



**Carver Youth Cheer
2024**

Parent Information Packet

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Welcome to Carver Youth Cheer!

Mission Statement: To uplift, enhance and support athletes and enable them all to grow while learning a sport as well as life lessons.

We are so excited you are interested in joining us for the 2024 season! This is a new, yet blooming program and we are so excited for the growth we will have this year. Within this packet will be a brief overview of a code of conduct for parents and athletes, a tentative cost schedule, practice schedule and more. Please save this to refer to throughout the season!

Carver Youth Cheer is a competitive sports program, we do sideline cheer for Carver Youth Football and competitions with Pop Warner.

Board Information

Executive Board Members:

President:	Kelley Niemi
Cheer Coordinator:	Abby Earls
Treasurer:	Tim Blanchard
Secretary:	Courtney Barrington
Scholastic:	Emmie Callahan
Fundraising:	Jacky Gemme
Equipment Manager/Coach:	Autumn Carvalho
Merchandise Coordinator:	Shannon Jeffery

Board Members:

Volunteer Coordinator:	Lindsay Quimby
Directors At-Large:	Melissa Backman, Kristin Delano, Mary Manning and Megan Place
Concessions/Bake Sale Director	Kristen Freeman

Contact Information

Carver Youth Cheer

(508) 322-1043

Contact: carvercheer2022@gmail.com

2024 Registration

Returning Athletes

For Fall 2024 returning athletes will be given priority registration and will be mostly in person. Pop Warner has made registration electronic this year and we will assist in that process during in-person registration. We will provide laptops and collect any paper forms that are required. Or you can provide the paper forms and we will register you electronically. Returners also do not have to provide birth certificates, we have our Pop Warner certified certificates for returners on file.

Fee for returners is \$200

Note: the system will say the cost is \$225 but the system will automatically give a \$25 discount if the athlete is a returner.

This fee includes:

- Shoes- will be ordered from Omni by the organization.
- Bows
- Practice Tank top.
- RISMA Fees
- RISMA Competition T-Shirt
- Invitational Registration Fee
- Gym Rental

A \$25 deposit is due at the time of registration, the remaining balance is due by July 15, 2024. Payments can be made via credit card, check or cash.

New Athletes

Registration for new athletes will open once we have completed returner information. Same guidelines for team placements apply.

Fee for new athletes is \$225

This fee includes:

- Shoes- will be ordered from Omni by the organization.
- Bows
- Practice Tank top
- Cheer bag
- RISMA Fees
- RISMA Competition T-Shirt
- Invitational Registration Fee
- Gym Rental

A \$25 deposit is due at the time of registration, the remaining balance is due by July 31, 2024. Payments can be made via credit card, check or cash.

Jr. Tiny Mites

This season we will be fielding a JR TINY MITES team! The season for Jr. Tiny Mites will begin on September 2nd and run through October 21st. This team will have one practice per week on Saturday morning and attendance at home games is optional. To be a Jr Tiny Mite you **must be 3 or 4 by July 31st!**

Fee for Jr. Tiny Mites is \$100

This fee includes:

- Season begins Sept. 2nd and lasts until Oct. 20th
- 1 practice a week on Saturdays
- Optional home games until halftime (you may choose to join the Jr. Pee Wee game for the first half! No penalty for not attending!)
- Perform at our program showcase.
- Showcase their routine at our local competition (October 20th - this will be their big end to the season!)

A \$25 deposit is due at the time of registration, the remaining balance is due by July 15, 2024. Payments can be made via credit card, check or cash.

Challenger Team

In Pop Warner, the challenger division is a division for athletes ages 5-18 (by July 31st) with any mental or physical disabilities.

Fee for Challenger Team is \$50

This fee includes:

- Performances at showcase & RISMA league competition in Providence
- -First half of home games
- -1 weekly practice on Saturdays
- -Buddy helpers & a great environment!

A \$25 deposit is due at the time of registration, the remaining balance is due by July 15, 2024. Payments can be made via credit card, check or cash.

Additional costs for the season

We understand cheerleading is an expensive sport. These costs may be paid before the dates needed, but they will not be needed all at once in hopes of making it easier. If there are any hardships when it comes to costs, please reach out to the coaches or board members. That will stay completely private, but we will help figure out a solution*

Outside the registration fees that are due in total due by July 15th the only additional cost for the season is a warmup jacket. If you already have a warmup jacket from a previous season, you do not have to purchase another one if it still fits.

