

EMPIRE ELITE ALL STARS

~ PREP TEAM PACKET 2018-2019 ~

Welcome to Empire Elite All-Stars! We are so happy that you are considering joining one of our All-Star Prep cheer teams 😊

Not sure if you're ready for an all-star team but still want to compete?

Like to participate in multiple activities at once?

Don't want to travel?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this just may be the perfect program for you! Our all-star prep teams provide an excellent way for participants to receive an all-star experience with the same expertise staff but without the cost, travel and time commitment of our regular all-star teams. Prep teams attend 3-4 instate competitions performing a 2 minute routine verses 2 minutes & 30 seconds. The same USASF general rules and guidelines are followed.

Tryouts will be held June 12th, 2018

2:00pm-3:45pm

Ages: 5-18

Cost: \$25 per participant

No experience necessary to tryout!! We have teams for all ages and levels!

If you are unable to attend the tryout date listed above, a private tryout may be scheduled by emailing Suzannah@empireeliteallstars.com.

Fee: \$25.00

Welcome to Empire Elite All-Stars!!

On behalf of the coaching staff, I want to welcome everyone to the Empire Elite All-Star's Family, we look forward to another amazing year!! Please take the time to read the entire Prep Team Packet. This packet will be very important and helpful to you for the entire season so make sure to keep it in a safe place where you will be able to reference back to it! I have tried to list out everything to help you be organized.

To register for our prep team tryouts or if you have any questions, please email Suzannah Neitzel at suzannah@empireeliteallstars.com. Please be sure to include the participant's full name, birthday, and email address. Please register by *Friday, June 8th*.

All Participants please arrive at tryouts 10 minutes prior to your tryout time wearing work out attire, cheer or tennis shoes, and hair pulled neatly back. No jewelry please.

Please note we run a closed tryout. Parents please drop off and pick up at the above times.

We run a stress free and fun class-type tryout. Our judges will be observing while our staff teaches skills and works with the participants. It's our goal to make each participant feel comfortable and have a positive experience.

Everybody makes a team!

Some of these policies are different from what we've had in the past, so both new and old members will find valuable information in this packet.

Prep Team Tryout Checklist:

- Completed Tryout Form
- Completed Registration Form
- \$25 Tryout Fee

Thank you!

Suzannah Neitzel
Owner/Director

*Please note the financial and team commitment agreement do not need to be turned in at this time. We will be collecting these forms at our parent commitment meeting

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Empire Elite's All-Star Prep Program is a great introduction for your athlete into the sport of all-star competitive cheer at a reduced time commitment from the traditional All-Star Cheer Program. It is a great way for athletes to learn new skills, develop a sense of what it means to work together as a team for a common goal, and to develop a sense of pride and sportsmanship while making life-long friendships. At Empire Elite we believe in providing a family atmosphere that teaches our students "life lessons" that will remain with them forever. Character, Commitment and Attitude are all values that we hope our athletes will strongly develop and carry into all areas of their lives. We believe in the notion that while we have separate teams, we are all **ONE GYM**, and function as such.

The All-Star Prep teams are taught a competitive 2 minute routine that has elements of tumbling, stunting, jumping and dance skills set to music. Athletes will compete at 3-4 instate competitions. At a competition, the team performs their routine for a panel of judges who score the performance based upon the level of difficulty, precision, creativity and entertainment value. The team's placement within their division is based upon the score they receive compared to the scores of the other teams within their division. The season will run from July-April and they will compete February-April.

While having fun is our main objective, there are some guidelines you must abide by and agree to when becoming a member of the Empire Elite All-Star Prep Team. Please thoroughly read the following Prep Team packet, sign and date, and submit at the commitment meeting which will be in June. Both PARENTS and CHEERLEADERS must sign this packet before joining – you will not be allowed to start practicing without the signed forms on file.

