

Junior CHEERLEADERS



2020 JUNIOR CHEER PARENT PACKET

INDIANA FARM BUREAU FOOTBALL CENTER
7001 WEST 56TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46254
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JUNIOR COLTS CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

The Junior Colts Cheerleading program is designed to promote positive self-esteem, respect, dedication and discipline among individuals ages 6 to 14. Led by the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleaders, this program offers the unique opportunity to perform in front of 67,000 fans at Lucas Oil Stadium during select Indianapolis Colts home games. Participants will not only learn the basic performance fundamentals of cheerleading and dance through several clinics, but will also experience community and public relations aspects of what it takes to be an Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader.

CLINIC INFORMATION

The Junior Colts Cheerleading clinics will be held at two locations (see below) throughout the months of June-December. Clinics will almost always be on a Saturday, but there is a chance for a Friday or Sunday night clinic. Time of the clinics will vary depending on the availability of the practice field. The Junior Colts Cheerleading clinics schedule will be finalized when the NFL schedule is released.

You will have the opportunity to choose between two locations. You will choose your location at registration and that is where you will attend the monthly clinics. You cannot go between the two during the season.

Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center | 7001 W. 56th St. | Indianapolis, IN 46254 [afternoon]

Westfield Middle School | 345 W. Hoover St. | Westfield, IN 46074 [morning]

Participants will be divided into three groups depending on age. 6-8, 9-11, and 12-14. There will be exceptions made for the participants more advanced than their age group and would benefit to be in an older age group. Those expectations will only be made during the first clinic and with the Youth Cheer Coordinator's approval.

During the clinics, the focus will mainly be on learning choreography that will be performed at Lucas Oil Stadium or other appearance locations. Before each clinic, you will receive a video of the choreography participants will learn at that clinic. It is strongly recommended that you watch the videos with your child, so everyone is familiar with what will be reviewed during the clinic. Due to the fact that we do not have a lot of practices together, **missing clinics may result in your child being unable to perform on game day.**

You may also want to bring a video camera to record the material being taught at the clinic. Nearly every child will need to practice at home to be prepared for the performance, so anything to make practicing easier is encouraged.

At each clinic, we will also focus on an important virtue of being a Colts Cheerleader, such as humility, respect and teamwork. We will discuss these topics and challenge participants to apply them in their own life. These virtues are referred to as the “Values of the Horseshoe.”

CLINIC ATTIRE

- Most clinics will have a specific theme (Colts Spirit, Sparkle Day, etc.) that will be posted in the newsletter. There may be clinics where your child will wear their Junior Cheer t-shirt with shorts/pants. Your child must be able to easily dance in any outfit he or she wears to clinics. We suggest wearing jazz shoes or tennis shoes. We also recommend bringing layers, as the indoor practice field can be chilly in the fall and winter.
- There will also be the opportunity to purchase additional cheer merchandise that can be worn to any clinic. This merchandise is completely optional and not a part of the required uniform.

SQUADS AND INSTRUCTORS

- Once the Junior Cheerleaders have been divided into age groups, we will divide them into smaller squads within their age group. Each squad will be lead by the same Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader for the whole season. This gives your child the unique opportunity to build a close relationship with their instructor.
- Requests for your child and their friend to be on the same squad will be honored.
- You will check your child in and out with their instructor and squad parent. Each squad will have two squad parents for the whole season. Please keep in mind that the squad parents are volunteers and donating their time to help (For more information on squad parents, please refer to page 5). It is your responsibility to make sure that your child has been properly checked in and out of every clinic or event. Your instructors and squad parents will get to know you and your child, so please make sure you let them know if anyone other than yourself is going to be picking them up. Please take all questions during clinics to the Youth Cheer Coordinator/information desk, as the instructors and squad parents are there for supervision and dance instruction of the Junior Cheerleaders.

