

Cheer Time USA



Informational Packet

2007/2008

United Starz Academy
923 Detroit Ct. Academy Suite 4
Morton, Illinois 61550
(309) 266- 1USA (1872)

Sunday, April 1, 2007

Dear perspective Team Member,

I would like this opportunity to introduce myself and a state of the art facility very close to you. My name is Kelly Taphorn and I am the owner and director of Cheer Time USA, which is located in Morton, Illinois. I live in Morton, I have four children, my husband's name is Matt, and I have been running Cheer Time USA and its programs for the past twelve years. Recently, Cheer Time USA and The Company Dance, Tumbling, and Fine Arts of Pekin, Illinois, decided to merge businesses and together create the United Starz Academy. The current facility is 4,800 square feet and with the new addition, set to open in August 2007, will total 9,400 square feet. The United Starz Academy will become Central Illinois's premier cheer, dance, and tumbling academy.

Cheer Time USA is a competitive all-star cheerleading gym that houses over eight teams in ages Pre School through adult. Yes, that's right; we have a parent team made up of parents, aunts, uncles, and even grandmothers. Competitive cheerleading has grown considerably in the past ten years as a sport that young athletes continue to participate in. Cheer Time USA has been ranked in the top 50 gyms in the country by the U.S. All Star Federation. We have produced numerous National-level teams in the past several years (*three of them on ESPN*). Cheer Time USA is the only gym in the area with every single staff member certified and credentialed in the competitive cheerleading and tumbling industry.

Cheer Time USA is currently in the process of preparing for the 2007/2008 season. Registration and team placements will be done during the months of April and May. Team members will begin practicing once a week during June and July and will begin their regular season practice in August. We have teams for all ages and abilities. Whether you want an elite competitive team that travels to several national competitions, or a team that focuses on minimal travel and local competitions, Cheer Time USA has a team for you.

Competitive cheerleading is not all that Cheer Time USA offers. Cheer Time USA also provides recreational classes for participants of all ages and abilities. We have stunt classes, Power cheer classes (*a conditioning class*), recreational cheer classes, and a variety of tumbling classes. We want children to experience the positive benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, a variety of classes are available to the public throughout the school year and the summer.

Please feel free to review the contents of the enclosed 2007/2008 Informational Packet. The Informational Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, at 7:00pm. We are looking forward to seeing you. If you have any questions please call me at (309) 266-1872 or (309) 253-4779.

Cheers,

Kelly Taphorn
Cheer Time USA



Cheer Time USA Coaching Staff

Team:

Twinkle Stars
Mini Prep
Youth L 3
Junior L 2
Junior L 4
Senior L 5

Head Coach:

Dawn Silverthorn
Jo Stamm
Jo Stamm
Kelly Taphorn
Kelly Taphorn
Kelly Taphorn

Coaching Staff: Kris Holcomb, Colleen Lentz, Leslie Leitner, RC San Jose, and Deb Wilson

Head Coaches:

Kelly Taphorn

- Owner and director of Cheer Time USA (12 years)
- Graduated for Illinois State University in 1990
- Illinois State University Cheerleader- 3 years
- 26 years in the cheerleading industry (cheered eleven of those years)
- Former Dynamic Cheerleaders Association (DCA) staff member
- Former Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) staff member
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF (U.S. All Star Federation) founding member
- Certified by AACCA, ACE, ACSM, and sever judging certifications
- Certified advisor Trainer for UCA educating coaches on Safety and Liability issues
- CPR and Advanced First Aid certified
- Cheerleading coach for more than 18 years. Choreographer- 14 years
- Tumbling Instructor – 11 years.

Jo Stamm

- Sportastiks Gymnastics Coach/Assistant Manager for 3 years
- Tumblebus Instructor for 9 years
- Cheer Time USA head coach for 3 years
- Cheer Time USA staff member for 7 years
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF Member
- AACCA Certified
- CPR and First Aid certified
- Choreographer- 3 years

Dawn Silverthorn

- Cheer Time USA head coach – 3 years
- Cheer Time USA staff member- 3 years
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF member
- JFL Cheerleading Director and coach- 3 years
- Former Cheerleader- 6 years
- Assistant Tumbling Instructor – 5 years

Assistant Coaches

Kris Holcomb

- Cheer Time USA staff member- 3 years
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF member
- Tumbling Instructor- 2 years
- Former Cheerleader- 3 years
- CPR certified

Leslie Leitner

- Cheer Time USA staff member
- USASF member
- Former Cheerleader- 6 years
- Assistant Tumbling Instructor- 1 year

Colleen Lentz

- Cheer Time USA staff member- 6 years
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- AACCA Safety Certification
- CPR certified

