

Wildfire Cheer 2017-18 Competitive Teams Information



Dear Parents & Athletes,

Thank you for your interest in Wildfire Cheer! We're very excited to now be able to release full details of our competitive cheerleading programme for the 2017-18 season. Please read this information pack through carefully as it contains a lot of information including training times, fees, competition information and policies.

I do hope you'll consider being part of our growing competitive programme in 2017-18. If you have any questions about any aspect of this information pack, please contact me by email or telephone.

Kind Regards

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Wildfire Cheer Director & Head Coach

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About Competitive Cheer

Wildfire Cheer was formed in February 2016 as a small recreational club. In September 2016 we formed our first ever competitive cheerleading teams, Wildfire Glimmer and Wildfire Blaze! Our first season has so far been a huge success with brilliant performances at our first two competitions in March and May 2017, earning us a 6th place, 2 x 2nd places, a 1st place and a Grand Champions!

In competitive teams, athletes train hard to learn challenging cheerleading and tumbling skills, perfect these skills and put them together into routines. They are able to progress quickly as they train in a consistent team and for slightly longer (between 1 and 2 hours per week depending on age and type of team). This season, our teams will compete their routines at 3 different competitions between February and June 2018.

Competitive cheerleading requires dedication, teamwork and hard work. Time commitments and costs are higher and athletes will be expected to be at every training session and commit to all competitions. But most of all, competing is an exciting and rewarding experience and we have a really lovely supportive atmosphere in the teams.

As we are going into our second season, we will be looking to grow our competitive programme and build on our difficulty level. For 2017-18 we are very excited to be expanding to at least 3 teams, possibly 4 as well as adding group stunt teams!! This means that we are now able to offer competitive cheerleading for athletes aged 6 to 18.

In August 2017 we will be running three free taster sessions for all those interested in the club, to come and see what cheerleading is all about. Then in the last week of August and first week of September 2017, we will be running informal 'Team Placements' for our competitive teams. Team Placements will be used to decide which team each athlete will be offered a place on for the 2017-18 season. This will be decided mostly by age but ability will also be a factor. See Page 4 for more details.



Free Taster Sessions

In August 2017 we will be running three free taster sessions based on school years – one for Years 2 to 4, one Years 5 to 7 and one for Years 8+ (maximum age 18). These sessions will be an introduction to cheerleading, covering stunts, tumbling, dance and jumps. They are open to both new and returning members – please bring along your friends!

Although these taster sessions are not compulsory, we highly recommend attending, especially if you are new to cheerleading.

Taster Session – School Years 2 to 4

Date: Thursday 24th August 2017

Time: 6 to 7pm

Location: Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

After entering the Iveshead Campus, follow the road round and then turn right through the gates. The sports hall is directly in front of you to the left of the swimming pool.

Taster Session – School Years 5 to 7

Date: Tuesday 22nd August 2017

Time: 5:30 to 6:30pm

Location: Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

After entering the Iveshead Campus, follow the road round and then turn right through the gates. The sports hall is directly in front of you to the left of the swimming pool.

Taster Session – School Years 8+ (Maximum Age 18)

Date: Wednesday 23rd August 2017

Time: 7:30 to 9pm

Location: The Base Gymnastics & Fitness Centre, Unit 8 Weldon Road Industrial Estate, Weldon Road, Loughborough, LE11 5RN.

Please park in front of Units 8 or 9 on the estate. Then follow the path around the side of Unit 10 and the entrance to the gym is the 3rd door with 'The Base' sign on.

Please book in advance if you would like to attend a taster session by emailing Hannah on hannah@wildfirecheer.com. You will also be asked to fill in a short registration form. If your child is unable to attend the correct taster session for their age, we can be slightly flexible (within reason) and they can attend a different one.

Athletes will need to wear something appropriate for sports such as a top and leggings or shorts. Long hair must be tied back and all jewellery out. For cheerleading we wear trainers, these must be clean trainers that haven't been worn outside (or have been washed). You will not be allowed on the mats with outdoor shoes.

