

BUILD THE ARMY



2025-26 ALL STAR ELITE PACKET



Photos by 605 Mae Inspire

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WELCOME

We are thrilled to have your expressed interest in our program. American Cheer Elite is an All-Star Cheerleading Gym located at 7300 S Grasslands Place, Sioux Falls, SD. American Cheer Elite is heading into its sixth competitive season under ownership of Megan Hunter. Coaches and owners are dedicated to creating well rounded, confident, and competitive athletes in a safe environment where individuals can flourish.

At American Cheer Elite we strive to create competitive teams at every level. We focus on building technically sound athletes that understand the dynamics of being a team player at the elite competitive level. Athletes are taught to be physically and mentally strong by being held to high standards and expectations. While we share in the excitement and devotion of creating success on the mat, creating strong minded, hard working, driven individuals is the primary focus of American Cheer Elite staff.

In alignment with our dedication to mold not only great teams but great individuals, team coaches lead with passion and intensity, and athletes will be expected to work hard and give their best effort every single practice. Our Elite program is intended for competitive minded athletes with families who place high value in what their child gains through competitive sports.

OUR “CORPS” VALUES

American Cheer Elite is based in faith and stands behind the following 5 values to promote the mental and physical development of youth through the sport of cheerleading.

1. Emphasize the cruciality of creating an encouraging environment for athletes.
2. Enrich the spiritual, mental, and physical development of youth.
3. Educate and properly train athletes in the mechanics of cheerleading.
4. Explore levels with creativity and innovation.
5. Exceed limitations.

For any questions regarding the contents of this packet, please email Megan Hunter at megan.doherty@americancheerelite.com



WHAT WE OFFER

American Cheer Elite is proud to offer a variety of teams with varying time and financial commitments to suit athletes and families of all situations. American Cheer Elite offers prep, prep plus, and elite teams. This packet will contain details for those interested in being evaluated for our elite teams. If you would like more information regarding one of our other programs, please follow the link below to be redirected to our interest form.

Season 6 Interest Form

ELITE TIER

Highest time and financial commitment.

- Evaluation Required
- 11 month season
- 5 Hours of practice weekly
- Uniform, choreography, competition, practice wear, and additional fees
- Required camps/clinics
- High Travel
- Compete at 7-8 National Events
- Attend End of Season Event according to bid receipt and coaches discretion

PREP PLUS TIER

Moderate time and financial commitment.

- 9 Month Season
- 3 Hours of practice weekly
- Regional Travel (in-state and surrounding states)
- Uniform, choreography, and competition fees
- Compete at 3-4 National Events plus local events
- Attend Regional End of Season Event

PREP TIER

Low time and financial commitment.

- 9 Month Season
- 2 Hours of practice weekly
- Local, in-state travel to competitions
- Uniform and choreography fees
- Compete at 4-5 local events



ELITE COMMITMENT LEVEL

All Star Cheerleading requires a large amount of commitment not only from the athlete but also the family. Please make sure you are aware of our program policies and financial commitments. Thank you for taking the time to ensure American Cheer Elite is the right choice for your athlete and family.

TIME COMMITMENT

Elite teams practice for 5 hours weekly (two days of 2 hour practices plus an additional day of one hour tumbling class). Additionally athletes will be required to attend skill camps, choreography camps, specialty clinics, and other team and program events. Dedication to attending all American Cheer Elite activities is necessary. We work very hard to communicate schedules and practices well in advance. However, teams may have practices added for numerous reasons leading up to events or special camps and it is expected that athletes make American Cheer Elite a priority.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

American Cheer Elite works tirelessly to keep cheerleading accessible and costs low for families due to the additional costs associated with a high travel sport. Because of this, it is vital that all bills are paid on their charge date. By registering your athlete for evaluations, you are agreeing to and understand the full scope of the financial commitment of the 2025-26 elite season as laid out in this packet.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Athletes may be given additional requirements throughout the season. These requirements may include flyer stretching requirements, registering for flexibility classes, taking extra tumbling classes or lessons, ect. These requirements are at the discretion of American Cheer Elite coaching staff for the betterment of the athlete and their team. All athletes are encouraged and welcome to take additional classes and private lessons at American Cheer Elite. Should additional classes be needed for your athlete, staff will communicate via email to the athlete's family.

