15TH ANNUAL CHEER AND DANCE COMPETITION
INFORMATION PACKET

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Dear Directors/Coaches,

I am happy to inform you about Stephen F. Austin State University’s 15th annual game day and cheer competition as well as dance contest will take place in January and February in SFA’s HPE Complex. General guidelines and other important information are enclosed.

Our contest is open to all studio, all-star, and school cheer and dance teams. We emphasize individual team talent and skill. Therefore, you are competing against yourself and the score sheet, not other teams. Your team’s scores are compared to other teams for overall awards only, which are listed on the award sheet. All teams will receive a trophy with a Division I, II or III rating. We will have a separate division for all-star/studio and school teams. There are no legalities deductions at our contest. Each team will receive a USB drive with verbal critiques over a video of each routine.

SFA’s cheer and dance competitions are great outlets to get your routines in front of qualified judges before larger contests. Our solo and individual categories are great for any seniors interested in auditioning for either SFA’s cheer or dance team. These categories also award additional scholarships for our teams. If you have any questions about our event, contact the SFA Spirit Programs office at (936) 468-1604.

Yours truly,

T.J. Maple
Coordinator of Spirit Programs
GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

COMPETITION DETAILS
• Game day and school/all-star cheer: Saturday, Jan. 4
  • Register by Dec. 15
• Dance: Saturday, Feb. 8
  • Register by Jan. 15
Both competitions will be held in SFA’s HPE Complex.

REGISTRATION CHECKLIST
___ Complete a registration form for each competition/team online at sfasu.edu/spiritprograms.

___ Mail registration form and check, made payable to SFA (include driver’s license number on personal checks), postmarked by Dec. 15 for the game day and cheer competition and Jan. 15 for the dance competition to:
  SFA cheer and dance contest
  P.O. Box 13021, SFA Station
  Nacogdoches, TX 75962

___ Participants, coaches and advisors must complete a Waiver of Compliance Form before the day of competition. Participants MUST have this signed by a parent or legal guardian to be able to perform.

___ Turn in compliance forms to the registration table during competition check in.

TIME LIMITS
Each solo, duet, trio and officer group will perform a choreographed routine not to exceed two minutes and 15 seconds.

Cheer teams will perform a choreographed routine not to exceed three minutes. Individual routine rules are outlined with the individual guidelines.

Dance teams will perform a choreographed routine not to exceed two minutes and 30 seconds.

BOUNDARIES
• Cheer teams will compete on a 42- by 54-foot area (nine non-spring-loaded cheer mats). Out of bounds will be considered being outside this designated area.
• Dance teams will compete on a 39- by 49.1-foot Marley dance floor. No deductions or penalties will be given if a dancer goes off the floor. This is to provide teams with a more defined dance surface.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION
All children must be kept under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian at all times during this event. Spectator admission fees are:
• $15 for adults
• $10 for children ages 8 to 13
• Free for children 7 years old and younger

CONTEST T-SHIRTS
Official contest shirts will be available for purchase through a $15 early bird deal or $20 at the contest.

CRITIQUE VIDEOS
Each team will receive a USB drive with verbal critiques from judges over a video of your routine.

GAME DAY - UIL PREP COMPETITION STRUCTURE
The game day - UIL prep competition rules and regulations will follow those of the UIL Texas State Spirit Championship. To find a list of these rules, visit uiltexas.org/spirit.
COMPETITION DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

CHEER DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES*

- **Best jumps** or **best tumbling** participants will compete against each other. There are no divisions for these categories. Therefore, there will be one winner for each.
- **Best cheer** participants will execute one cheer. This cheer can incorporate jumps and tumbling.
- **Crowd leader** participants will execute one cheer in motions and words only. Do not incorporate tumbling, although jumps are allowed.
- **Individual** participants will be placed in the following divisions:
  - K-4
  - 5-8
  - 9-11
  - and 12.
  Participants will perform a routine to incorporate cheer, dance, tumbling and jumps. If there are not three participants entered in each grade division, a score of 45 or above must be obtained to win the division. Each division will award first, second and third place winners.
- **Group stunt** participants will be placed in the following divisions: elementary, junior and senior. Each division will award first, second and third place winners.
- **Team** category participants will be placed in the following categories:
  - all-star
  - junior high/middle school performance
  - high school performance
  - junior high/middle school game day
  - high school game day
  - junior high/middle school game day - UIL prep
  - or high school game day - UIL prep.
  Teams will compete against a score sheet, and division ratings will be awarded.

* SFA Spirit Programs has the right to modify and/or combine divisions based on number of entries.