Team Placements

Team placements are compulsory for all athletes wishing to be part of a competitive team, including returning members. If you/your child is unable to make the appropriate session, please email hannah@wildfirecheer.com to let us know ASAP and we will see if you/your child can attend a different session. We will be deciding on teams after team placements and there may no longer be spaces available after this point.

The team placement sessions will run like any normal session so there is no need to feel worried or intimidated. We won't be asking anyone to perform skills alone or in front of a panel. We will consider each athlete based on ability, but also on potential, work ethic and attitude. No previous cheerleading experience is necessary.

Mini Team Placements – School Years 2 to 4

Date: Thursday 31st August 2017

Time: 5:30 to 7pm

Location: Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

Cost: £5

Youth Team Placements – School Years 5 to 7

Date: Tuesday 29th August 2017

Time: 6:15 to 8pm

Location: Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

Cost: £6

Senior Team Placements – School Years 8+ (Maximum Age 18)

Date: Wednesday 6th September 2017

Time: 7:15 to 9pm

Location: The Base Gymnastics & Fitness Centre, Unit 8 Weldon Road Industrial Estate, Weldon Road, Loughborough, LE11 5RN.

Cost: £6

We will let you know which team you/your child has been placed on by the Friday of the week in which your team placement was held. You will then need to accept or reject your place by the following Monday. If you change your mind there will still be places available in recreational classes, just let us know.

Some athletes may be offered a place on two teams. If this is the case you will need to decide whether to accept your place on both teams or just the one (see 'Crossovers' on Page 7).

Please note that there are no guaranteed places for children going into Year 2. They are welcome to attend team placements, but they will need to show exceptional ability and maturity in order to compete a year early. If you're unsure whether your child is ready this year, please contact Hannah for advice.

Teams & Training Times

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Location</u>
Glimmer	6 to 8 (School Years 2 to 4)	Mini Level 1	Thursdays 5:30 to 7pm	Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA
Sparkle (TBC, dependent on interest)	7 to 11 (School Years 3 to 7)	Youth Community Level 1 (working towards L1)	Fridays (TBC) 1 hour 30	Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA
Blaze	9 to 11 (School Years 5 to 7)	Youth Level 1	Tuesdays 6:15 to 8pm	Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA
Seniors (Name TBC)	12 to 18 years (School Years 8+)	Senior Level 1 (working towards L2)	Wednesdays 7:15 to 9pm	The Base Gymnastics & Fitness Centre, Unit 8, Weldon Road Industrial Estate, Weldon Road, Loughborough, LE11 5RN
Group Stunt (Name(s) TBC)	7 to 18 years (School Years 3+)	Level TBC (L1 or L2)	Fridays (TBC) 1 hour	Sports Hall, Iveshead School (Formerly SHS), Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

Glimmer

Glimmer will be building on the success of last season and will be moving up to Level 1, having previously competed in Level 0 and Community/Prep Level 1. The team will be coached by Head Coach Hannah Bottomley plus at least one assistant coach.

Glimmer will be entering three competitions in February, May and June 2018.

Sparkle

We are hoping to have sufficient interest to be able to create a development competitive team named Sparkle. This team will be for children aged 7 to 11 who want to compete, but perhaps don't have a lot of experience or aren't quite ready to compete in Level 1, which is an increasingly competitive division. The team would be entering 'Community Level 1' which is a division designed with newer teams in mind. The tumbling and stunting requirements are slightly less difficult. The team would be coached by Head Coach Hannah Bottomley and possibly one additional coach depending on the size of the team.

Sparkle would only do two competitions, one in February 2018 and one in June 2018. We would be opening up the team again for new members to join after the first competition, thus providing the opportunity for recreational members to move to a competitive team part way through the year.

Blaze

Blaze will continue to compete in Level 1, however this will now be Youth Level 1 rather than Junior Level 1 which will be an advantage compared to last season. The team will be coached by Head Coach Hannah Bottomley plus at least one assistant coach.

Blaze will be entering three competitions in February, May and June 2018.

Senior Team (Name TBC)

Our new Senior team will also be Level 1, however we will be aiming to compete the maximum difficulty possible at this level. We will also train some Level 2 skills, with the aim to create a Level 2 team in future years. The team will be coached by Head Coach Hannah Bottomley and possibly one additional coach depending on the size of the team.