To set up private lessons for your athlete, please email info@americancheerelite.com
Private Lesson pricing is as follows:

30 Min Lesson- \$35

45 Min Lesson- \$45

60 Min Lesson- \$55

IMPORTANT DATES

We work hard to give as much advance notice about practice and event schedules. Please make sure you are aware of the below choreography and camp dates as well as the gym closure dates. We ask that families plan vacations in alignment with our gym closure dates to ensure full team attendance at practices.

NEED-TO-KNOW DATES

- Signed Elite Team Packet Due.....May 27th, 2025 at Evaluation check in
- Elite Team Stunt Choreography.....July 19th-20th, 2025*
- Elite Team Routine Choreography.....August 29th-September 2nd 2025*
- Choreography Clean Up.....Exact Dates will be released at our Parent Meeting

*Choreography dates and times may shift slightly due to the finalization of team rosters and different school district calendars.

GYM CLOSURE DATES

- Independence Day.....July 3rd-6th
- Thanksgiving Break.....November 26th-30th
- Christmas Break.....December 22rd-January 3rd
- Easter Break.....April 3rd-5th

All gym closure dates are dependent on our finalized competition schedule. Some break dates may shift.

Classes will be held as normal during gym closures with the exception of Christmas Break, during which the gym will hold specialty clinics for athletes, but not regular classes.





ELITE TEAM EVALUATIONS

An evaluation is required for all athletes wishing to partake in the elite program at American Cheer Elite. At evaluations, athletes will be asked to demonstrate skills based upon USASF elements and will be placed on a team not only based on their age and individual skills (tumbling, jumps, strength, flexibility, stunt knowledge, etc.) but also according to program needs to ensure each team is highly competitive. Previous experience at any level is not the sole determinant of athlete placement.

Athletes are enrolling in our program and not a specific team - team placement is not final. We will spend the summer shifting athletes around until every team and athlete is set up for success.

All athletes must be in good financial standing with the gym in order to register for evaluations. Evaluations will take place **May 27th, 28th and 29th at American Cheer Elite.** There is no experience required to register for elite team evaluations. Athletes will attend the first day of evaluations based on age and will attend the following 2 days of evaluations based on call back times determined by coaching staff. Athletes may be called back to multiple time slots. Please register your athlete for their initial Wednesday time slot based on the following:

5:00 PM- Athletes born 2018-2014

6:15 PM- Athletes born 2013-2012

7:30 PM- Athletes born 2011-2007

Registering for and attending elite team evaluations does not guarantee elite team placement.

Register for Evaluations

Athletes will receive initial team placement on Friday, May 30th, 2025 via email. Practices will begin Monday, June 2nd, 2025. Athletes must accept their team placement through the email they received in order to participate in practice.

By accepting your team placement you are agreeing to the policies, procedures, and commitments as laid out in this packet. Signed packets are due to the gym at evaluation check in.

SKILL REQUIREMENTS

American Cheer Elite will form teams based on the levels/skills detailed below. Please note these are just some of the skills available in each given level. Athletes should expect to be placed at the level they show most technical mastering of skills. There are always exceptions based on team needs, but nearly every athlete should have all appropriate skills for their level.

Athletes will be expected to maintain skills throughout the season and may have team placement reevaluated if skills are lost.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartwheel • Handstand Forward Roll • Back Walkover • Front Walkover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Walkover • Back Handspring • Back Handspring Step Out • Back Walkover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Back Handsprings • Back Handspring Step Out • Back Handspring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Tuck • Back Handspring Tuck • Multiple Back Handsprings to a tuck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Handspring Layout • Multiple Back Handspring Layout • Back Handspring whip to layout
Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartwheel Back Walkover • Front Walkover Cartwheel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round Off Back Handspring Step Out • Round Off multiple Back Handsprings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round Off Back Handspring Tuck • Front Handspring Front Punch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round Off Back Handspring Layout • Punch Front Step out to Layout • Round Off whip to layout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round Off Back Handspring Full • Round off whip to Full • Punch Front step out to Full

American Cheer Elite is dedicated to the continued growth and progression of athletes skills within a season. Being placed on a specific team or level will not hinder an athlete's ability to further their skill growth.