Warm-Up Jacket- \$60 by August 4th.

Uniforms

“Renting” the Uniform- The uniforms are/were purchased with fundraised money. This means these uniforms will need to be returned in perfect condition at the end of the season.

A uniform deposit of \$215 in the form of a check is required when they are given to your athlete. This just makes sure everyone returns uniforms in good shape. If you do so, the check will never even be deposited!

Parents can also choose to purchase their athlete’s uniform and swap it out for new sizes each season if needed.

In the scenario where we do not have a uniform for your child and there is an open spot on a team.

- Parents can purchase uniform for a spot on a team IF NUMBERS ALLOW (12 athletes per coach by pop warner on a roster)
- Require payment by July 1st- payment plans

Team Placements

Team placements will be announced by July 15th and will be based on grade level and age. We will try our best to keep to these guidelines but all things such as experience and skill level will be taken into consideration. Coaches will have input and the final team’s placements will be approved by the Cheer Coordinator. The Carver Youth Cheer Coordinator will oversee any requests for placement and make the final decision. Any conflicts will be brought to the CYC Board for final consideration and a vote.

- Predicted Teams (very subject to change)
 - JTM- preschool
 - Tiny Mites- K & 1st
 - Mitey Mites- 2nd and 3rd
 - 4th-8th will be split into JPW/PW/JV based on numbers and registration.
 - Tentative teams will be emailed June 21st
 - Final teams will be emailed July 15th, after payments are due.

All teams have a size limit and when a team fills up a waitlist will be created. If a spot opens up, then the next person on the waitlist will be placed on a team.

Practices

Please have your athletes at practice on time (aka 10 minutes early), so rolling out and taping the mats is quick. Please have your athlete in comfortable athletic clothes (shorts/leggings, t-shirts, sneakers) with their hair up and out of their face and shoulders. No jewelry is allowed during practice, games, or competitions as it is a hazard during tumbling and stunting.

Drop Off

For drop off there will be one of the coaches outside the building door for parents to drop off their athlete and we will also have another coach inside the building directing them for their start of practice. **There are no parents allowed inside for the practice.**

Tiny Mites and **Mighty Mites** will need to be escorted to the outside gym doors and then handed off to a coach. This assures that we have seen your child and that there is no chance they wandered off in between drop off.

Pick Up

For pick up we ask for the parents to wait outside the gym doors or in their cars as the team will be doing a team chant by the door every day after practice and then walk out as a team with the coaches! We assure you that the coaches will have an eye on every athlete, making sure that everyone makes it to either their car or their guardian.

Injuries/Injury Log

- If for any reason an athlete is to get hurt during practice, we will be keeping an injury report.
- This will consist of the coaches filling out the paper and then informing the parents.
- The parents and coach are then to sign the injury report for documentation purposes.
- If a child misses practice for a doctor's appointment, please provide the coaches with a doctor's note to excuse your athlete's absence.
- If a child has to sit out at practice due to injury, they saw a doctor for, they will need a doctor's note to return back to practice.
- If a child gets hit in the head, coaches will immediately follow concussion protocol and be in contact with guardians.

Pop Warner/Competition Information

Our cheer program is an official member of the Pop Warner RISMA Association. We have 2 sets of rules we need to follow in order for us to cheer at Carver's football games.

Rules

1. All athletes **must** be **fully** registered in order to begin participating.
 - a. **Parental Consent:** The National Participant Contract and Parental Waiver form needs to be completed by either parent or the legal guardian, stating that the child has his or her permission to play, cheer or dance.
 - b. **Medical Examination:** A signed form from a Licensed State Medical Practitioner dated after January 1st of the current year/season; that the athlete is physically fit and there are no observable conditions which would prevent them from participating in cheerleading . Note: All physicals must be after January 1st 2024.
 - c. **Proof of Age:** A certified copy of the birth certificate on file bearing the seal of the issuing office of the state of birth is the best guarantee of reliability of claimed date of birth and is form of proof most recommended. Passports are also reliable.
 - d. **Scholastics Fitness:** Proof of satisfactory progress in school is required. **70% shall be the minimum grade point average acceptable to participate.** In cases of doubt, conflict of opinion, or if a valid report card is not submitted, the nationally published scholastic eligibility form shall be used and deemed final. NOTE: Like all rules herein this rule as it relates to scholastic grades may not be made more stringent by any team, association, or league, as other rules may be. **No local team may be allowed to participate in Regional/National sponsored championships if it has not met the nationally published scholastic requirements and may be subject to other penalties.**

Unaffiliated Teams & High School Rules

Carver Youth Cheer as part of RISMA Pop Warner wants to make an official statement regarding Pop Warner rules about athletes being rostered in Pop Warner (Carver Youth Cheer) and an unaffiliated team (All Star, Recreational) during the same season.