The Seniors will be entering three competitions in February, May and June 2018.

Group Stunt

We hope to have sufficient interest to run one or two Group Stunt teams this year. Group Stunt teams have only 4 or 5 members and train just in the stunting element of cheerleading. The goal is to perform the most advanced stunt skills possible and connect these skills into a fast paced 90 second stunt routine. Levels would be decided based on what is achievable, mostly likely either Level 1 or Level 2.

If you/your child is interested in being part of a Group Stunt team, please express your interest by the end of September 2017. We will then most likely run Group Stunt Trials to determine the teams. Please note that for each Group Stunt team there can only be one backspot, two bases and one or two flyers, so we cannot accept everyone.

Group Stunt would enter three competitions in February, May and June 2018.

Crossovers

We are also offering the opportunity for some athletes to be on two teams – in cheerleading this is known as being a 'Crossover'. Athletes cannot be part of a younger team than their actual age but they can compete as part of an older team a year or two early. Athletes must be at least 8 years old to be considered as a Blaze crossover and at least 10 years old to be considered as a Senior crossover.

If you/your child is particularly interested in being part of two teams then please inform us prior to team placements so that we can consider this. Please note there is no guarantee of being offered a place on two teams and crossover athletes will need to show the required level of skill and maturity to be considered for an older team.

Please think about this carefully as crossover athletes do need to 100% commit to both teams they are a part of for the whole season. Crossover fees will of course also be higher (see Page 9).

Tumbling

This season we will again be offering a Tumbling class on Thursdays in Shepshed. This class is open to both recreational and competitive cheerleaders aged 6 - 18. In the class we warm up and work on some tumbling drills and conditioning all together, then the 2nd half of the class will be less structured and athletes will be able to work towards their own personal tumbling goals. Tumbling is not compulsory for competitive cheerleaders but is highly encouraged, as we can only allocate a certain amount of time to tumbling at team training.

Time: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm

Location: Sports Hall, Shepshed High School, Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA

Cost: £2 pay as you go. £1 for members of Glimmer just staying for the last 30 mins.

Tumbling will be coached by at least two coaches, to be confirmed.

We are looking into starting another weekly tumbling class on Fridays in Shepshed after Group Stunt and Sparkle training but this will only happen if there is sufficient interest and there are coaches available.

Competitions

Athletes MUST be able to attend all of their team's competitions. Cheerleading is a team sport and particularly due to the complex stunts and formations, it is not easy to replace people. Exact timings are not usually confirmed until about 2 weeks before the event so please leave the entire day free.

Travel to competitions will need to be arranged independently. If you will have trouble getting to a competition, please speak to a coach and we will see if anyone can offer you a lift. None of these competitions are further than an hour's drive away.

Competition entry fees are now included in the monthly team fees, however any spectator tickets will still need to be pre-ordered. Some competitions have tickets on the door but this is only if they are available and the price will be higher.

We will be entering three competitions in 2018 and all teams will also perform their routines for one last time at our annual end of year Summer Showcase:

Cheer City – Spring Open (All Teams)

Date – Sunday 25th February 2018

Location – Leicester Community Sports Arena, Leicester

Spectator Tickets – £5 for morning or afternoon session only, £8 for full day. This is the pre-order price and these will need to be paid for in December 2017.

Legacy – Rise Up (All Teams except Sparkle)

Date – Saturday 12th May 2018

Location – Genting Arena, Birmingham

Spectator Tickets – £22 for adults age 12+, £18 for children age 6-11, free for 5 and under. This is the pre-order price and these will need to be paid for in February 2017.

Cheer City – Nationals (All Teams)

Date – Sunday 24th June 2018

Location – Leicester Community Sports Arena, Leicester

Spectator Tickets – £5 for morning or afternoon session only, £8 for full day. This is the pre-order price and these will need to be paid for in March 2018.

Wildfire Cheer Summer Showcase (All Teams)

Date – Tuesday 3rd July 2018 (Provisional)

Location – TBC, either Shepshed or Loughborough

Spectator Tickets – TBC

Team Fees

Wildfire Cheer is a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) meaning we are a not for profit company. We keep costs as low as we can and any profits after all costs are paid go towards growing the club and buying equipment.