ELITE PROGRAM COSTS

Pricing for the 2024-25 season is detailed below. Please note that evaluation fees are due at time of registration. All tuition charges will be billed on the 1st of each month with the exception of June tuition which will be billed on June 4th. All additional non-tuition charges will be billed on the 15th of each month as detailed in our fee schedule on page 9.

Evaluations	\$100
Monthly Team Tuition	\$160/month
Team Fees*	\$1890
Uniform (New Athlete Only)	\$470

***Team Fees are inclusive for the following items for the entire season: 1 set of practice wear (top and bottom), team bow, choreography and music fees, and season competition fees with the exclusion of end of season events (US Finals, Regional Summit, and/or D2 Summit).**

UNIFORM REQUIREMENT

American Cheer Elite athletes are required to wear American Cheer Elite's program uniform and practice wear. Athletes will also need to purchase cheerleading shoes. You can purchase your athletes shoes through American Cheer Elite but there is not a specific brand requirement. An athletes first set of practice wear is included in their team fees. Any additional sets ordered (\$110/set) will be charged to the athlete's GoMotion account.

BILLING

Our tuition and other fees are for our season as a whole. All charges will be automatically charged to the payment method you have on your athlete's GoMotion account based on the fee schedule on page 9 of this packet. All athletes are required to have a GoMotion account in order to register for and participate in evaluations. All fees will be billed on their indicated bill date and are subject to the management and processing fees associated with GoMotion (4% per transaction). You are welcome to pay in advance via check to avoid these fees on any charges. We understand there may be extenuating circumstances and are more than willing to work with you throughout those times.

Any account that is more than 10 days past due will be considered delinquent and your athlete will still be expected to attend practices but unable to participate until account balances are brought current. If an athlete's account is more than 30 days past due, the athlete will be replaced in their routine and subject to rechoreography fees.

ELITE PROGRAM COSTS

BOOSTER CLUB

The American Cheer Elite Booster Club is a non profit organization that works with our Elite families in partnership with American Cheer Elite LLC. All elite team athletes will be required to sign the booster club contract and pay their booster club membership fee. Booster fees go towards athletes program shirt, team parties, athlete gifts and end of season banquet. American Cheer Elite Booster Club offers several fundraising opportunities throughout the season. Athletes and families will be able to use collected funds as reimbursement on any GoMotion charge, team activity, or competition expense (hotels, gas, etc.) with the submission of a receipt.

EARLY TERMINATION

Any athlete who decides to leave their team after July 21st, 2024 will be charged a \$500 termination fee. Please note this does not include injuries. There will be no refunds for any items charged and/or ordered regardless of reason for leaving or dismissal.

OTHER COSTS TO CONSIDER:

In addition to gym charges, travelling sports contain additional costs not directly associated with your athlete's participation in our specific program. Please be aware of these additional costs when committing to an elite team:

- Travel Accommodations and Hotels
- USASF Membership Requirements (\$49)
- Admissions to competitions and events



Photo by 605 Mae Inspire Photography



ELITE FEE SCHEDULE

Pricing for the 2024-25 season is detailed below. Please note that all tuition charges will be billed on the 1st of each month with the exception of June tuition which will be billed on June 4th. All additional non-tuition charges will be billed on the 15th of each month. Team fees are broken down into 7 equal payments from June to December and include practice wear, team bow, choreography and music fees, and competition fee expenses with the exception of end of season events (US Finals, Regional Summit, and D2 Summit).

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

MONTH	MONTHLY FEES	DETAILS
Due at time of Registration	\$100	Evaluation/tryout fee
June- December	\$160 \$270	Tuition Payment Team Fees
August	\$470	Uniform charge for new athletes in addition to scheduled monthly charges
January-April	\$160	Tuition Payment

PAY IN FULL

Families are welcome to pay for their season in full. Full payments are due on the dates indicated below. Please note families who elect to pay in full will still be charged their June tuition and team fees via GoMotion. There will be no refunds on any advance payments made.

