

Junior Cheer Coaches~ Welcome to Orland Park Pioneers Cheer!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Orland Park Pioneers Jr. Coaching Staff. This is not an easy job. It involves a lot of your time, patience and your energy working with our cheerleaders, however, it is a rewarding experience in the end. Junior Coaches play a vital role in the success of our squads, and this position provides you with the opportunity to share your cheerleading experiences and/or knowledge with a variety of age groups, while giving you the chance to learn new skills as a mentor coach. The hours of service you give, can also count towards your high school community service hours.

Here is some general information about what is involved and expected from our junior coaches.

The requirements in order to apply for a junior coaching position with Orland Park Pioneers Cheer program must:

- ✓ Be entering high school or college for the current cheerleading season
- ✓ Have had at least one year of cheerleading experience at the youth league level
- ✓ Be in good academic standing from the prior school year
- ✓ Maintain good academic standing during the current cheerleading season
- ✓ Have a positive attitude and be a good role model for younger children
- ✓ Have a strong desire to instruct and mentor younger children

Assignment of Position

Your progression as a Junior Coach will be similar to your progression as a youth cheerleader. As a first year Junior Coach, you may be assigned to the Flag Cheerleading Squad, or a younger age level squad so that you will be able to assist the Squad's Head Coach in instructing the basic skills required for cheerleading. Annually teen coaches progress through each age group, so that in your junior or senior year of high school, you will have the opportunity to coach an upper level squad. Occasionally, exceptions may be made to this progression, but it is important to both your growth as a coach, the growth of the cheerleaders on your squad, and to our organization that you have coaching experience at all age levels.

A new policy that was put in place last year, if you have a sibling on Pioneers Cheer, you will **NOT** be able to junior coach for their squad. This policy was put into place with the best intent for the Pioneers cheer organization.

Your Role on the Squad

Once you are assigned to a cheerleading squad, the primary person you will communicate with is your Head Coach. Your Head Coach will be an adult who has ultimate responsibility for the cheerleading squad. Your Head Coach will determine what the goals are for the season, what actions or duties will be required of you, what part or parts of the routine you will be creating, and any other responsibilities that you will have. It will be up to you to insure that you are working towards your Head Coach's goals in support of the squad.

Expectation of Commitment

Applying for a Junior Coach position comes with the understanding that you are committing yourself and your personal time to participate as a member of the Orland Park Pioneers coaching staff. Accepting a position as a Junior Coach means understanding that your attendance at practices, football games, and other Pioneers Cheer events are required. Although it will be up to your Head Coach to ultimately determine the appropriate level of participation he or she will require, you should plan on *a minimum* of:

- 6-8 hours of attendance at practices each week during August
- 4-6 hours of attendance at practices each week during the school year
- All home football games and away football games (if possible)
- Any other event, meeting, or competition that is required by your Head Coach

Community Service Related Opportunities

Your volunteer involvement with the Orland Park Pioneers as a Junior Coach may qualify for community service hours with your school, church, or other organization. If asking for community service hours, you **MUST** present your community service hour sheet on the first day of practice. Please call the appropriate person in charge of community service hours for your school or organization to obtain your community hour worksheet before the season begins.

Mandatory Junior Coaches Meeting

There will be a **MANDATORY** Junior Coaches meeting at the beginning of the season. We may ask for your parents to be present at this meeting, so they are also aware of the Junior Coaching expectations for the season. A date, time and location will be given at a later date.

How to Apply

Applying for a junior coaching position is simple. Fill out the application and submit it to the address listed below. Once your application is reviewed, you will be contacted by the Pioneers Cheer Athletic Director by email or phone with a decision of squad placement or position on the wait list. If necessary, you and the Athletic Director Team will meet for a brief interview. Your application should be submitted no later than June 30, 2018. If an application is submitted later than June 30, 2017, then you will be automatically placed on the wait list.

Submit your application one of the following ways:

- 1) By emailing it to: Pioneerscheerad@gmail.com
- 2) Mailing it to:
Orland Park Pioneers Football and Cheer
Attn: Annette Rodriguez/Junior Coach Application
15774 S. LaGrange Rd.
PO Box 191
Orland Park, IL 60462

**** If you are mailing it to the PO Box, please send us an email and let us know you put it in the mail so we can look for your application. Your forms must reach us by June 30, 2018**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us. Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to working with you this upcoming season.

