

# **Greenville Homeschool Athletics Archers**

## **2026-2027 Cheer Team Important Information**

We are so excited to welcome you to Greenville Homeschool Athletics Cheer! Our program is dedicated to developing strength, teamwork, leadership, and team spirit in a supportive, family-friendly, and Christ-centered environment. Whether your cheerleader is brand new or has experience, we are thrilled to grow with you this season!

### **Program Overview**

The mission of Greenville Homeschool Athletics is to provide homeschool students with a platform for competitive sports, aiming to foster the development of individuals grounded in Christian values.

Greenville Homeschool Athletics (GHA) is a Christian faith-based organization dedicated to assisting parents as they educate their children spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. We serve as a social network for students as well as a support system for parents as we encourage and assist each other on our homeschool journey. As such, it is our expectation that all participants behave in a way that honors Christ and builds up those around them.

As a homeschool program, it is the sole responsibility of each athlete's parent(s) to ensure the wellness, health, safety, and eligibility of their child to participate in this program. If an athlete is injured or sick, it is up to the discretion of the athlete's parent(s) whether or not they are fit to continue participation. We recommend that each athlete receive and pass a full athletic physical prior to participation in this competitive sports program.

### **Teams**

All GHA teams are for athletes in grades 6-12. You must be 11 years old by 9/1/26 to participate. We hope to have enough participation to create separate teams for Jr. High and High School. The focus of the teams will primarily be on cheer, with some dance performances mixed in.

### **Skill Level**

Athletes of all skill levels are welcome, but opportunities to be included in higher level stunts and performances will be at the discretion of the cheer coach/commissioner based on skill level, safety, and need.

## **Facility**

To keep registration costs as low as possible for our families this year, we will not be operating out of a private facility for the football season. Instead, we will utilize various community spaces to ensure our athletes have the room they need to succeed.

- **Football Season Practices:** Primary practices will be held at **Wright Park** (5403 US 69 Business, Greenville, TX).
  - *Note:* We may occasionally meet at our "Home" game facility in **Wolfe City** to polish halftime performances and field placements.
- **Pep Rallies:** We are excited to host **three Pep Rallies** for our home games! These events will include our volleyball teams and will be held at **The Net** (661 I-30 Frontage Rd, Greenville, TX).
- **Basketball Season:** Once we transition to basketball season, practices will move indoors to the **Mineral Heights Gym**, where we will practice alongside the basketball teams.

## **Dates/Time Commitment:**

### **Season – Summer Prep & Skill Building (June – July)**

To get a head start on our year, we will hold practices every **Monday and Thursday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**.

- **Attendance:** These summer sessions are **not mandatory but are highly encouraged**.
- **Focus:** This is a vital time for bonding and creativity! We will be learning halftime performances, planning our pep rallies, and working on team sign-making.

### **Football Season (Mid-August – October)**

- **Monday & Thursday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- Mandatory practices held at **Wright Park**, with occasional rehearsals in **Wolfe City** possible.

### **Basketball Season (November – February)**

- **Days & Times: TBD**
- Practices move to **Mineral Heights Gym**. We will finalize this schedule in coordination with the Basketball Commissioner as their season planning begins. We appreciate your patience while we align our schedules to best support all of our athletes!

### **Spring Spirit: Early spring pep rallies for Track, Baseball, and Softball**

- **Days & Times: TBD**

## **Attendance**

In the sport of cheer, every athlete is a vital piece of a larger puzzle. Unlike other sports where a substitute can step in, cheer routines rely on every person being present for safety and synchronization. **We ask our athletes to make their squad and fellow teammates a priority by committing to consistent attendance.** When one athlete is missing, the entire team's progress is put on hold.

We recognize that our athletes are well-rounded individuals with jobs and other extracurricular engagements. However, because cheer is a highly collaborative sport, missed practices can hinder the team's rhythm and safety. For this reason, **the Commissioner/Head Coach reserves the right to determine an athlete's game-day participation based on their attendance leading up to that day.** While we understand prior engagements, game-time performance is earned through team preparation.

We ask all athletes to arrive **5–10 minutes early** to ensure they have time to properly stretch and prepare their bodies for the physical demands of practice. Missing this vital warm-up period not only increases the risk of injury but also disrupts the team's preparation. While we understand that athletes may occasionally face outside conflicts, punctuality is essential for team safety and synchronization. Therefore, if an athlete is consistently tardy or misses the warm-up session, the **Commissioner/Head Coach reserves the sole discretion to determine if that athlete may perform in that week's game or future games.**

**Please be advised that continued tardiness or absences may result in suspension from performances with no guarantee of a registration fee refund.**

## **Games and Performances**

Being a GHA cheerleader means being the heartbeat of the sidelines! Our squad exists to support our athletes and engage our community, which requires a commitment to travel and flexibility.