TEAM PLACEMENTS

Immediately following tryouts each member will be placed on a team. We will offer some or all of the following teams for 2018-2019 (*age as of 8/31/18*)

All-Star Prep Cheer Age Grid per the USASF:

• Tiny	5-6 year olds	*Level 1
• Mini	5-8 year olds	*Level 1
• Youth	5 - 11 year olds	*Level 1/2/3
• Junior	5 - 14 year olds	*Level 1/2/3
• Senior	11-18 year olds	*Level 1/2/3

Cheerleaders tryout to be a member of Empire Elite All-Stars, not for any particular team or position. Coaches will place each cheerleader on the best possible team for them, based on age, maturity, individual skills and team needs. We reserve the right to place anyone on any team we see fit, regardless of their experience or age. We also reserve the right to move individuals to another team that might be a better fit for them after the season goes on and we have assessed that they would work out better somewhere else. *All decisions are made based on what's best for the team, as well as the individual.* We do not play favorites and we approach everyone equally, regardless of what team they may have been on previously. **As such, coach's decisions are final and are not up for discussion.** **Please do not request your child to be a flyer, base etc.**

ATTITUDE

#1 RULE IN OUR GYM: ALL MEMBERS MUST DISPLAY A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AT ALL TIMES. Everyone has a bad day at times, but we want our gym to be the place you come to *get away* from negativity – leave your frowns at the door and always remember to keep things positive. Negative attitudes and disrespect are not acceptable from anyone (cheerleader, coach or parent), and will be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal if the negativity persists.

Work ethic is crucial for our teams, and it is expected that you will come to practice ready to cheer and willing to give whatever your team needs you to give. Sometimes you will be asked to perform in positions you don't normally do or enjoy. It is during these times that your true character is being tested, and we hope that you will take that opportunity to shine.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our primary mode of communication is via email. All members are required to provide an email address, which should be checked at least once a day. We will try to provide hard copies of information at the gym, but sometimes communications need to go out last minute and email is the best way to get that info out. Please make a point to check your email often. All members are also required to create an account on our website member's area. The member's area will have a team calendar that is updated often as well as team announcements and updates. It is the team members and parents responsibility to check the member's area often in order to keep up to date on events and information.

PRACTICES

Prep teams will practice one time a week. All members are to attend all team practices. There will also be weekly tumble classes offered as an option that the members may sign up for but is not mandatory. Final schedules will be announced following tryouts.

ATTENDANCE

You are allowed **three** excused absences from your **team** practices in a season. An excused absence is one in which you call/email ahead of time to let the office and the coaches know which day you will be missing. The earlier you can let us know the better. The only **EXCUSED** absences are those for school functions that result in a grade, a funeral, a wedding, a pre planned vacation or if you have a fever or contagious illness. If for any reason you miss more than your allotted three absences, it will be up to the staff's discretion on what measures to take. There are **NO EXCUSED ABSENCES 2 WEEKS BEFORE A COMPETITION, TEAM PRATICES & TUMBLE ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL MEMBERS**. Any member missing 2 consecutive practices without making arrangements in advance will be subject to removal from the team. If a team member is injured or sick (not contagious) and unable to participate they must still **attend and watch all practices**.

Because our season is a total of 9 months we have several gym closures throughout the year and we ask that families try to arrange their vacations around these dates to avoid practice conflicts.

Please be on time to practice. When you are late, the entire team is held up for you. We know that life happens, and sometimes you just can't help it (coaches are late sometimes, too!), but if you are on time the majority of the time, we will be more understanding when you are not. **If a team member is more than 15 minutes late it will be counted as an absence.**

Full team attendance is key to the success of a program! School dances, homework, or social events are not an excuse for missing practice. These types of absences will not be excused.

FEES

ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE:

Each member will be charged a non-refundable \$45 registration fee upon joining the team.

UNIFORMS: \$275

Uniform includes: Custom top, custom bottom, bow, and cheer shoes.

REMINDER FOR RETURNING MEMBERS: You are only required to purchase a new competition bow for \$20, all other items will be reused.