GAMEDAY

- Gameday procedures allow parents the freedom to allow their child to participate in the program while tending to other children’s needs or having personal free time. Your child’s experience as a Junior Cheerleader and safety is our top priority.
- All Junior Cheerleaders are required to travel to and from the game on buses, no drop-offs at the stadium. All Junior Cheerleaders will travel on a bus with their squad, squad parents, head instructors and additional gameday parent volunteers (For more information on gameday volunteers please refer to page 6). No other parents besides the designated volunteers will be allowed on the bus. Everyone will meet the buses at Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center. This location was carefully chosen based on safety.
- There will be a rehearsal held on gameday at the complex prior to boarding the buses. All parents are welcome to stay to watch rehearsal and encouraged to take pictures. After rehearsal, Junior Cheerleaders will get on buses to travel to Lucas Oil Stadium for their gameday performance.



- The buses will arrive at the stadium 1 hour before their performance. Once everyone arrives at Lucas Oil Stadium, everyone will be taken to the exhibit hall in the stadium to drop off any extra items and use the restrooms. Then we will head to the field for their performance.
- We will occasionally have the opportunity to offer discounted tickets to you once the schedule is released. Every performance will be videoed and will be emailed to you as a downloadable link after each performance.
- If you do choose to purchase tickets to the game or have season tickets, you will be able to pick your child up at the stadium **AFTER** their performance. He or she will need to have their own ticket to the game in order to be able to be picked up. Pickup is at the bottom of the escalators behind the Funny Car Café located across from section 103 on the Northside of the stadium. Junior Cheerleaders will only be released to a parent on gameday for safety. You will need to clearly mark on the sign in/sign out sheet at check in that you will be picking your child up at the stadium. There will be a box on the sheet to check if you do choose this option. For halftime performances, your child will need to stay with the Junior Cheerleaders until after their performance. They will not be able to sit in the stands until after halftime. **Please be courteous and patient with squad parents when picking your child up at the stadium. We know everyone is anxious to get back to their seats, but safety of all Junior Cheerleaders is the number one priority.**
- Junior Cheerleaders will ride on the bus back to the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center immediately after the performance. We will give an exact time for parents to meet buses prior to gameday.

UNIFORM

- The Junior Colts Cheerleaders' uniform is a replica of the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleaders! **No uniform exchanges after purchase.**
- We ask that all uniform pieces for your child be used only for Junior Colts Cheerleading events and performances. If your child would like to wear their uniform to a public event not associated with the Colts, please run it by the Youth Cheer Coordinator. Wearing the uniform to school for "Colts Day," etc. is fine as long as your child's school approves.
- Feel free to wear the Junior Colts Cheerleader t-shirt whenever, but we do ask for poms to be kept in good condition.
- **We highly suggest writing your child's name in all uniform pieces.** There are lots of children in this program and they all have the same uniform. You and your child are responsible for all pieces of the uniform at games and clinics. If any part of the uniform gets lost, you will be responsible for replacement.
- Poms will be the hardest thing to keep track of. It is extremely likely that they will get switched around. Good news is, all the poms are exactly the same. Just be sure to double check that your child has two poms before leaving clinics or gameday. If they do get misplaced, you will need to replace them.
- **New poms, t-shirt and hair bow will need to be purchased every season.** We suggest that if you have poms from previous seasons, you use them for appearances and practice and use your new poms for gameday.



UNIFORM PRICING

- Uniform payment is due when you come to registration and have your child fitted. Parents are responsible for fitting the uniform at registration.
- All uniform items are taxed at the Indiana State tax rate of 7%
Total uniform price for new members with tax is **\$262.15**
- Uniform Dress: **\$140***
- Boots: **\$55***
- Poms, t-shirt and hair bow: **\$50***

** prices do not include tax*

When sizing your uniform, please keep in mind that it needs to fit through December 2020.

