



## Jr. Raiders Sideline Cheer 2024 Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: Who is eligible for Jr. Raider Cheer (JRC)?**

A: All students who will be in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2024 fall season. You must reside in the Alpharetta High School District to cheer in our program.

**Q: What does a “Sideline” Cheerleader do?**

A: The sideline teams cheer for their grade’s football team. They learn cheers, jumps, and dances and then do those during the football games. In addition, they perform a half time routine during home games which includes stunting.

**Q: Is there a pre-set number of cheerleaders per squad?**

A: AJRC does not pre-set the number of cheerleaders per squad.

**Q: What is the time commitment? Can my child do other activities?**

A: Jr. Raider cheer involves practices from 4:45-6:15 pm on Thursdays only (August thru end of October), Saturday football games (end of August thru potential November playoffs), and mandatory Summer Choreography Camp July 29th, 30th (9:00am-3:00pm) and 31st (9:00am-12:00pm). While many of our cheerleaders are able to do other activities throughout the week, that is an individual question based on your child’s activity schedule. Our season ends by November.

### **Tryouts:**

**Q: What is the tryout process?**

The first two days are devoted to teaching an 16-count dance routine and cheer. The third day is the actual tryout day, where your cheerleader will be given a 15 minute timeframe to attend.

**Note: Tryouts are closed to parents for all three days.**

**Q: What do the girls wear to tryouts?**

A: All cheerleaders must be dressed in the following:

- Black athletic shorts (it is fine if they have a stripe down the side or around the edges or logo)
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos or writing)
- White no-show socks, and tennis shoes
- Hair must be pulled back off your face and your shoulders. We prefer a ponytail. Bows are optional, but must be solid white, black or maroon.

**Q: Does everyone make a team?**

A: No, not always. At tryouts, cheerleaders are judged in part on their ability to follow directions, their attitude throughout the process, and their enthusiasm. While learning the cheer and dance are part of the tryout, it is not the only part of the judging. Alpharetta Junior

Raiders Cheer is a feeder program, so we expect to teach the girls the cheers and dances with proper technique during the season.

**Q: Is tumbling required or expected?**

A: No, we are a sideline only program.

**Q: How do I know if my cheerleader made a team?**

A: Results will be posted on our website on April 19th by 8:30pm.

## **Practices:**

**Q: Where do the Cheer Teams practice?**

A: At GA Allstars Cheerleading on Thursdays from 4:45-6:15pm.

## **Cheer/Football Season Dates:**

**Q: When does cheer begin / what is the schedule?**

- **Camp:** The mandatory attendance policy begins with our Choreography Camp on July 29th and 30th (9:00am-3:00pm) and 31st (9:00am-12:00pm). This is where the cheerleaders learn the half time routine. This camp will be at GA Allstars Cheerleading.
- **Weekly Mandatory Practices:** Mandatory weekly practice begins on Thursday, August 1st from 4:45-6:15 pm and continues every Thursday (with the exception of school holidays) through the end of October.

• **GAMES:** Plan on a game every weekend, including holidays, during football season (through November). Cheerleaders are required to arrive 45 minutes prior to the start of their game.

**Q: When does football season begin? What is the commitment?**

A: The football season typically begins the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August and runs through the end of October, with playoffs into November. The final schedule for Football is available by the beginning of August and will be posted on our website once available.

Important: AJRC expects cheerleaders to cheer for the entire season including ALL PLAYOFF GAMES. Plan on a game every weekend, including holidays, during football season.

**Q: What if I cannot attend the Summer Choreography Camp?**

A: The camps are all mandatory. We are posting the camp dates prior to tryouts, so that families can make arrangements. We have made every effort to minimize the time required of the girls during their summer break and know that it can be hard to organize family schedules. Please make absolutely every effort to make alternate arrangements, as missing any of the camp may result in your cheerleader not having a spot in the routine until she can be worked in at a later date. The choreographer creates the routines based on the number of girls at the camp, and it is very difficult to try and work someone in later in the year.

**Q: What happens if my child must miss a football game?**

A: Refer to the AJRC Program Guide for attendance policy. The main thing is to communicate this well in advance so coaches can rework and plan the half time routine in your child's absence.

**Commitment & Volunteering:**

**Q: As a parent/guardian, what time commitment is expected of me?**

A: Besides ensuring your cheerleader is **on time** to all practices, camp, events and games, we ask that at least one parent/guardian is **onsite at all games** in case of an emergency.

AJRC requests a minimum of (3) volunteer hours from each family. We appreciate your support and participation in helping the AJRC program.

**Costs of the program/financial questions**

**Q: How much does it cost for my child to cheer? Can I get my money back?**

The cost varies from year to year. Look under the documents tab on the website for all the costs associated with cheer for the season. In addition, one can fill out a request for financial aid.

There are two scholarships given out most years, if needed.

Once the program fees/uniforms fees are paid, they can not be refunded.

**Website & Contacts:**

**Q: Where can I find up-to-date information about the AJRC program?**

A: Please use our website for information about our program **[www.ajrcheer.com](http://www.ajrcheer.com)** There is also a calendar of events, so that families can prepare in advance.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have a question or concern?**

A: Please send questions or concerns to our AJRC Board: [ajrcheer@gmail.com](mailto:ajrcheer@gmail.com)