- **Weekly Football Games:** We typically perform at **one football game per week.**
- **Friday Night Lights:** Most games are held on **Friday nights**, though there may be occasional exceptions based on the league schedule.
- **Travel & Away Games:** Because many of our football games are **"away" games**, please be prepared for regional travel. We represent GHA everywhere we go, and having a strong cheering section at away games is vital for our football team!

**Cheerleaders MUST arrive 30 minutes prior to game start time!**

### **Archers Football Game Dates & Locations (subject to change) –**

- **Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** – Longview Christian(Home) (JV & JH play GCS)
- **Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** – CHANT Chargers (Home) HOMECOMING
- **Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Campbell (Away)
- **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** – 7:30pm – Wylie Prep (Away)
- **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Rockwall Heritage (Away)
- **Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** – 7:30PM – Tyler Heat (Away)
- **Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** – BYE Week
- **Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Cornerstone Christian (Away)
- **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** – TBD (Home)
- **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Playoffs

**TAIAO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TBD**

**TAIAO ALL STAR GAMES – TBD**

### **Expenses:**

To ensure all custom gear and uniforms arrive before our first performances, **all registration fees are due by June 19, 2026**. This covers the essential up-front costs of team equipment and insurance for our athletes.

### **Current Fee Structure:**

- **Returning Cheerleaders (\$150):** For athletes utilizing the existing team uniform from the previous season, this will cover some new gear as well as insurance.
- **New Cheerleaders (\$400):** This fee includes the **Complete Spirit Kit** (Uniform, Poms, Backpack, and Hair Bow), in addition to insurance and equipment.

**Important Note on Future Seasons:** While we strive to keep costs low by utilizing the same uniform style for multiple years, please note that the reduced "Returning Athlete" fee is only applicable while the current uniform remains in use. To keep our squad's look fresh and modern, **uniform styles may be updated in future seasons**. Should a uniform change occur, all athletes—both new and returning—would be required to purchase the new kit at the standard registration rate.

## **Squad Dress Code**

As Christian athletes, we believe that our bodies are a gift, bought with a price, and are to be used to glorify God in all that we do (1 Corinthians 6:20). Because of this, we hold our athletes to a high standard of dignity, safety, and excellence in how they present themselves.

## **Practice Attire & Grooming**

To ensure our athletes can move safely and confidently, please adhere to the following practice dress code:

- **The Essentials:** Athletes must wear appropriate athletic wear that allows for a full range of motion. This includes shorts or leggings with an appropriate t-shirt or tank top. No jeans, skirts, or crop tops are permitted.
- **Safety & Coverage:** Because our cheerleaders will be going upside down during tumbling, no baggy shirts (unless tucked in) are permitted. We find that traditional two-piece athletic sets (tops and bottoms) provide the best versatility and athletic appropriateness for our specific sport.
- **Modesty & Support:** To honor our bodies and our sport, please ensure athletes are wearing proper undergarments, including a supportive sports bra and appropriate underwear, so they can focus entirely on their performance without distraction.
- **Footwear:** Proper athletic sneakers with rubber soles and arch support are mandatory. **Flip-flops, sandals, boots, Crocs, and "fashion" sneakers are strictly prohibited** for the protection of the athlete's ankles and to provide necessary traction and support on varied surfaces.
- **Hair:** For the safety of the athlete and their teammates, hair **MUST** be secured up and out of the face at all times.

## **Game Day Attire & Grooming**

When we step onto the field or the court, we are representing more than just ourselves; we are representing our families, our squad, the whole GHA organization, and the Lord. To maintain a spirit of excellence and unity, we adhere to the following Game Day standards:

- **The Official Uniform:** GHA Cheer uniforms must be worn to all games. As a reminder, the uniform is to remain in its original design. **No alterations, additions, or changes (including embroidery or accessory swaps) are permitted unless discussed and approved by the Cheer Commissioner prior to the event.**
- **Footwear:** Proper **cheer shoes** are required for all performances. These provide the specific grip and support needed for safety on game surfaces.
- **Hair & Bows:** Hair must be secured **completely out of the face** for safety and a polished appearance. While we do not require every athlete to have the exact same hairstyle, the official team bow must be worn and clearly visible.
- **Uniform Integrity:** Please ensure uniforms are clean, pressed, and worn with the same standards as practiced during our training (including appropriate undergarments).