Team Tuition (July-April)	\$1550	Due June 25th, 2024
Team Fees (July-December)	\$1575	Due July 10th, 2024

END OF SEASON EVENTS

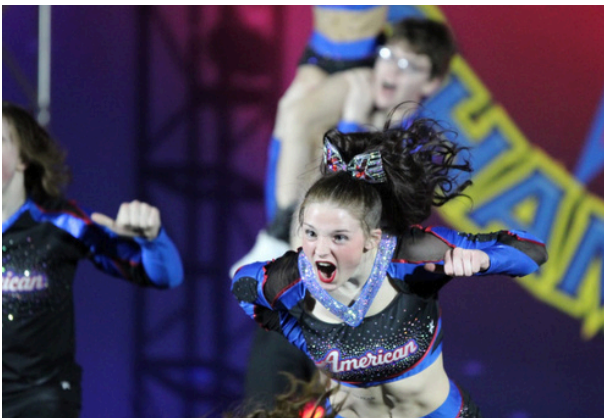
All elite teams will attend an “end of season” event. These events are determined by team’s age, level, and bids received throughout the season. One team’s attendance at any End Of Season event does not guarantee another team’s attendance at the same event. End of Season events are not included in competition fees and will be an additional cost to families. Financial information regarding the event will be sent out to families once a bid is received. Potential end of season events are US Finals, Regional Summit, and D2 Summit.

D2 SUMMIT

Junior and Senior teams are eligible to compete at the National D2 Summit in Orlando, FL. This event will take place May 8th-10th. Travel days for the event are the Thursday prior to competing and the Monday after the event is concluded. No travel is allowed Wednesday or Friday before the event due to practice schedules. It is an expectation that all eligible teams receive a bid to the D2 Summit.

Summit eligible teams will attend the D2 Summit. This is a part of our anticipated competition schedule. Families with athletes placed on a junior team or older should plan to attend D2 Summit. American Cheer Elite will place the athletes it feels best suited for Summit teams appropriately. By registering for and attending evaluations you understand your athlete, if eligible, may be placed on a Summit Team and attendance will be expected.

Summit pricing will be added on top of seasonal billing expenses. Athletes will pay a prorated tuition charge for the month of May and additional fees to the gym for coaching expenses as well as their individual athlete’s summit expenses dictated by type of bid received. Full financial information will be sent to families shortly after bids are received to give ample planning time.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

FACILITY

We are proud to be a second home to so many athletes. However, we have a small gym with an open parent viewing area. In order to ensure the safety and success of all athletes training in our facility we ask that you follow the below rules of conduct while viewing practices, lessons, open gyms, and showcases. Individuals who do not follow these guidelines will be asked to leave the facility.

- Only registered athletes are allowed in the practice area. All viewers (family, parents, friends, etc.) must watch from upstairs.
 - Includes trampoline, dead mat strip, and spring floor.
- No loitering in the main entrance. Again, our facility is small and athletes and coaches alike need to be able to focus on their practice without interruption whether intentional or unintentional.
- Due to the size of our facility and with the interest of our athletes training in mind, elite team practices will be closed to viewing following choreography. Parents are invited to sit in on the first practice of every month but are expected to adhere to these policies.
- Absolutely no interruptions during a practice. Examples: texting coaches while viewing practice, phone calls, speaking to or yelling at athletes from upstairs, etc.
- Please do your part in keeping our viewing area clean. Dispose of trash appropriately.
- All choreography including routines and music selections are the property of American Cheer Elite and should not be shared with others. No videos should be uploaded online without permission.

TEAM PLACEMENTS

American Cheer Elite retains the right to:

- Place its athletes on the team it feels will best suit the athlete and the program.
- Decide the role/position an athlete will have on any given team.
- Adjust team placements throughout the year based on what is best for the program.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Athletes are expected to arrive at the gym 10 minutes prior to practice start time in proper practice attire. Full team attendance at practice is crucial to the success of any team. In order to be competitive both locally and nationally, we expect a commitment from athletes and parents. However, we understand athletes may need to miss practice for life moments. These are considered excused absences and are listed below.