Monthly Team Fees

Monthly team fees are paid on the 1st of each month between September and June. If you are unable to do a bank transfer then fees are due at the first training session of each month. Competition entry fees are included in the monthly fees this year, so although the monthly fees do appear higher than last year, £7 per month goes towards competition entry (£3 for Sparkle) so overall costs are in fact lower for all athletes compared to last year.

- Glimmer (age 6 - 8) – £28 per month
- Sparkle (age 7 – 11 development team) – £24 per month
- Blaze (age 9 - 11) – £31 per month
- Seniors (age 12 - 18) – £33 per month
- Group Stunt – £20 per month

Crossover Fees

Fees for being on two cheer teams will be approximately 1.5x the fees of being on one.

- Glimmer + Sparkle – £40 per month
- Blaze + Sparkle – £43 per month
- Glimmer + Blaze – £45 per month
- Blaze + Seniors – £48 per month

This does not include Group Stunt – due to the small team size, full fees must be paid by all. So for example the cost of being on Blaze and Group Stunt would be £31 + £20, so £51 per month.

Sibling Discounts

New for this year we are also able to offer sibling discounts for families with more than one child doing competitive cheerleading. Fees for the 2nd sibling will be discounted by 25% and fees for the 3rd or more sibling will be discounted by 50%. So for example a family with one child on Blaze and one on Glimmer would pay £31 for the older child on Blaze and £21 for the younger child on Glimmer.

Uniform

Our competition uniforms are bespoke and were designed especially for us. They are mostly lycra and consist of a long sleeved top and shorts. Uniform is the same for all teams and all competitions and we intend on keeping the same uniform for several more years.

The cost of each new uniform is £95, however the club will subsidise this to £85 for those buying uniform for the first time. Uniforms need to be paid for in November 2017 to ensure they arrive by February 2018 and we will measure each child before this. Last year we did a sponsored 1 mile run to raise money for our uniforms and we may look into doing something similar again this year.

If in a good condition, uniforms can then be sold back to the club for £60 if worn for one year, or £40 if worn for two or more. If there are any 2nd hand uniforms available to buy this year (for £60 as no uniforms are more than a year old) then preference will be given to those buying a uniform for the first time.

Competition Bows

Each team will be getting specific team hair bows for competition this year (approx. £8). Athletes who are on two teams will need to get two bows. Bows do not need to be paid for until January 2018.

Trainers

All athletes will also need white trainers for competition. Appropriate trainers can be bought for as little as £10 and we are happy to give recommendations.

Training Kit

Training kit is not compulsory but we will be selling Wildfire Cheer T-shirts and training bows for those that wish to buy them. We are also going to look into crop tops, shorts, leggings and jackets.

Attendance & Commitment Policy

Cheerleading routines are very complex and each team member has a very specific part. Particularly for the stunting and pyramid elements, one person being missing means several other members are also unable to practice, which not only is frustrating but it prevents the whole team from practicing effectively. This does mean that we have to have strict attendance and commitment rules to avoid damaging absences and drop-outs where possible. When teams are decided, parents and athletes will be asked to agree to and sign the following attendance and commitment policies:

- Each team member is vital to the team and therefore has a big responsibility to it. All training sessions, showcases and competitions are compulsory.
- Athletes must be on time for training and ready to start.
- Excused absences include: compulsory school events; serious illness or injury; contagious illness and family emergencies. If an athlete is injured and unable to train, they may still be asked to attend practice to watch any new choreography.
- Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to): non-compulsory school events; mild illness e.g. colds; birthdays; family parties; and revision/homework.
- If any absences are unavoidable, the athlete/parent must inform the coach with as much advanced warning as possible so that training plans can be adjusted accordingly.
- You must inform the coach of any planned holidays or school trips which would conflict with training. Holidays during school term time will be classed as unexcused. Holidays in the 3 weeks leading up to competitions are also unexcused. Please do your best to avoid holidays during these times.
- Absences and lateness to practice are all recorded. Multiple unexcused absences and lateness may result in a loss of position within the routine and repeatedly poor attendance will result in the athlete being asked to leave the team completely.
- Athletes must commit to the whole competitive season up to 3rd July 2018. Drop-outs are extremely damaging to the team as a whole and will affect the team's performance at competitions. If an athlete does drop out, there will be no refunds of fees already paid.
- All fees must be paid by the specified dates. We will remind you if fees are late, however failure to pay fees will eventually result in the athlete being asked to leave the team. Please speak to us if you are experiencing temporary financial difficulties.
- We may schedule fundraising events which are for the benefit of the athletes and the club. Athletes must try to participate where possible.