## **Uniform Integrity & GHA Policy**

Our uniform is a symbol of our unity as a squad. Per GHA policy, there is to be **no unauthorized altering** of the team uniform. This includes:

- Changing bow colors or styles.
- Adding personal embroidery or patches.
- Changing sock colors or styles unless specifically stated by the Cheer Commissioner.

**Alterations:** We understand that a perfect fit is important! If your uniform requires fitting adjustments, they must be handled through our **approved alterations company** to ensure the integrity of the design remains consistent across the team.

## **Communication Regarding Special Requests**

We value the enthusiasm and creativity of our families! However, to maintain a unified team appearance and ensure compliance with GHA regulations, all requests regarding uniform modifications, the addition of accessories, or the organization of special celebrations must be handled through the proper channels:

- **Private Inquiry:** Please bring any suggestions or requests directly to the **Cheer Commissioner in private**.
- **Official Review:** The Commissioner will review the request based on safety, budget, and league policy.
- **Final Decision:** Once the Commissioner has made a decision, that decision is final. We ask that parents and athletes respect this process to avoid confusion and ensure that our focus remains on the athletes and the spirit of the game.

## **Playing Time, Skills, & Team Players**

Cheerleading is a team sport that relies on every athlete moving as one. To ensure our squad looks sharp and professional, we place athletes in positions where they are strongest and where the team needs them most for a balanced visual performance.

- **Placement:** Athletes will be assigned to specific spots on the field or court based on the needs of the choreography. This ensures our formations are symmetrical and our transitions are smooth. While we understand athletes may have a "preferred" spot, our priority is the overall synchronization of the squad.
- **Equal Opportunity:** Every athlete is guaranteed field time. We believe every girl provides a vital spark of energy to the sidelines!
- **Growth & Communication:** If your athlete has a desire to try a different spot in the formation, we encourage them to talk to the **Head Coach or Commissioner privately** to discuss the skills needed to make that move. We work to highlight each person's individual rhythm and spirit to make the team shine as a whole.

## **Leadership & Captain Selection**

Leadership is a stewardship, and we take the selection of our team Captains very seriously. It is important to note that **leadership roles do not automatically carry over from previous seasons**. Each year is a "fresh start," allowing every athlete the opportunity to demonstrate their current growth and dedication.

**What We Look for in a Captain:** Being a Captain is a position of service. We look for athletes who demonstrate "Leader-First" qualities that reflect a heart for the team:

- **Spirit of Encouragement:** A leader who consistently lifts others up and maintains a positive attitude, even during long practices.
- **Reliability & Respect:** Someone who leads by example—arriving early, coming prepared in proper attire, and respecting the authority of coaches and officials.
- **Teachable Heart:** A Captain must be willing to take direction and correction with a humble attitude, showing their teammates how to grow gracefully.
- **Mastery of Material:** They should have a strong command of all cheers and routines, serving as a reliable "visual lead" for the rest of the squad.
- **Servant Leadership:** Following the example set in **Mark 10:43-45**, we look for leaders who prioritize the needs of their fellow athletes. A good Captain is the first to help and the last to seek credit.

## **The Athlete's Heart: Integrity & Etiquette**

As representatives of GHA and as Christian athletes, our conduct should reflect the light of Christ at all times. We strive for excellence not just in our cheers, but also in our words and our actions. Integrity is doing the right thing even when the "crowd" isn't watching.

### **1. Purity of Speech**

Our words have the power to build up or tear down (**Ephesians 4:29**). We hold a zero-tolerance policy for:

- **Vulgarity:** No foul language or coarse joking at practices, games, or team events.
- **Inappropriate Talk:** Athletes should avoid gossip or discussions that are not honoring to themselves, their teammates, or the players we cheer for.
- **Representation:** Remember that when you are in uniform (or at practice), your speech reflects on your entire squad and your faith.

### **2. Modesty & Public Conduct**

We believe that modesty is a form of respect for ourselves and others. This extends beyond the cheers and into how we handle our transitions before and after games:

- **Changing Policy:** Uniforms are to be kept intact until you are in a private space. **Do not remove skirts or uniform pieces in public, on the sidelines, or at the fields.** \*

**Privacy:** Please utilize designated locker rooms or restrooms for changing. This ensures that we maintain our dignity and a high standard of decorum as a team at all times.