Unfortunately, Pop Warner rules prohibit this and in doing so would make your athlete ineligible to compete on the Carver Youth Cheer roster. Below is the excerpt from the Pop Warner Rules Handbook.

The only exception to this rule are the Jr. Tiny Mites and Tiny Mites teams as they are non-competitive. All other teams (Mitey Mites, Jr. PeeWee, Pee Wee, Junior Varsity) are subject to this rule.

Breaking this rule could result in fines from Pop Warner and disqualification from competing for our teams.

If your athlete is currently signed up for full year cheer on an unaffiliated team and you would like to withdraw their Carver Youth Cheer spot, please let us know so we can issue you a refund.

The only option for participating in both an unaffiliated team and Carver Youth Cheer would be if the unaffiliated team is a half year program that starts after our competitions.

In addition, if there are any athletes that are of eligible grade or age to join a Varsity high school team per Pop Warner they are allowed to do so; however both the MIAA and Pop Warner have the same rule. An athlete doing both cannot miss a practice or a game to attend the other program. An example of this would be a member of our JV team would have to miss practice on Friday's to attend football games for the high school team and that would break that rule. Ultimately the athlete would have to choose which team they wanted to continue with.

Competitions

Carver Youth Cheer is a high energy, team-based, performance sport that is athletic, artistic, and acrobatic. It involves athletes not only cheering at games but also competing with a 2 and a 1/2-minute routine composed of tumbling, stunting, pyramids, dance, and cheer segments.

While some skills are individually developed, such as tumbling or dancing, partner stunts, pyramids and tosses require a great deal of teamwork, and routines require synchronization and team uniformity. This is why attendance and commitment are required. We will be expecting all athletes to compete this season. If your athlete is not interested in competing it is imperative that you let the program know immediately.

Only the first RISMA competition and the invitational are guaranteed. The athletes placement at the RISMA competition will determine whether they move forward.

- a. Showcase- Tentative Date October 9th or 10th
 - i. High School Gym
 - ii. We typically get ready together in cafeteria (coach will plan meeting time)
 - iii. Full competition glam/ uniform - individual coaches will determine hair styles, makeup etc. for their teams.
- b. The RISMA competition- Sunday, October 20th
 - i. University of Rhode Island - Ryan Center details will follow as we get closer but plan on being there for the day.
- c. Regionals- November 9th-10th ***(must qualify with 1st or 2nd win at Leagues)**
 - i. Usually held in western Mass, previously it's been held at the Mass Mutual Center, Springfield MA
- d. Nationals- December 7th-13th ***(must qualify with a 1st or 2nd win at Regionals)**
 - i. Located in Florida (TBD)
- e. YCADA Globals
 - i. Typically held in Atlantic City February 21-23, 2025

Note: only teams with a 1st or 2nd win will be moving on to Nationals. We will need to know when you register your athlete whether you plan to attend these competitions.

Competition days are long, tiring, fun, complicated, nerve wracking, exciting, and more! Cheerleading competitions can look intimidating and especially “odd” to people who are not yet a part of the world. The hair, the bows, the makeup, and more! This may help break it down a little:

- The girls work all season long for this one moment. One 2:30s routine.
- Their routine is scored by a panel of judges. Judging categories such as technique, choreography, creativity, difficulty, showmanship, etc.
- The top scorers move onto the next competition, and the bottom scorers are sent home to practice until next season.
- The culture of cheerleading competitions and the cheer world are very much glitz and glam.
 - Our competition hair this year has already been decided but may differ for each team. Each team will upload a video to Band for the correct hair/makeup for each team.
- We will get ready in teams, and coaches will make sure hair, and everything is all set! **Location/Date/Time- TBD (will be posted on team Band as well as emailed to everyone) please note the following:**
 - No nail polish allowed.
 - No acrylic nails.
 - No hair pieces or extensions.
 - No jewelry – in particular, no earrings. We suggest that you do not pierce your child’s ears during the season as your athlete will be required to take them out at competitions and for games. Pop Warner is extremely strict about this. A stray earring can cause injuries to athletes.
 - No show socks/ assigned socks ONLY.
 - Competition shoes ONLY
 - Everyone needs to be “in uniform” completely.
 - Competition hair/bow
- We will travel to competitions either via by bus or following each other’s cars leaving the same place for hair (not yet decided)
- Girls will remain with coaches/parent volunteers in designated areas before performing.
- Once the performance is over, girls are free to visit friends, family, etc.
- They all must arrive on the mat in time for awards.
- After the awards we will take pictures, then exit as a team.

Volunteer Requirements

Two hours of volunteer time per athletes' family is required. This can include working a fundraiser, running the bake sale table, setting up for showcase etc. Families who do not want to volunteer will be required to pay a mandatory \$25 fee.

Code of Conduct/Policies

Attendance Policy

- Every practice, game and competition are mandatory.
- If your athlete stays home sick from school, please also keep them home from practice.
- Please notify either coach about an absence as soon as you know, and let us know about any planned prior commitments, vacations, etc. at the beginning of the season.
- If your child is absent frequently, they will lose their spot in the routine due to safety concerns. If they're not there, the whole group can't practice.
- Athletes are **NOT** permitted to miss their Pop Warner practice or competition for any other practices or competitions under any circumstances. If this rule is broken, dismissal from the team may be required.

Planned Absences

This form should be filled out if you know any practice days your athlete will be missing:

<https://forms.gle/6rzkdAdKzdiWGb4z5>

Athlete Conduct

- Each athlete must be a positive and supportive teammate. Any bullying, teasing, excluding, etc. will not be tolerated and will call for sitting at practices, sitting in uniform out of game time and in persistent cases, dismissal from the team.
- Each athlete must be respectful to their teammates and coaches alike.
- Behavior is essential. Poor behaviors in school, on social media, etc. will not be tolerated and will call for sitting at practices, sitting in uniform out of game time and in persistent cases, dismissal from the team.
- All athletes are expected to keep a good academic standing.
- All athletes are expected to keep a positive and supportive environment.
- We understand that it can be disappointing to not be in the position you wanted, or not front and center. However, athletes are expected to remain respectful. Cheerleading is a team sport and sometimes the position you want isn't the most helpful within the whole routine.

We will be enforcing a new and stricter behavior athlete conduct policy for the 2024 season and going forward. This new policy is outlined in the Carver Youth Cheer Policies & Procedures. We encourage all parents to review these policies and our new by-laws.

Athletes/parents are required to sign the Athlete Conduct policy form which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/kWBdB2ZRK7DcfiVYA>

Adult/Parent Conduct

- Parents must always remain respectful. To coaches, other athletes, and each other. We do not want to create any drama or hostile environment from athlete-athlete, athlete-parent parent-parent or parent-coach.
- Parents are expected to be supportive of them and every athlete. There is no yelling, name calling, teasing, etc. tolerated at any practice, event, game, etc.
- Parents are expected to be in the Band App, Facebook Group and/or check emails for updates. This is how we will communicate **all** the information.
- Parents are **not** allowed to stay inside for practice.
- Any issues should be brought to the coaches first. If we cannot resolve an issue, we will then bring it to the league president who will investigate and bring to the Carver Youth Cheer Board for resolution and a vote if necessary. This procedure is outlined in the Policies & Procedures manual.

Parent/Guardians/Adults are required to sign a code of conduct which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/ZSySBzybVKzVu6Ks5>

Coach/Volunteer Conduct

Our mission is to uplift, enhance and support athletes and enable them all to grow while learning a sport as well as life lessons.

As coaches, we promise to:

- Maintain a safe environment for all athletes.
- Be supportive and understanding.
- Work with parents and athletes with any obstacles.
- Advance athletes' skills and understanding of cheerleading.

Coaches and Volunteers are required to sign a code of conduct which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/dgCKqNeVJaSvZc9Q9>

Non-compliance with these will result in actions at the discretion of the coaches, and if need be, the league. If everyone has mutual respect and understanding, we will be able to work side by side and create the perfect season for the athletes.