An absence request form must be filled out and submitted prior to any athlete absence. This is to ensure coaches can properly prepare for practice. Our absence form can be found on our website under the "forms" tab. **All practices the week of competitions are mandatory.** If an athlete misses practice the week of a competition they may be removed from the routine at the discretion of coaches. Excessive absences will result in your athlete's dismissal from their team. Missing part of practice for an unexcused reason will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Absence Form

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Contagious Illness
- Graded School Function
- Family Emergency

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Hanging out with friends
- Too much homework
- Tired
- Family Vacations

We require athletes to be picked up and dropped off for practice in a timely manner. Athletes should not be brought to or left at American Cheer Elite for extended times outside of their scheduled practice.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, American Cheer Elite staff will communicate any closures to all families via email and socials. In the event that a missed practice cannot be rescheduled, no refund of tuition will be given.



COMMUNICATION POLICIES

PLATFORMS

American Cheer Elite will utilize email, team Facebook pages, and whatsapp to communicate all program updates. It is each athlete and family's responsibility to be informed on the happenings for your team. Please ensure you read communications thoroughly before reaching out with questions. We ask that whatsapp and other group text communications are not overused, to allow other parents to use it as a quick and easy information source.

GUIDES

Emails will be answered daily Monday through Friday with the exception of Monday's after competitions. Please follow the guidelines below when reaching out to American Cheer Elite Staff.

Please refrain from reaching out to coaching staff via texting, direct messaging, or phone calls or any reason without an email conversation first. Our staff work very hard for our teams and we want to ensure their time away from the gym can be private personal time with their families.

- Athlete Well Being- megan.doherty@americancheerelite.com
- Billing Concerns/Questions- info@americancheerelite.com
- Day-Of-Event Questions- consult group chats and team moms before going to coaches.
- Absences- fill out our [**Absence Form**](#).

We want to be considerate of you and your time and ask that you are considerate of ours in return. We try to provide as much notice as possible about all practices, schedules, and events and are continuously working to better our communication process.

24-HOUR RULE

Unless there is an immediate concern for athlete safety, we ask that if any concern or conflicts arise, you take 24 hours before sending an email. This allows for clearer thought and for emotions on all ends to settle before addressing the situation.

COMPETITION POLICIES

At American Cheer Elite we strive to allow our athletes plenty of opportunities throughout the season to compete against the full depth of their respective divisions. With that in mind, competition schedules will be set based on the following criteria:

- Travel Distance
- Time of Year
- Bid Opportunities
- Depth of Competition (number of teams in attendance)

Please note any competition fees are subject to change with the release of event producer pricing, bids received throughout the season, etc.

Athletes may not miss any competitions for any unexcused reason. This includes athletes who missed practice prior to a competition or are currently healing from an injury and unable to compete. There will be no refunds on gym fees for an athletes ineligibility to compete.

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

Our full season competition schedule will be finalized in August. American Cheer Elite staff will provide event information regarding specific competition schedules as soon as it is received. Likely, compete times and performance schedules will not be finalized until a week prior to the event. These schedules are subject to change at any time. Due to this, please expect to block off entire days/weekends for competitions.

TRAVEL

- Transportation to and from events is the sole responsibility of each individual family.
- No air travel should be booked the same day as the competition. We do not receive schedules until the week of and cannot control specific team compete times.
- Regardless of distance from home, all athletes are **required** to be present and cheer on every American Cheer Elite team at each event.
- Some events are “Stay to Play” and will require families to stay in Varsity blocked hotels. Our Booster Club works very hard at creating blocks that allow athletes and families an elevated competitive experience by staying close together. All families will be required to book at the Booster blocked hotel for all Stay to Play events. Failure to do so may result in your athlete being unable to compete due to Varsity rules.
- Hotel Blocks will not be created for non Stay to Play events.