DANCE DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES*

- **Best leaps** and/or **best turns** participants will compete against each other. Participants will demonstrate three leaps for the best leaps category and three turns/turn combination for the best turns category. Participants in each category will be placed in the following grade divisions:
  - K-4
  - 5-8
  - and 9-12.
- **Solo** category participants will be placed in the following grade divisions:
  - K-3
  - 4-6
  - 7-8
  - and 9-12.
  Participants will perform a routine to incorporate dance, jumps and tumbling. If there are not three participants entered in each grade division, a score of 45 or above must be obtained to win the division. Each division will award first, second and third place winners.
- **Duet** category participants will compete against a score sheet, and division ratings will be awarded. This category has no divisions.
- **Trio** category participants will compete against a score sheet, and division ratings will be awarded. This category has no divisions.
- **Officer** category participants will be placed in the following grade divisions:
  - K-3
  - 4-6
  - 7-8
  - and 9-12.
  Officer groups will compete against a score sheet, and division ratings will be awarded.
- **Team** category participants will be placed in the following categories:
  - all-star/studio
  - and school.
  Teams will compete against a score sheet, and division ratings will be awarded.

DIVISION RATINGS BREAKDOWN:
(For Duet, Trio, Officer and Team)
Division I: 45 to 60 score
Division II: 30 to 44 score
Division III: 29 and below score

* SFA Spirit Programs has the right to modify and/or combine divisions based on number of entries.
GAME DAY CHEER COMPETITION
SATURDAY, JAN. 4

ENTRY FEES (PER SCHOOL)
- Game Day Finals: $100
- Band Dance: $150
- Fight Song: $150
- Crowd Leading: $150
- Two Entries: $250
- Three Entries: $350

GAME DAY AWARDS STRUCTURE
Band dance, crowd leading and fight song teams will be awarded plates with division rating. Teams also are eligible to receive overall awards.

DIVISION RATINGS:
- Division I
- Division II
- Division III

OVERALL CHEER AWARDS:
Highest scoring routine(s) of the day in each category.
- 1A
- 2A
- 3A
- 4A
- 5A
- 6A

CHEER COMPETITION
SATURDAY, JAN. 4

FEES (PER ENTRY)
- Best Tumbler: $15
- Best Jumps: $15
- Crowd Leader (No Tumbling): $15
- Best Cheer (One Cheer): $30
- Individual Cheerleader: $50
- Teams: $30 per person

CHEER COMPETITION AWARDS STRUCTURE
The winner of each of the following categories will be awarded a plate:
- best jumps
- best tumbling
- best cheer
- and crowd leader.

INDIVIDUALS:
Divisions for individuals will be as follows:
- K-4
- 5-8
- 9-11
- and 12.

GROUP STUNT:
- Plates will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners.
- Scholarship certificates in the amount of $200, $150 and $100 also will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in the 12th grade division. (Scholarship honored only if cheerleader makes one of the SFA cheer teams.)

TEAM STUNT:
- Plates will be awarded with division rating.

TEAMS:
- Teams will receive a trophy with their placement.
- Teams also are eligible to receive overall awards.

OVERALL CHEER AWARDS:
- Highest scoring routine(s) of the day
- Innovative choreography award(s)

SFA has the right to modify award structure when needed.
FEES (PER ENTRY)
Best Leaps    $15  
Best Turns   $15  
Solos       $60 per routine  
Duets       $90 per routine  
Trios      $105 per routine  
Officers  $120 per routine

Teams:
• Eight or less members - $25 per person for first routine, $20 per person each additional routine
• Nine or more members - $180 for first routine, $120 each additional routine

DANCE AWARDS STRUCTURE

BEST TURNS:
• One best turns winner will be awarded a plate

BEST LEAPS:
• One best leaps winner will be awarded a plate.

SOLOS:
• Plates will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners.
• Scholarship certificates in the amount of $500, $350 and $200 also will be awarded to first, second and third place winners of the 12th grade division. (Scholarship honored only if dancer makes the SFA dance teams.)

DUETS AND TRIOS:
• Plates will be awarded to each dancer with division rating.

OFFICERS:
• Officers will receive a plate with their division rating.
• Officers also are eligible to receive overall awards.

TEAMS:
• Teams will receive an axe handle with their division rating.
• Teams also are eligible to receive overall awards.

OVERALL DANCE AWARDS:
• Innovative Choreography Award(s)
• Creative Costume Award(s)
• Technical Excellence Award(s)
• Energy Award(s)
• Precision Award(s)

OVERALL SCORE DANCE AWARDS:
• Highest scoring routine of the day in each division
• Circle of winners will be given to the next highest scoring routine of the day in each division.

Awards will be given in the following divisions: mascot, elementary, intermediate, junior, senior, middle school and high school.

SFA has the right to modify award structure when needed.
15TH ANNUAL CHEER AND DANCE COMPETITION

CONTEST WAIVER COUNT FORM

NAME OF SCHOOL/STUDIO/GYM

NAME OF HEAD COACH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTEST YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF COACHES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</th>
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This form must accompany ALL completed waivers.

You must complete a form for your entire group – NOT each team.
Every advisor, coach, chaperone and participant must turn in a completed and signed release form at registration to participate. ALL areas must be completed. Photocopy and distribute to each adult attending the event. Each coach/director must retain a photocopy of every completed form for your records and keep them with the team throughout the event.

