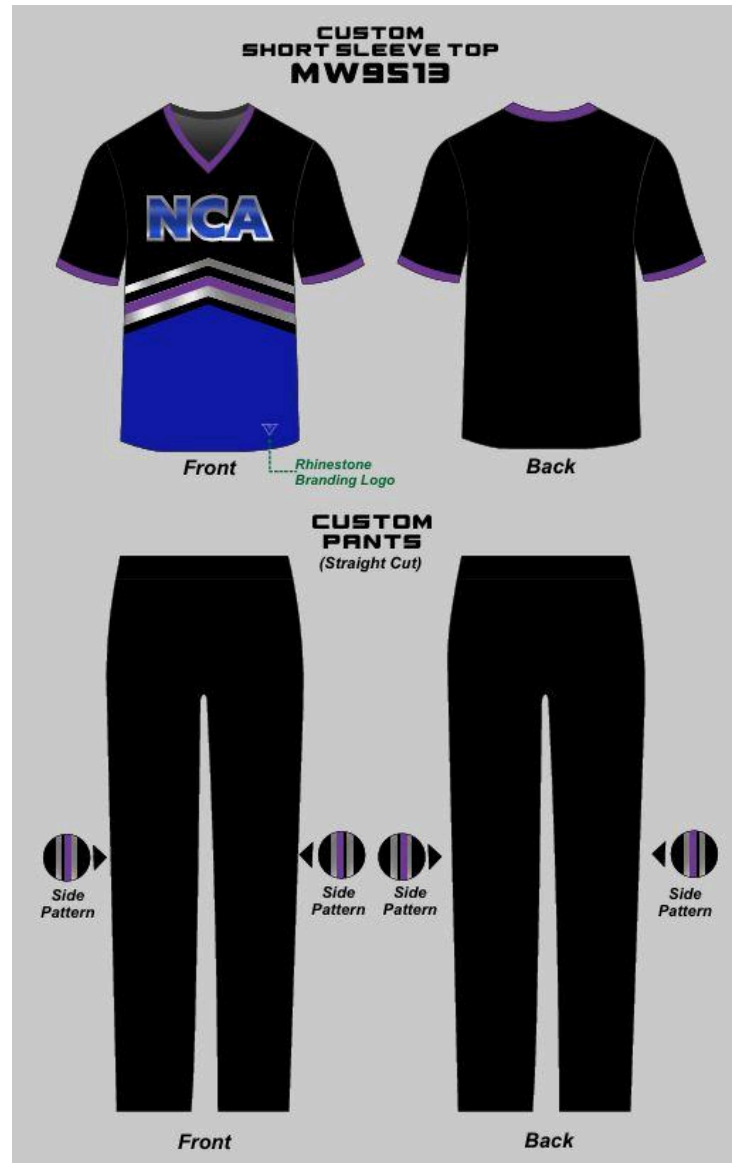
A mandatory uniform fitting will be scheduled on Sunday, December 7th from 12 - 2pm for new members. If you cannot make that date, please contact the Director of Cheer, Bethanie Kaulfield, to schedule a different time to come in and get sized. Please note that we only have access to the sizing kits for 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.

Girls Uniform Items	Cost
Competition Uniform (includes snap leotard and skirt with brief)	\$250
Jacket (includes rhinestone logo on back and name on front) Optional	\$85
Competition Bow	\$30
Total	\$280+ Due by Dec 7th

Boys Uniform Items	Cost
Competition Uniform (Top & Pants)	\$160
Jacket (optional)	\$90
Shoes (Kaepa Stellarlyte - optional)	\$75
Total	\$160+ Due by Dec. 7th

While our current cheerleaders do have matching cheer shoes, we are not making them mandatory for the spring season. You will need to purchase a pair of cheer shoes that are approved by the coaches, no big clunky sneakers will be allowed. If you wish to purchase the same kind we use, they are the Kaepa Stellarlyte brand, you can find them online or at The Cheer Shoppe in Woodfield Mall. We will be purchasing mandatory matching cheer shoes for the fall 2026 season. The cheer jackets are also optional as we will be purchasing a new design for the fall 2026 season.



Registration:

Registration for the spring season will open November 1st at 9am for current NCA cheerleaders, November 3rd at 9am for NCA members, and November 5th at 9am to the public . Limited Spots Available.

Fees due at registration include:

\$150 Registration Fee (Includes competition fees)

\$35 NCA Yearly Membership Fee**

Total Due at Registration \$150 (Non-refundable)

***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. If you are already a current member, you will not need to pay this fee until your anniversary date.*

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. Each cheerleader is allowed 3 absences during the spring season. 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 exceeds three unexcused absences, they may be asked to sit out for a competition if their coach feels they aren't prepared for that competition. We understand families want to go on vacations during the summer, so feel free to discuss those absences with the Director of Cheer if it's a concern.

There will be no practices held on:

- December 24-25
- December 31
- January 1
- April 5

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

Fall 2026 Planning:

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. We want to give our families this info ahead of time for vacation-planning purposes. Tigers and Lions squads will also be attending ICA Summer Spirit Camp from June 7-9. Please keep these dates in mind when making vacation plans.

(continued on next page)

Fees Summary

Date	Expense	Cost
November (Registration)	Registration fees	\$220
December 1	Tuition	\$130 / \$155 / \$215
December 7	Uniforms	\$280 / \$160
January 1	Tuition	\$130 / \$155 / \$215
February 1	Tuition	\$130 / \$155 / \$215
March 1	Tuition	\$130 / \$155 / \$215
April 1	Tuition	\$130 / \$155 / \$215

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