In addition to uniforms, all members (new & returning) will be required to purchase the "*Empire Elite Spirit Pack*", which includes the following items:

SPIRIT PACK: \$275

CHOREOGRAPHY CAMP

CUSTOM COMPETITION MUSIC

OPTIONAL SPIRIT PACK ITEMS:

TEAM JACKET - \$75.00

TEAM PANTS - \$35.00

TEAM BACKPACK – \$45.00 - \$130.00

EMPIRE PRACTICE GEAR – PRICES VARY

***Both Uniform and Spirit Pack are broken down into four installment payments called Empire Payments due in June (commitment meeting deposit), July, August, and September.**

USASF FEE:

Each member will be charged a USASF Athlete Membership fee in the amount of \$35.00. Please note this is not a fee required by Empire Elite but from the all-star federation.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

The teams will practice once a week July. In addition, each member is required to take 3 tumble classes throughout the summer. Cost for Summer Practices and Classes: \$100 per member. This cost includes 4 team practices and 3 tumble classes.

WE DO NOT PRO RATE THE COST FOR SUMMER. However, we will allow make-ups if class sizes permit us to do so. Members are required to pay the full amount regardless if they miss one or more days.

EXTRA SUMMER CLASSES:

We will be offering extra tumble and flexibility classes to our teams at a discounted rate. More details and schedule will be released at the team commitment meeting.

CHOREOGRAPHY CAMP (Included in spirit pack):

The choreography camp fee is included in your spirit pack, which will allow us to pay for national-caliber routines and quality, custom-made music. This will be a private choreography camp hosted at our gym. Choreography camp is closed for viewing. Even if you join the team after the choreographer has taught the routine, you remain responsible for paying this fee, as you will still benefit from the routine. **Choreography camp is mandatory for all team members. All members must stay the full camp from start to finish, no exceptions will be made.** Tentative dates for our 2018-2019 prep team choreography camp are as follows: August 24th-26th

MONTHLY TUITION:

\$105 per month (2 hours per week) **OPTIONAL: \$145 per month** (includes 1 tumble class per week. We encourage all our prep athletes to add a tumble class but it is not mandatory).

-Tuition begins August 1st. Our season runs from August 2018 thru April 2019.

-Tuition is due at the first of every month. A \$15 late fee is assessed after the 10th of the month.

-Empire does not charge any additional fees for scheduled extra practices.

FAMILY DISCOUNT:

20% off monthly tuition per sibling

PAYMENT

We accept cash, check, and major credit cards (no American Express). However a 3% fee will be assessed to all charges if you choose to pay by credit card.

CREDIT CARD REQUIREMENT

All team members will be required to have a valid credit card/debit card on file. Your card will not be charged unless your account becomes 30 days past due, or unless you authorize us to automatically withdraw from your account each month. Each member will be required to complete a credit card authorization form prior to joining the team. You will not be allowed to join the team without a valid credit card on file. Without a valid credit card on file, the only option to join the team would be to pay 50% of the year's fees in advance, and the remaining 50% is due mid-way through the season.

2018-2019 COMPETITIONS

Prep teams will attend between 3-4 local competitions per season*. The following are a list of **possible** competitions (please note we are still waiting on some brands to release their 2018-2019 competition schedules):

The Cactus Jam – The Phoenix Convention Center - February 9th, 2019

ATC Starz Championships – The Phoenix Convention Center – February 16th, 2019

Aloha Phoenix – The Phoenix Convention Center – March 9th, 2019

Cheersport Grand Championship- Arizona State Fair – Phoenix, AZ – March 30th, 2019

All competitions are mandatory for all team members – if you are unable to attend your team's assigned competitions, you will not be allowed to join or remain on the team.

Arrive on time in required clothing to all competitions. If a member is more than 10 minutes late, this will be counted as one of your 3 excused absences each member is allowed per season.

We consider Empire Elite athletes part of our family. As such, family is expected to support each other. At specific times throughout the season you will be asked to support other teams at competitions. This is not negotiable. All athletes (including your child) perform better when there is a large crowd of encouragement. Do your part to support the other teams of Empire Elite.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Our prep teams do not travel to any out of state competitions.