Code of Conduct & Anti Bullying Policy

At Wildfire Cheer we strive to provide a safe and friendly environment where all athletes, parents and coaches are treated with respect. All athletes and parents must be supportive of other team members for the team to be successful. We will not tolerate bullying from anyone. When teams are decided, parents and athletes will be asked to agree to and sign the following code of conduct and anti bullying policies:

- Athletes must follow all instructions from coaches and work towards the goals set with a positive attitude.
- All decisions on team placements, stunt positions, training methods, routine choreography are made by qualified coaches only. Decisions are made with each athlete in mind, but the success of the team as a whole is the priority.
- Please respect coaches by only contacting them directly during working hours. Coaches will not necessarily pick up calls or messages during evenings or weekends unless it is relating to a training session or competition on that evening/weekend.
- Under no circumstances should an athlete attempt a skill which they have not be taught by a qualified coach. They should not attempt any stunts unsupervised.
- Appropriate clothing and shoes must be worn at all times. Long hair must always be tied back and any jewellery taken out (or covered with tape if not possible).
- All training facilities and equipment must be respected and any specific venue rules must be followed.
- Athletes and parents must show good sportsmanship and respect towards other teams and competition staff at all competitions and online. Your behaviour reflects on the whole club.
- Nobody should use inappropriate or abusive language towards athletes, coaches or parents, whether that is at training, outside of training or online.
- Bullying will be taken seriously – this includes abusive language, name calling, physical violence, unfriendly teasing and cyber bullying.
- Please report any concerns or incidents to your/your child's team coach.
- In the first instance we will try to resolve issues between athletes, we understand that children do sometimes act inappropriately and fall out with each other. Often an apology or a chat will solve things but we will make parents aware.
- Inappropriate behaviour and bullying will result in a warning. Repeated incidents, or particularly serious incidents causing significant harm or injury may result in the athlete involved being asked to leave the club.

2017-18 Important Dates

Please keep a note of these dates. Some training dates can change due to unforeseen circumstances and venue issues. Fridays for Group Stunt and Sparkle are TBC as we cannot know if these will go ahead until after Team Placements.

There is the possibility of the occasional extra training session if needed. You will be given at least a month's notice.

29 th August 2017	Age 9 – 11 team placements
31 st August 2017	Age 6 – 8 team placements
5 th September 2017	BLAZE training commences
6 th September	Age 12 – 18 team placements
7 th September 2017	GLIMMER training commences
13 th September 2017	SENIOR training commences
15 th September 2017	SPARKLE training commences (TBC)
22 nd September 2017	GROUP STUNT trials
29 th September 2017	GROUP STUNT training commences (TBC)
10 st November 2017	Uniform fees due
20 th December 2017 to 2 nd January 2018	No training – Christmas break (all teams)
3 rd January 2018	Training resumes (all teams)
12 th January 2018	Team bow fees due
25 th February 2018	COMPETITION – Cheer City Spring Open, Leicester (all teams)
30 th March 2018 to 5 th April 2018	No training – Easter break (all teams)
6 th April 2018	Training resumes (all teams)
12 th May 2018	COMPETITION – Legacy Rise Up, Birmingham (all teams except Sparkle)
24 th June 2018	COMPETITION – Cheer City Nationals, Leicester (all teams)
3 rd July 2018	Wildfire Cheer Summer Showcase (all teams and rec classes)
4 th July 2018 onwards	Summer break – all teams finish training for the season