- **Uniform Respect:** Treat your uniform with care. It is a privilege to wear the GHA colors, and we should carry ourselves with poise from the moment we put it on until the moment we take it off.

### 3. Respect for Others

- **To Officials & Coaches:** Always respond with "Yes, Coach" or "Yes, Ma'am/Sir." Respectful communication is a hallmark of a disciplined athlete.
- **To Opposing Teams:** We cheer *for* our team, never *against* the other. We treat visiting squads and their fans with hospitality and kindness.

### 4. Digital Stewardship & The Power of Our Witness

As representatives of GHA and the Lord, our digital presence is an extension of our testimony. We want our online spaces to be a place where we "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

- **The "Heart of the Matter":** Our communication on the BAND app, group texts, and social media should always reflect the light of Christ. We ask our athletes to use the **"THINK"** test before posting or texting: Is it **True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary**, and **Kind**?
- **A Culture of Kindness:** We have a heart for unity. Any communication that creates division, excludes teammates, or speaks unkindly of others—whether in a public post or a private group chat—is contrary to our mission. We believe in resolving conflicts face-to-face with grace, rather than behind a screen.
- **The "Safe Space" Promise:** Our team BAND group is a safe haven for logistics and encouragement. To protect our team culture, we ask that any frustrations or concerns be brought directly to the Commissioner or Coach in private, allowing us to handle things in a way that preserves the "bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). **Do not use group chats to air grievances or disagreements.**

### 5. Game Day Sideline Etiquette

Our squad is the heartbeat of the game! To maintain our focus and professional appearance, we follow these standards from the pre-game warm-up until the final whistle.

- **Sideline Focus:** During game play, athletes are to remain in their designated spots on the sideline. To keep our focus on the field, athletes should not leave the line to speak with friends or family in the stands.
- **A Note to Our Families:** We love our Archer fans! To allow the athletes to stay focused on their performance, we ask that parents remain in the stands. Should an athlete truly need you, a coach or the Commissioner will contact you immediately.
- **The 3rd Quarter Transition:**

- If needed, athletes will be given a short break during the 3rd quarter to rest and refuel.
- During this time, athletes must stay within the Designated Athlete Area to eat their snacks and rest.
- Athletes must remain easily accessible so the squad can reassemble quickly to return to the field.
- **The Buddy System:** For safety and accountability, athletes are not permitted to go to the restrooms or concession stands alone. A "buddy" must accompany them at all times.
- **Preparation is Key:** Athletes must arrive with plenty of water and all necessary gear. We ask that athletes avoid relying on the concession stand for their primary hydration, as we need them ready to perform.

### **Team Communications**

We use the Band app to communicate effectively with all cheerleaders and their families. Please make sure you have downloaded the Band app and joined our [GHA BAND Group](#). You will also want to make sure that you have turned on notifications so that you do not miss any pertinent information. If you have any frustrations using Band, please ask.

Note that ALL team information will be posted in our Band group. There are also separate individual team chat groups where communication can be posted to just one specific team. Please be mindful of where you post questions/information – use the main group posts for things that are relevant to ALL athletes, regardless of which team they are on, and use the individual team chat groups for team-specific posts.

For general information regarding GHA, we also encourage you to join our [Facebook Group](#) and check out our website at [www.greenvillearchers.com](http://www.greenvillearchers.com)

### **Additional Information:**

- The mission of Greenville Homeschool Athletics is to provide homeschool students with a platform for competitive sports, aiming to foster the development of individuals grounded in Christian values.
- Greenville Homeschool Athletics (GHA) is a Christian faith-based organization dedicated to assisting parents as they educate their children spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. We serve as a social network for students as well as a support system for parents as we encourage and assist each other on our homeschool journey. As such, it is our expectation that all participants behave in a way that is honoring to Christ and builds up those around them.

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### **Conflict Resolution:**

If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss it directly with the cheer team commissioner. If you are concerned about your daughter's position or playing time, please make it a point to wait 24 hours after a game/tournament before discussing it with the coach. At no point should you confront a coach, parent, or athlete in an aggressively confrontational way - especially during or immediately following a game. You are welcome to reach out the same day to let the coach know that you would like to follow up with them the following day. This will help both you and the coach to process the situation fully then discuss it the following day in a calm, respectful manner. We do ask that at least one additional adult (ideally a second coach) be present in conversations as well to help reduce miscommunication. Ultimately, if there is a conflict that cannot be resolved between you and the coach, you may bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors for resolution.

### **Contact Information:**

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