COMPETITION FEES

Competition fees are not included in monthly tuition. We will collect competition fees a couple of months prior to every competition. Fees range from \$50-\$70 per competition. You will receive a competition pay schedule with a breakdown of competitions, fees, and due dates as soon as they are released from all of the brands.

Empire Elite All-Stars

REGISTRATION FORM

PARTICIPANT _____ Age _____ (as of 8/31/18)

School _____ Grade _____ Birth Date _____

Cell _____ Email _____

Lives with: Mother Father Both Legal Guardian – Relationship _____

MOTHER _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

FATHER _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Emergency Contact _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Child's Doctor _____ Phone _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Medication Currently Taking _____

Allergies to medicines _____

Further medical information or learning disabilities _____
(example: speech delays, sensory processing disorder)

I, being fully aware of the risk and possibility of injury involved in cheerleading, voluntarily consent to have my child participate in programs offered by Empire Elite. I agree to hold harmless and waive and release all rights and claims for damage that I or my child have against Empire Elite and its employees, whether paid or volunteer, 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 sponsored by Empire Elite. I grant permission for Empire Elite 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 parent/guardian of the above named child.

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Empire Elite All-Stars

ALL-STAR PREP AGREEMENT FORM

I understand the expectations of my coaches and Empire Elite. I also understand the rules governing this program and agree to abide by them. I realize there are consequences for not adhering to the policies, including dismissal from the team. This dismissal will be at the discretion of the coaches and management. _____Initial

I will respect my coaches, teammates and other team's members at all times. I will refrain from using inappropriate language at practice or any other team event. As an athlete, I will avoid using drugs, alcohol or tobacco at all times.

_____Initial

I agree to represent Empire Elite All Stars in a positive light at all times. I will be a positive role model at all times for my teammates, whether younger or older, and will adhere to the uniform policies for competitions, performances and practices as set forth by my coach/director. I will not post inappropriate content or photos on Facebook, Twitter, or any other social network. I will not gossip about any other All Star Gym or member. _____Initial

CHEERLEADER NAME (printed)

CHEERLEADER SIGNATURE

DATE

I realize this is a family activity, and as such I will render support wherever needed, whenever possible. I know that by allowing my child to be a member of the Empire Elite All Stars Prep Cheer team, I am also making a commitment to the team and agree to take it as seriously as my child is expected to. _____Initial

I understand & respect Empire Elite's "drama free" environment and agree to represent Empire Elite in a positive light at all times (practice, competitions, etc). I understand negative attitudes and disrespect are not acceptable and will be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal of my child if the negativity persists. _____Initial

I agree not to use team practices, performances or competitions as a form of punishment for my child; I understand that the entire team suffers when one member is missing and I will do my best to get my child to all practices and events. I will not pull my child from a practice, competition or performance due to failing grades or to get caught up on homework. I will work with the coach/director to create a plan of action, should my child's grades drop, as opposed to benching him/her without notice. Should I choose to remove my child from the team due to grades, I will give ample time for the coach to replace my child in the routine, and will continue to allow my child to practice and/or perform until such time the coach/director clears them to leave the team.

_____Initial

I understand that cheerleading is an inherently dangerous sport, and as such, I release and indemnify Empire Elite All Stars, its directors and staff from all liability should my child become injured before, during or after practices or any other team-related event. _____initial

I also understand the fees associated with the team, and agree to pay them as indicated above, plus any other fees that may be announced throughout the course of the season. I have been made aware that should I lapse in payment of my child's account fees, Empire Elite will take legal recourse by all means necessary. _____Initial

I understand Empire Elite may remove my child from an All-Star Prep team for failure to meet our obligations which could include but are not limited to excessive absences, failure to remain current on fees, or for inappropriate behavior. That inappropriate behavior could also include parent behavior. _____Initial

PARENT NAME (printed)

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Empire Elite All-Stars
ALL-STAR PREP TRYOUT FORM

PARTICIPANT _____ **Age** _____ (as of 8/31/18)

SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING 2018-2019 _____

SCHOOL DISMISSAL TIME _____

Are you trying out for any other All Star or School Cheer Teams: ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, where _____

Do you have a preference on which level and division you are placed on this season: ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, which level / division and why _____

Would you like to be considered for a crossover position: ___ Yes ___ No
(Please see tryout packet for information on crossovers)

REFERRED BY: _____

PREVIOUS CHEERLEADING EXPERIENCE

- Former **Competitive** All Star Cheerleader # of Years _____
 - Gym and Level _____
- Current/Former **School/College** Cheerleader # of Years _____
 - School and Team _____
 - Returning This Year? ___ Yes ___ No
- Former **Non-Competitive** Cheerleader # of Years _____
 - Gym/Team Name _____
 - Type of Team ___ Pop Warner ___ Spirit Squad ___ Performance

PREVIOUS DANCE/GYMNASTICS EXPERIENCE

- Former **Gymnastics** Experience # of Years _____ Level _____
 - Training Center _____
- Former **Dance** Experience # of Years _____ Level _____
 - Training Center _____
- Former **Tumble** Skills: _____

I give permission for my child to tryout for the Empire Elite All-Stars 2018-2019 prep teams. I have been provided the prep team packet, and agree to read it, sign all necessary forms, and return them on or before the first team practice. I have also completed the Empire Elite Registration form.

PARENT NAME _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

Empire Elite All-Stars

ALL-STAR PREP FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FORM

1. Tuition is due by the 1st of each month and late after the 10th (regardless of what day of the week that falls on, or whether or not you received an invoice). A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after the 10th. Past due balances will continue to accrue late fees each 30 days. _____ Initial
2. Any balance more than 30 days old will be automatically charged to the credit card on file on the 31st day. If funds are unavailable, a \$35 NSF fee will be charged. This fee is non-negotiable. _____ Initial
3. Any member with a balance more than 30 days late will be benched until account is current. Any member with balance more than 60 days late will be subject to removal from the team. _____ Initial
4. No member will be allowed to start a new season with a negative balance. If they do not start at the beginning of the season due to negative balances, they will still be subject to full tuition payments for the months they missed, upon rejoining the team. _____ Initial
5. A \$35.00 NSF fee will be charged on all returned checks. This fee is non-negotiable. _____ Initial
6. Tuition is based on a full year, broken up over 9 calendar months. We do not pro-rate for holidays, gym closures (planned or unplanned), missed practices or vacations. _____ Initial
7. Effective immediately, if you wish to leave or are dismissed from the program for any reason, a 30 day written notice and a \$500.00 contract buyout plus any outstanding balances are mandatory and will automatically be charged to your card on file. _____ Initial
8. Accounts must be current in order to receive uniforms, team clothing or apparel. Payments are applied to the oldest outstanding debt on your account. _____ Initial
9. In general, Empire Elite has a NO REFUND policy for items purchased or services (received or not received), tuition, competition fees, and travel expenses paid. NO EXCEPTIONS. _____ Initial
10. It is your responsibility to update your information with us if your information changes. (New charge/debit card number, exp. Date, etc). A \$35.00 NSF fee will be charged to all cards declined for any reason. This fee is non-negotiable. _____ Initial
11. All competitions fees are paid in advance. As of September 1st 2018, if you wish to leave or are dismissed from the program for any reason, you are responsible to pay ALL competition fees and will automatically be charged to your card on file. _____ Initial

Any member involved in an Empire Elite All Star Prep team has a financial obligation to the gym. You are obligated to pay tuition on time, during the 8 month season in which you enroll. Tuition is non-negotiable. Please understand that we will not make financial exceptions for injured participants or absences. By signing this Financial Policies form, you are giving your full commitment to Empire Elite and the financial obligations involved with the program.

TEAM MEMBER

PARENT NAME

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Notary

State of: _____

County of: _____

On ___ / ___ / ___, before me, _____,

Personally appeared, _____,

Personally known to me
OR

Proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and has hereby acknowledged to me that he/she/they have executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s) or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal

Notary Signature

Print Name