RC San Jose

- Member of Bradley University Cheer Team- 5 years
- Captain of Bradley University Cheer Team – 3 years
- Bradley University Assistant Cheerleading Coach- 2 years
- Bradley University Head Cheerleading Coach- 3 years
- USASF credentialed I Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and Tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF Member
- More than 15 years of judging experience
- Private coach for numerous middle schools and high schools
- Cheer Time USA coaching staff- 4 years

Deb Wilson

- Cheer Time USA staff member – 5 years
- USASF credentialed in Stunts Level 1-5, Tosses Level 2-5, and tumbling Level 1-5
- USASF Member
- Comp Art Gymnastic Academy – 3 years
- Gymnastic Etc. – 8 years
- Clubs at River City Gymnastic Coach- 3 years
- Rising Stars Gymnastic Academy- 3 years
- Private Coaching in gymnastics- 3 years
- AACCA Safety Certification
- USA Gymnastics Safety Certified
- CPR Certified



United Starz Academy 2007/2008

Team Descriptions

1. **Twinkle Stars:** The ages for this are 5 years and younger (preschool through kindergarten). This team is a beginner level for first year students that are currently working on motion technique, team synchronization, proper jump execution, remembering different formations, and beginning level stunt/pyramids. Beginning level tumbling such as somersaults and cartwheels are skills most team members can perform. Team members cannot perform standing back handsprings. This team will perform at local exhibitions and one to two local competitions. This team will not compete at any out-of-town competitions.
2. **Mini Prep:** The ages 8 years and younger (typically 1st-3rd grade). This team will practice once a week for 2 hours on cheerleading skills. Skill development for tumbling will not be incorporated into practice time. This team is a beginner level that will be working on enhancing motion technique, team synchronization, dance coordination, correct jump execution and landing technique and beginner to intermediate level stunts. This team will attend all local competitions, perform at some local exhibitions, and may possible attend one out-of-town competitions.
3. **Youth Level 2:** The ages for the Y2 team are 11 years and younger (4th-6th grade). This team will practice once a week for two hours on cheerleading. Skill development for tumbling will not be incorporated on the practice time. An additional tumbling class during the regular season is highly suggested. This team is a beginner to intermediate level that will be working on enhancing motion technique, team synchronization, dance coordination, correct jump execution and landing technique and beginner to intermediate level stunts. This team will attend all local competitions, perform at some local exhibitions, and may possible attend one out-of-town competitions. This team will NOT attend any national level competitions.
4. **Youth Level 3:** The ages are 11 years and younger (6th grade and younger). Individuals must have previous cheerleading and tumbling skills. This team will practice twice a week for 2 hours on cheerleading and tumbling skills. Tumbling skills will be incorporated into practice time. This team is an intermediate to advanced level team that is working on motion technique, team synchronization, dance coordination, correct jump execution and landing technique, and intermediate to advanced level stunts. The team is currently able to do express extensions with a pop cradle (twisting cradles), basket tosses, elevator/extension reloads, and pyramid transitions. Team members should be able to do a standing back handspring. This team will attend ALL competitions and perform at some local exhibitions. This team will participate in national-level competitions traveling up to 5-6 hours away. This team will be required to attend a private skills and choreography camp that will be held at our facility during the month of July.
5. **Junior Level 2:** The ages are 14 and younger (7th-9th grade). This team will practice twice a week for 2 hours on cheerleading skills. Tumbling skills are needed and will be incorporated into practice time. This is a beginner to intermediate level team that is currently working on correct motions including placement and execution. Rhythm and timing is emphasized and working together as one large unit. Jumps are worked on including height and form. This team is able to perform beginner to intermediate level stunts. For example, pop cradles from an extension, press up liberty with a brace support, rotating and reloading stunts, straight ride basket tosses, and single legged stunts at the prep level. Standing back handsprings are encouraged, but not mandatory. This team will compete at ALL competitions and perform at some local exhibitions. This team will participate in some national-level competitions traveling up to 5-6 hours away. This team will be required to attend a choreography camp that will be held at our facility.
6. **Junior Level 4:** The ages for the Junior L4 team is 14 years and younger (9th grade and younger). This team will practice twice a week for 2 hours on cheerleading skills and tumbling skills. Tumbling skills will be incorporated into the practice time. This team is an advanced level team that is currently working on correct motions including placement and execution. Rhythm and timing is emphasized and working together as one large unit. This team is able to perform

advanced to elite stunts. For example, double twisting cradles from an extension, free standing one-legged stunts with full downs, a variety of reloading stunts, and advanced level basket tosses. An above average toe touch is expected and the coaching staff will be furthering these skills. Team members MUST be able to do a standing back handspring, running tumbling (2-4 tricks in a pass), and working on standing back tucks. This team will attend ALL competitions and perform at some local exhibitions. This team will participate in national-level competitions traveling up to 5-6 hours away. This team may travel to the NASCC in Orlando, Florida in March 2008. This team will be required to attend a private choreography camp held outside our facility.

