

Welcome to the 2014 Matawan-Aberdeen Huskies AYC!

Dear Matawan Aberdeen AYC families,

Welcome to the 2014 season! We would like to make this a wonderful experience for all parties involved- parents, coaches, and cheerleaders. However we cannot do this without complete cooperation from everyone.

GENERAL INFORMATION

You've made a commitment to the team when you registered; which means your daughter is required to attend the practices, games, and competitions (events). Missing one cheerleader can be detrimental to the entire team, and a situation we try to avoid - if at all possible. ***Please arrive on time to all events. If one cheerleader is late, the entire squad is not able to start on time!***

Expectations from Cheerleaders:

- Positive attitude
- Complete cooperation
- No cell phone usage during practice time (unless it's an emergency)
- No Gum
- Appropriate language and behavior
- Respect for everyone (authority as well as teammates)
- Be on time and try to attend every practice (Practice starts at 6pm sharp)
- Proper Attire

Expectations from Parents:

- To support the decisions made by the coaching staff –decisions are made on what is best for the team.
- To provide transportation for your child to and from all functions.
- To arrive on time for drop offs and pick ups.
- To ensure your child's attendance at all practices, games and functions. Special arrangements should be made or communicated to the coordinator in the event something comes up.
- Attend ALL competitions and if you cannot- please have another parent or guardian responsible for your child. (IF NOONE can be there, please let the coach know
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR SAFETY REASONS.
 - Review ALL expectations with your cheerleader and make sure they understand the rules.
 - Volunteer in areas where you can make a difference or help out. We cannot run this program successfully without all of our parents help.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION

Parent support is not only appreciated, but is recognized as integral to the success of the Matawan Aberdeen AYC Program. Opportunities to assist and participate in team activities and events will be communicated by the coach throughout the cheerleading season via the team website, email, or text.

CHEER PRACTICE AND CONDITIONING

Our practice fields are located at Matawan Regional High School. As an AYC organization, we are required to adhere to many safety standards. One of those standards mandates that all of our cheerleaders complete a minimum of 20 hours of conditioning as part of their regular practice schedule before they are permitted to tumble or stunt. Because of this mandate, it is particularly important that our cheerleaders are not absent during this initial 20 hour conditioning period. Any child missing any portion of conditioning will need to make up that time when regular practice begins. Due to safety considerations, excessive absences may require a change to the cheerleader's role in routines.

PRACTICE APPAREL

All Cheerleaders will wear shorts without pockets (we recommend Softee and similar brands which are available at Target, Kohls & Sports Authority), fitted t-shirts or tank tops, athletic style shoes and have a filled water bottle labeled with their name. Street shoes, nail polish, temporary tattoos, long nails or jewelry is not permitted during practices, games or competitions. ***For safety reasons, earrings are not allowed on the field or at practice. Any Cheerleader with earrings will be asked to remove them, even if the piercing is new.**

ILLNESS or INJURY

- Cheerleaders who are ill must notify the coordinator as soon as is practical.
- Cheerleaders who are unable to cheer due to injury must attend the game or competition in full uniform and sit with the coach to support the squad.

GRADES

A copy of the latest report card should be made available with registration or before the season starts. Cheerleaders must maintain their grades. Cheerleaders must set an example and grades come first. IF your child has a situation with grades now, you might consider that this will add to their schedules. Girls need to remember that having to study for a test is not an excuse to miss a practice or game or event. Cheerleading is a team commitment and they must be responsible to this. PLEASE USE WISE TIME MANAGEMENT.

DISCIPLINE PROGRAM

Every program has rules. Please help us with the following and there should not be any issues. Do not be late to competition, practice, or games (includes the parent being late to pick up or drop off). Remember punishment for home behavior should not keep them from practice that hinders the whole team. Only excused reasons given BY PARENTS in ADVANCE will be permitted.

1. First time – warning

2. Second time – cheerleader may have to sit out. (DO NOT ASK WHY, IT WILL BE ADDRESSED).
3. Third time - Parent and cheerleader will need to have a meeting with the coordinator to discuss the issue.

WEATHER ISSUES

Practice and games are held rain or shine. We will postpone practice if there is lightning in the area. Depending on the weather outlook, practice may be cancelled. You will be notified by your Team Mom of any change to the practice/game schedule.

UNIFORMS

As the season start gets closer, we will notify you when the girls will be fit for their uniforms. Uniforms include a shell and a skirt. Each cheerleader must purchase bloomers, socks, cheer sneakers and a bow. We will provide additional information for purchasing these items in July. Please remember that the Shell and Skirt are the property of the Matawan Aberdeen Huskies and **should not be permanently altered or cut in any way**, and should be treated with care at all times. \$50.00 uniform deposit is required. No cheer uniform will be handed out unless a deposit check is received. Your check will be returned to you at the end of the season when the uniform is returned back to the organization in the same condition it was received.

CHEER COMPETITION

In October, we will compete in the AYC Competition. This is something that we will begin preparing for in August. In addition, we are often invited to other cheer competitions and may even participate in earlier competitions. The following dates have already been set for 2014:

NJAYF CHEER COMPETITION

- *Trenton, NJ*
- *October 11, 2014*

Additional Cheer Competition

- *Location TBD*
- *Date TBD*

*BIG EAST CHEER COMPETITION *if we qualify*

- *Trenton, NJ*
- *November 15, 2014*

*NATIONALS *if we qualify*

- *Orlando, Florida*
- *December 5, 2014*

FUND-RAISING

Fund-raising is an important part of all Competitive Cheer Squads. Fund-raisers will be arranged in an effort to help offset the cost of the various items, competitions, and camps. Each individual cheerleader is expected to actively participate in these fund-raisers. We will be doing various fundraisers such as spaghetti dinner, car wash, tagging, bake sale, candy sale, etc.

We are all excited and looking forward to another successful Cheerleading season!

GO HUSKIES!!