1. Liability Release
In consideration for participating in the SFA cheer and dance contest, I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), the Board of Regents, the state of Texas, their officers, servants, agents and employees (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, or otherwise, while participating in such activity, or while in, on or upon the premises where the activity is being conducted or in transportation to and from said premises.

To the best of my knowledge, I can fully participate in this activity. I am fully aware of risks and hazards connected with the activity, including but not limited to the risks as noted herein, and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in said activity, and to enter the above-named premises and engage in such activity knowing that the activity may be hazardous to me and my property. I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISKS OF LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, that may be sustained by me, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of being engaged in such an activity, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

I further hereby AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorney's fees, that may incur due to my participation in said activity, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

It is my express intent that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse (if any), if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representative, if I am not alive, shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Texas.

2. Medical Release
I acknowledge such participation subjects Minor to possibility of physical illness or injury (minimal, serious, catastrophic and/or death), and I acknowledge the Minor is assuming the risk of such illness or injury by participating in the activity. In the event of such illness or injury, I hereby give my permission, consent and authorization for any medical treatment deemed necessary by a hospital or physician. I appoint the event coordinator and/or director my lawful agent with power to authorize and consent to the administration of medical treatment during the aforementioned event. I further acknowledge and agree that I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL MEDICAL AND RELATED BILLS THAT MAY BE INCURRED ON MY BEHALF FOR ANY ILLNESS OR INJURY THAT THE MINOR MAY SUSTAIN during the SFA dance contest and while traveling to and from the SFA campus for the SFA cheer and dance contest, whether or not the SFA cheer and dance contest actually occurs.

3. Appearance Agreement
I understand the SFA Spirit Teams from time to time produce promotional material relating to its programs. I understand as a participant and/or a spectator at the SFA cheer and dance contest that Minor may be included in videotapes, photographs, DVDs and slide shows taken during the SFA cheer and dance contest. Therefore, without reservation or limitations, I do hereby authorize and give to Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), its employees, designees, agents, and all persons or entities for or through whom SFA is acting, permission to any medical treatment deemed necessary by a hospital or physician. I appoint the event coordinator and/or director my lawful agent with power to authorize and consent to the administration of medical treatment during the aforementioned event. I further understand and agree that there will be no remuneration or compensation provided for any use of my likeness, and I hereby waive any rights to royalties or other compensation arising from any use of my likeness by SFA.

4. Event Rules
I further acknowledge and understand that the SFA cheer and dance contest has established rules and regulations pertaining to conduct, behavior and activities of all SFA cheer and dance contest participants, by which I agree to abide during the SFA cheer and dance contest (copy of which is listed on the back of this form), and that I will be responsible for my failure to abide by those rules and regulations. I have received, read and understand the SFA cheer and dance contest rules. I understand that violation of the rules can result in dismissal from SFA cheer and dance contest with no refund.
5. Supervision
A chaperone/adult (age 21 or over) is required to attend with participants. This chaperone will be responsible for the participants at all times, including but not limited to cheer/dance practice outside of competition, free time at event site or hotel. THE SFA SPIRIT TEAMS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTICIPANTS’ SUPERVISION.

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**EVENT RULES: General SFA cheer and dance contest rules**

1. Cheering, chanting and dancing will be practiced in designated areas ONLY.
2. Squads/teams must be on time to all scheduled practices and performances.
3. Leave valuables at home (rings, jewelry, etc.). SFA will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.
4. Participants may not wear unapproved jewelry at any time during practice or performances. Teams with participants who do not comply will be assessed a deduction.
5. Supervision
   - A chaperone/adult (age 21 or over) is required to attend with participants. This chaperone will be responsible for the participants at all times, including but not limited to cheer/dance practice outside of competition, free time at event site or hotel. THE SFA SPIRIT TEAMS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTICIPANTS’ SUPERVISION.
   - Should an injury occur during your assigned practice or performance times, contact an SFA cheer and dance contest staff member.
6. Smoking and the use or possession of alcohol or other illegal substances at the SFA cheer and dance contest is prohibited.
7. Hazing or initiations of any type is prohibited.
8. The SFA cheer and dance contest fervently encourages team support, sportsmanship, integrity and fairness among all participants and coaches/advisors/directors in all facets of cheerleading, including but not limited to team practice and performance. SFA cheer and dance contest staff members maintain the right to enforce a zero tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct by any and all its competition patrons. SFA cheer and dance contest staff members reserve the right to remove participants, coaches/directors/advisors or spectators from the performance venue should offensive or inappropriate behavior toward other participants, coaches/directors/advisors, officials or spectators occur.

In addition to the general rules above, the following rules apply:

1. SFA cheer and dance contest staff members are not responsible for participants’ supervision.
2. Participants must have an adult chaperone/coach/director in attendance at all times during the championship.
3. Only coaches/directors should approach the SFA cheer and dance contest event directors to resolve disputes. Spectators or participants will NOT be allowed to pursue disputes.