2027 Spring Cheer Season Overview

Welcome to the Northside Cheer Academy spring 2027 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 2026/27 grade levels:

Team	Grades	Practice Days
Tiny Tigers	Kinder - 2nd graders	Tuesday: 4 - 5pm | Thursday: 4 - 5pm
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: 5-7pm

Skill Expectations by Grade:

Kinder-2nd grade: cartwheels, walkovers

3rd-4th grade: back handsprings

5th-8th grade: 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

NCA Cheerleaders receive a $25 discount on monthly tumbling classes!

Assessments:

While there will be no tryouts for our Spring 2027 season, we will be holding an assessment week for all cheerleaders 3rd-8th grade. As our gym continues to grow, we want to make sure athletes are grouped appropriately based on their skill levels. This allows our coaches to create routines that are both safe and appropriate for each team's abilities, while giving every athlete the best opportunity to succeed. The assessment fee is $25 per athlete.

Assessments will take place during the first week of December and will be structured like a short practice where old and new athletes can show us their skills! We will go over jumps, tumbling, and a little choreography. Nothing to stress about! This is simply an opportunity for our coaches to get to know each athlete and evaluate their current skill level.

We're excited to welcome new athletes and continue growing our NCA cheer program!

SPRING 2027 Season Kickoff

Assessment week:

3rd-4th graders: Nov. 30 from 5-7pm

5th-6th graders: Dec. 1st from 5-8pm

7th-8th graders: Dec. 2nd from 5-8pm

Friday Dec. 4th team assignments will be released and registration fees will be due to secure your spot.

If you cannot make your scheduled assessment time, please reach out to the director of cheer to make other arrangements.

Bootcamp practices: will begin December 13th and will take place during each squad's regularly scheduled practice times through the end of December. These practices are not mandatory but are highly recommended! Bootcamp gives athletes the opportunity to start working on skills together as a squad, get comfortable with their teammates, and begin building a strong foundation for the upcoming season.

Regular Season Practices Begin: Sunday, January 3rd. All regular season practices are mandatory, as this is when our squads will begin learning their competition routines, choreography, and formations. Consistent attendance is extremely important so our teams can progress together and be fully prepared for our competition.

Our Spring 2027 season will run through March.

Competitions:

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 early December, once ICA opens registration to organizations. We are hoping to do the Chicago Nationals competition on March 7th. 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	2/13	Location TBD
Cheeribbean	2/21	Location TBD
Chicago Nationals	3/7	NIU Convocation Center – DeKalb, IL

Tuition:

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

Monthly tuition and registration fees include:

- 3-6 hours of practice each week in our clean and dedicated facility that includes 2 full-sized competition floors
- Experienced, professional coaching
- Competition music
- Professional competition routine choreography
- Practice Shirt
- NCA yard sign (New members only)
- ICA Membership

Team	Monthly Tuition
Tiny Tigers	$125
Leopards	$160
Jaguars	$160
Tigers	$210
Panthers	$160
Lions	$210

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 past fall season we will be ordered a newly designed uniform. We will use these uniforms through spring 2028. We will also be using the same bow design from the fall season. If you need a new bow, those are available to purchase.

A mandatory uniform fitting will be scheduled on Sunday, December 6th from 12-2pm. 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 December. 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)	$415
Bow	$30
Total :	**$445 Due by Dec. 6th**

Boys Uniform Items	Cost
Competition Uniform (Top & Pants)	$400
Total	**$400 Due by Dec. 6th**





Registration Fees:

Registration for Kinder-2nd graders will open November 1st for current NCA cheerleaders and November 4th to the public. These spots are limited and are first come first serve.

Registration Fees are due December 4th for 3rd-8th graders that have been assessed and assigned to a squad.

Fees due at registration include:

$225 Registration Fee (Includes competition fees and music, bootcamp, tshirt, yard sign)

$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. 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
- February 14 (Super Bowl)

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

Fall 2027 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 2027, our no-contact weeks will be July 4-10 and August 1-7 . 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, Panthers, and Lions squads will also be attending ICA Summer Spirit Camp from June 13-15. Please keep these dates in mind when making summer vacation plans.

While we understand that our spring season does not end with a large State Championship like our fall season, it is still a great opportunity for athletes to continue developing their skills, gain additional competition experience, and stay active in cheerleading during the offseason.

We also want to emphasize that **commitment and attendance matter!** When making placement decisions for our Fall 2027 squads, we will take into consideration each athlete's dedication, effort, and attendance throughout both the spring and fall seasons.

Athletes who consistently show up, work hard, and demonstrate a strong commitment to their team will certainly have that taken into consideration during **Fall 2027 tryouts in April**. While participating in spring does not guarantee placement on a particular squad, it gives athletes another opportunity to grow, improve, and show our coaches their dedication to the program.

Fees Summary

Date	Expense	Cost
November	Assessment Fee	$25
November	Registration Fee (kinder-2nd grade)	$225
December 4	Registration Fee (3rd-8th grade)	$225
December 6	Uniforms	$445 / $400
January 1	Uniforms	$125 / $160 / $210
February 1	Tuition	$125 / $160 / $210
March 1	Tuition	$125 / $160 / $210

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

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