Sincerely,

Pioneers Cheer Athletic Department

Annette Rodriguez- Athletic Director
Thora Conroy- Assistant Athletic Director
Kim Dombrowski- Assistant Athletic Director
Pioneerscheerad@gmail.com

Orland Park Pioneers Cheer Program 2018 Junior Coach Rules and Responsibilities

Orland Park Pioneers Cheer takes great pride in making sure our cheerleaders receive the support and encouragement needed to grow as a cheerleader and be the best cheerleader they can be. This can be accomplished by the help of our dedicated Coaches and Junior Coaches. All Jr. Coaches are important to the success of the Pioneers Cheer Program. Their knowledge and talents assist in teaching the sport of cheerleading, while being exposed to the art of coaching with help from the adult volunteer coaches assigned to each squad. Jr. Coaches learn how to communicate effectively, identify individual needs, motivate a team and assist in building confidence.

All Junior Coaches are expected to adhere to the following:

1. There will be no more than five (5) Junior Coaches assigned to each squad grades 2-8. K-1st grade squads should have no more than three (3) Junior Coaches (these numbers are based on our projected number of cheerleaders and can change). Junior Coaches must be high school or college students.
2. Junior Coaches will be assigned to a squad based on their individual strengths, years in the program, time availability, and the needs of the squad.
3. Coaches and Jr. Coaches must strive for open and clear communication. Expectations of each squad's Jr. Coaches will be discussed and explained prior to the start of the season. Specific duties will be outlined and agreed upon by each coaching team and their Jr. Coaches. A written list of expectations will be signed by all parties and given to the Cheer Director by August 1st.
4. Jr. Coaches serve as role models. All team rules in regards to behavior, language, actions, dress attire and respect are expected to be adhered to by all coaches and cheerleaders.
5. Jr. Coach attendance at practice and games is extremely important. If schedules do not allow the Jr. Coach to attend, she must communicate that to the Head Coach with as much notice as possible. No communication of a missed practice or game is unacceptable.
6. Jr. Coaches and their parent(s) are expected to sign and follow the Orland Park Pioneers Cheer Code of Conduct and Jr. Coaches Rules/Expectations.
8. Jr. Coaches are volunteers and are not monetarily reimbursed; however, the time spent coaching can be used for service hours.
9. If it becomes clear that the Jr. Coach cannot meet the duties of the squad, disobeys rules and responsibilities set forth by the OP Pioneers Cheer Program, or the individual squad, or behaves in a manner that reflects poorly on her or the program, she may be asked to step down from her role with the program.

I agree to the above stated rules and responsibilities.

Jr. Coach's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Junior Cheer Coach Application
Part 2: Fill out and Return

Please fill out this application completely and return to cheer director. The form can be emailed to Pioneerscheerad@gmail.com or you can mail it to the address listed above. Completing this form does not guarantee a coaching position with the Orland Park Pioneers Cheer program. You will be notified if you have been selected for a coaching position or put on a waiting list.

**Orland Park Pioneers Cheer
Junior Coach Application
2018 Season
Applications due June 30, 2018**

Full Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell # _____

Email Address: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Cell # _____

Parent's Name: _____ Cell # _____

High School/College Attending in August of 2017: _____

Grade Level/Year in School in August 2017: _____

Are you currently a member of your high school cheer or dance team? Yes / No

Do you have cheerleading experience: Yes / No

Explain you cheer experience:

Have you been a junior coach before? Yes / No

If so, what year? _____ What age group? _____

Rank order the age groupings you are most interested in assisting
(#1 being your first choice - #5 being your last choice):

(Flag) K-1st _____ (SLW) 2nd/3rd Grade _____

(LW) 4th/5th Grade _____ (JV) 6th/7th Grade _____

(Varsity) 8th Grade _____

Do you have a sibling(s) cheering for Orland Park Pioneers? Yes / No

If so which squad(s)? _____

List any other Jr. Coach applicants with whom you would like to be assigned to a squad (requests will be considered, but placement is based on strengths and needs of the individual and the squad):

Are you involved in any other extracurricular activities (either for school or outside clubs)?

The 2016 Cheer Season begins as early as July 23rd and can end as late as December 3rd. List any specific dates and/or times that you are **not** available to coach:

What are some of your strengths?

What are some of your weaknesses?

Why would you be a GREAT Junior Coach?

Why do you WANT to be a Junior Coach for the Orland Park Pioneers Cheer program?

Is there any additional information you would like to include about yourself or your abilities?

Junior Coach's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your interest in Junior Coaching!
You should hear from us by mid-July ☺