TUITION & REGISTRATION

- There is a **\$25** registration fee due when you register online.
- Tuition is **\$280** for June-December (includes 2 tickets to Colts home preseason game).
- We offer two payment options for tuition.
 - If you pay in full on the day of registration, we will offer a **\$25** discount. For a total of **\$255**.
 - You may also choose to pay in two installments.
Payments are due by the following Junior Cheer clinic dates:
\$140 due in June **\$140** due in September

DISCOUNTS

- We offer discounts for Colts employees, season ticket holders, fan club members and Alumni Colts Cheerleaders.

PAYMENT TYPE OPTIONS

- **NO CHECKS.** We will accept cash or any major credit card.

LATE FEES

- If you choose to pay tuition in two installments, we need to receive payment by the above listed dates. If payment becomes more than 30 days past due, we will apply a **\$25** late fee.

DROPPING

- If at any point during the season your daughter decides to drop out of Junior Colts Cheerleading, you will need to notify the Youth Cheer Coordinator. No refunds.

SCHEDULE

The Junior Colts Cheerleader schedule will be released in early May, once the NFL Football schedule is released.

- The Junior Colts Cheerleaders have the exciting opportunity to perform at several home games during the 2020 Colts season.
Dates: Will be announced at the end of May
- There will be several clinics led by the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleaders. All clinics will take place at the indoor practice field at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center or Westfield Middle School.
Dates: Summer clinics announced at registration.
Season clinics announced at the end of May.
- We will also have several opportunities throughout the season to do community appearances. We will communicate those opportunities to you in the monthly newsletter as they come up.



CORRESPONDENCE

All of our correspondence will be made through email.
Please inform the Youth Cheer Coordinator if you are not receiving emails or do not have an email address.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

SQUAD PARENTS

- Two squad parents per squad will be chosen as the elected volunteers for the season. These parents need to be available for ALL games and clinics to help supervise their squad. All squad parents must travel to and from the games on the buses with the Junior Colts Cheerleaders. Meaning, squad parents will not be able to stay and watch the game after the performance. There will be a mandatory squad parent meeting/training session at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center before the start of the season.
- Responsibilities will include helping with check-in and check-out at clinics/games and general supervision and safety of our Junior Cheerleaders.
- All interested volunteers must fill out an application to be considered. Squad parent application will be sent via email and will also be available at registration. Applications will be due at registration. Squad parents will be chosen by the Youth Cheer Coordinator based on availability, experience and application. All parents who apply are subjected to a background check.

GAME DAY VOLUNTEERS

- In addition to the two squad parents, three additional game day volunteers (per squad) will be chosen from the parent volunteer list for each game. There will be a sign up via email. Volunteers will only be allowed to volunteer for one game unless Youth Cheer Coordinator is in need of additional help. This will help give all parents the opportunity to volunteer, at least one game, if they desire.



PARENT GUIDELINES

During all Junior Cheerleading clinics, parents and families are always invited to stay and watch their child. Many parents however, choose to spend their free time elsewhere. If you choose not to stay, your child's safety is our #1 priority. The last half hour of all clinics will be a mini performance to show off what the children have learned during the clinic so we do encourage all parents to attend that portion.

If you do choose to stay, please keep in mind that you are there as a spectator and we ask that you watch quietly and allow the instructors to lead the program. If other children attend as spectators with you, please supervise them. Please do not allow them to run around the facility or become a distraction to the participants.

- **No parents/additional siblings are allowed on the outdoor practice field during clinics.**
- **No food or drink will be allowed at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football location.**
- **No lawn chairs will be allowed at the Indiana Farm Bureau location.**

The Youth Cheer Coordinator will make announcements to parents at the end of all clinics. General announcements and upcoming events will be discussed. The end of practice will be a good opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

If you have any questions or concerns during the season, please send those via email to the Youth Cheer Coordinator, Erin Smith—Erin.Smith@Colts.NFL.net. Email is the most sufficient way to communicate your questions and concerns.



CAN'T WAIT FOR THE 2020 SEASON!
LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING IT WITH YOU!