ATHLETE POLICIES

We expect our athletes to be class acts in behavior both on and off the floor who support and encourage the growth of one another. You are a representation of our program and we expect your behavior to exemplify our “Corps” Values. Athletes will be held to the following policies:

- Expected to arrive at practice on time, in the correct practice attire.
- Expected to give their best effort at every practice,
- Expected to maintain skills throughout the season.
- Expected to be present to cheer on all ACE teams at events.
- Any negative discussion of other teammates, coaches, or parents is not tolerated.
- Expected to show integrity while valuing the efforts of competitors.
- Expected to be proud representations of American Cheer Elite.

BULLYING

We have a zero tolerance policy for bullying and harassment of any kind. This includes everyone who is a part of American Cheer Elite. We want American Cheer Elite to be a safe place for all who enter. The following steps will be taken in a situation where bullying occurs:

- Written warning via email
- In person meeting
- Dismissal from the program

We have the right to dismiss anyone from our program at any time if we feel it necessary.

SOCIAL MEDIA

While social Media presence is great for our gym, it is necessary that it is being used in the most appropriate ways. We ask that parents and athletes are respectful with all content posted in regard to American Cheer Elite. Social Media should be used as a tool to share uplifting, positive moments. Please remember to tag us in all social posts.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The logo of American Cheer Elite belongs to the owners of the program. Individuals are not allowed to recreate or sell any ACE products. This includes team names and any likeness to the logo, affiliation, and/or program without permission of Megan Hunter.



PARENT POLICIES

Please initial each line below. While these encompasses most of the policies laid out in this handbook, you are agreeing to all obligations, both time and financial, as well as our gym standards of behavior by signing and submitting this packet.

FINANCIAL CONTRACT

_____ I understand and agree that tuition payments are due on the 1st of the month with the exception of June which will be billed on June 4th.

_____ I understand and agree that all additional charges as laid out in this handbook are due on the 15th of each month.

_____ By registering for and participating in Elite evaluations, I understand and agree to fulfill all financial obligations as set forth in this packet.

_____ I understand team fees are additional charges that are non refundable.

_____ I understand that if my account is more than 10 days past due my athlete will sit out of practice until my account balance is brought current.

_____ I understand that if my account is more than 30 days past due I will be charged a choreography fee, my athlete will be unable to compete and their spot will be filled for any upcoming events until my account is brought current.

_____ **I understand that if my athlete leaves or is dismissed from the program for any reason after July 20th, 2025 I will be held to the termination fee as laid out in this handbook.**

(Parent Signature)

(Date)



PARENT POLICIES

Please initial each line below. While these encompasses most of the policies laid out in this handbook, you are agreeing to all obligations, both time and financial, as well as our gym standards of behavior by signing and submitting this packet.

PARENT CONTRACT

- _____ I have read all American Cheer Elite policies for the 2025-26 Elite Team Season.
- _____ I will represent American Cheer Elite in the most respectful, professional way.
- _____ I understand that if I as a spectator am a disruption to practice time, I will be asked to leave the facility and further understand the viewing policies of practice for elite teams.
- _____ I understand coaches have been trained to place and instruct teams.
- _____ I understand that coaches have the right to place my athlete on a different team after initial placements if they deem necessary.
- _____ I understand the attendance policy laid out in this packet and that multiple unexcused absences may be reason to reevaluate my athletes placement or cause for dismissal.
- _____ I understand Elite cheerleading has many expenses included and I agree to pay them all on time.
- _____ I understand that behavior plays a role in my child's success as an elite cheerleader.
- _____ I understand that if I have a known absence I need to complete an absence form prior to practice. I also acknowledge the difference between excused and unexcused absences.
- _____ I will not direct message or personally text any of the staff at American Cheer Elite, and understand all forms of communication should be through email or in-person unless otherwise directed.
- _____ I understand that if my athlete misses practice the week of a competition or event they may be removed from the team for the event but are still required to attend the competition in support of their teammates.
- _____ I understand that my athlete must be present to cheer on all ACE teams at competitions regardless of their individual team meet time.
- _____ I understand that all fees paid to American Cheer Elite are non refundable.
- _____ I understand that unprofessional talk or behavior while representing American Cheer Elite could lead to the termination of my athlete.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)