7. **Senior Level 3:** The ages for this team is 18 years and younger (7th-12th grade). This team will practice twice a week for 2 hours on cheerleading and tumbling skills. Tumbling skills will be incorporated into practice time. This team is an intermediate level team that is working on motion technique, team synchronization, dance coordination, correct jump execution and landing technique, and intermediate to advanced level stunts. The team is currently able to do express extensions with a pop cradle (twisting cradles basket tosses, elevator/extensions reloads, and pyramid transitions. Standing back handsprings are encouraged, but not mandatory. This team will compete at ALL competitions and perform at some local exhibitions. This team will participate in some national-level competitions traveling up to 5-6 hours away. This team will be required to attend a choreography camp that will be held at our facility in July.
8. **Senior Level 5:** The ages for this team is 18 years and younger (8th-12th grade). This team will practice twice a week for 2 hour and 30 minutes on cheerleading and tumbling skills. Tumbling skills will be incorporated into the practice time. This IS an elite level team that will be perfecting motion techniques, consecutive toe touches (2-4), and team synchronization. An above average consecutive toe touch is mandatory. The team members should have good flexibility and be able to perform the splits. Standing back tucks, scorpions/arabesques/heel stretches (double downs, multiple reloads in a group setting, and many variations of basket tosses. This team will participate in all competitions, special performances, and national-level competitions traveling up to 5-6 hours away. This team may travel to the NASCC in Orlando, Florida in March 2008. This team will also be required to attend a mandatory camp that will require out of town accommodations for team members only.
9. **Special Stars:** This team consists of intellectually challenged girls and boys who are physically functional. Some physical disability in addition to intellectual disability is allowed with a physician's approval and release. By intellectual disability, the same definition used by the World Health Organization and adopted by the Special Olympics, will apply. This team will compete against other special needs teams from around the country if they are present at the local competitions. Otherwise, during this current season will perform in the exhibition category.
10. **Parent Team:** This team is made up of parents or family members who have a child on a current Cheer Time USA Team. This team will meet in the evenings after team practices have ended. Practices begin in September and team members will decide whether to meet once or twice a month. This team will perform at least once throughout the year.



**United Starz Academy
Competitive Cheerleading Teams
2007/2008 Fees**

Competitive cheerleading can be very costly. We at Cheer Time USA want to do our best to make it as affordable as possible. After many hours of research, Cheer time USA continues to charge considerably less for a competitive cheerleading program that has been nationally ranked for the past four years. The research that was done is available for your viewing. Copies are located in the observation room and at the front desk. We encourage parents to compare Cheer Time USA with other all-star gyms.

Tuition Summary:

Team:	Length (per week)	Number of Coaches:	Monthly Tuition
Twinkle Stars	1 hour	1 (1 assistant)	\$40.00/4 hours
Mini Team	2 hours	1 (2 assistants)	\$55.00/8 hours
Youth L2	2 hours	1 (2 assistants)	\$55.00/8 hours
Youth L3	4 hours	1 (3-4 assistants)	\$75.00/16 hours
Junior L2	4 hours	1 (2 assistants)	\$75.00/16 hours
Junior L4	4 hours	3	\$75.00/16 hours
Senior L 3	4 hours	1 (1-2 assistants)	\$75.00/16 hours
Senior L 5	5 hours	3	\$80.00/20 hours

Payment Information

- Tuition and competition fees are due on the 1st of every month, beginning in June and ending in March of the following year. If a team member is more than 5 days late (5th of the month) he or she will NOT be allowed to practice or compete until payment has been received. No Exceptions! If you are unable to practice due to an illness or injury, the monthly installment is still due.
- NEW! Tuition may be paid ACH (Automatic checking or savings debit), personal check, cashier's check, money order or cash. We are currently surveying the need for a credit and debit terminal- please fill out the questionnaire at the end of the informational packet.
- If your check or ACH is returned \$25.00 fee will be charged and you must pay cash or a cashier's check.
- Cheer Time USA **highly recommends** that you sign up for our automatic (ACH) of you checking or savings account option to make payments.
- NEW! Family discount: the third child will receive a \$5.00 discount off their monthly tuition.

- There are no refunds or partial monthly credits or cheerleading fees if you choose not to continue, unable to participate (this includes vacations, etc.), or are removed from a Cheer Time USA team.
- Please realize that we register for competitions 60-90 days in advance. If you are unable to compete due to injury or illness, **the competition fee is not refundable from the competition company.**
- Fund raisers will be available throughout the season to help offset your expenses.