

Etowah Junior Eagles Cheer



2026 TRYOUT INFORMATION & FORMS

Tryout Documentation Checklist

- Meets all Cheerleader eligibility requirements.
- Submitted registration by EOD April 13, 2026
- Registration Online- www.etowahjuniorcheer.com
 - A. Go to www.etowahjuniorcheer.com
 - B. Create a PARENT account. You will add your athlete after your account has been created. Make sure to make note of the email address and password you choose, because this will be used all season to login.
 - C. Complete the registration information.
 - D. Please make sure to put your child's grade that they will be starting for the **2026-2027** school year.
- o Registration (March 2 - April 13) - \$45 Fee
- o Required Paperwork to be submitted online at www.etowahjuniorcheer.com. **Please read the entire Tryout Information Packet found under documents on our website before registering.** All paperwork must be uploaded to www.etowahjuniorcheer.com.
 - o Registration Form
 - o Athletic Parental Consent, Insurance, Authorization and Waiver Release Form - Complete **ALL 4 pages**, sign, convert to a PDF and upload to your account at www.etowahjuniorcheer.com.
 - o Physical Form (Check w/your primary physician or minute clinics offer sports physicals. Physicals are only valid for 12 months) - MUST be completed, converted to a PDF, and uploaded to www.etowahjuniorcheer.com before the first day of the tryout clinic. If you do not have your physical completed when registering, you can upload a document that says "Physical to be Provided", but must be uploaded by April 20th.
 - o Appendix J Student Code of Conduct
 - o Copy of most recent report card (not academic update) - (must have A-C (71 or better) in all classes)
 - o Cheerleader Agreement/Parent Agreement
 - o Appendix J Acknowledgement



Etowah Junior Eagles Cheer

2026 EJC Calendar of Events

March:

Sunday, March 1st - 7:00 p.m. - Informational Meeting (Virtual) - link will be provided on social media and posted to the website.

Monday, March 2nd - Registration Opens.

April: .

Sunday, April 5th- Early registration period closes.

Monday, April 13th- Registration Closes. Registration must be completed and submitted online by this date. Registration fee MUST be paid by Day 1 of clinics or athletes will not be allowed to participate.

Monday, April 20th - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - TRYOUT CLINICS - New Gym at Etowah (All tryout paperwork due at check in. Any athlete with incomplete forms or missing physical forms will be unable to participate.) ET Booth students will dismiss as car riders and walk over to the Etowah New Gym.

Tuesday, April 21st - 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. - TRYOUT CLINICS - New Gym at Etowah. ET Booth students will dismiss as car riders and walk over to the Etowah New Gym.

Wednesday, April 22nd - 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. - TRYOUT CLINICS - New Gym at Etowah. ET Booth students will dismiss as car riders and walk over to the Etowah New Gym.

Thursday, April 23rd - TRYOUTS – 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. (or until all girls get to tryout) at the New Gym at Etowah. Check-in will begin at 3:45 pm. Tryouts will start with rising 6th graders, then 7th and finish with 8th. Rising 7th and 8th graders **will wait to be released till after 2nd load at ET Booth**. They will change in the locker room **at ET Booth** and arrive in tryout attire. Locker rooms will not be available at the High School. The girls will be escorted to Etowah HS for tryouts. Estimated start time to begin rising 7th grade tryouts is at 4:45 p.m. Tryouts can run long depending on the number of participants. We encourage you to pack an additional snack for the day.

Friday, April 24th - Team Placement will be announced after 5:00 p.m. via social media. Emails will be sent out as soon as possible.

Sunday, April 26th 7:00 p.m. - MANDATORY Parent Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 28th 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. – MANDATORY Fitting @ ET Booth Cafeteria. Varsity rep will be present for measuring. Rising 7th and 8th graders will head to the cafeteria immediately after dismissal. Rising 6th graders should arrive at 5:30 PM.

May:

Junior Eagles Spring Scrimmage Game- Date, Time and Location TBD. (Encouraged but NOT mandatory)

Team Building Event- Date, Time and Location TBD. **This is Mandatory.** Event will be determined by each squad.

July

Wednesday, July 8th, 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. - MANDATORY Cheer Camp: Location TBD

Thursday, July 9th, 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. - MANDATORY Cheer Camp: Location TBD

Friday, July 10th, 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. - MANDATORY Cheer Camp: Location TBD ***Parent Showcase will immediately follow.**

August:

Saturday - Date, Time and Location TBD- Photo Day with SMAX @ Etowah. Individual and Squad pictures will be taken. This will be the only time pictures are available. No Makeup dates.

After school 2x week 4:30 - 6:00 pm - After school practice @ ET BOOTH will start. Days to be announced at a later date. Practice usually begins the first full week of school.

Saturdays in August: Games will begin. The schedule will be posted once received. There will be a game on Labor Day weekend.

September:

There will be a game for Labor Day weekend and at the beginning or end of fall break. Please plan your vacations/trips accordingly.



Etowah Junior Eagles Cheer

Cheerleader Eligibility

- **Grades:** Passing Grades (A-C or 71 or better) in all classes as well as satisfactory Conduct Grades. Grades will be looked at for the entire year. Report cards will need to be submitted online when registering and will be requested throughout the season.
- **Discipline:** No outstanding disciplinary issues at school. Any disciplinary issues at school must be reported to the EJC Board immediately.
- **Previous Cheer Account:** All uniform rentals, megaphones, pom poms and balances from any prior season with EJC must be in good standing.

Time Commitments

Practices: Practices will be held twice a week starting the first or second week of school and will continue through October. These practices will be held at ET Booth by the bus lanes or the front field of ET Booth immediately following dismissal. Cheer coaches, a board member(s) will be in attendance. There may also be a need for a few choreography clean up practices in the EHS Gym. Communication will go out about that early in the season. All practices are **MANDATORY**. If practice has to be canceled for any reason, the school will make an announcement and communication will be sent from the board. We do our best to make these decisions by 2:00 that day.

Games: Football games are on Saturdays starting in late August and running through October. They usually last 2-3 hours. We **WILL** have a game on **Labor Day weekend** and **one of the weekends of Fall Break in September**. The post season can run through the first week of December. We typically get the schedule from the football program in late July/early August. All games are **MANDATORY**.

Cheer Coaches

Etowah Junior Cheer coaches are Varsity Etowah cheerleaders that have been screened and selected by the board. Coaches are employed by the EJC Organization. The primary responsibility of the coaches is to promote team spirit, responsibility for self, proper behavior, respect for others and to ensure the safety and well being of each cheerleader at all times.

General Tryout Information

***This is NOT a school-sponsored activity please check www.etowahjuniorcheer.com or email etowahjuniorcheer@gmail.com with questions. **To be eligible to tryout, the cheerleader MUST attend all days of the tryout clinic.**

Attire:

- Black shorts (No Nike pro or spandex)
- White T-shirt (Plain white t-shirt marked with number given to you)
- Hair pulled back in ponytail
- Sneakers or cheer shoes with white no show socks
- No jewelry

Clinic: Monday- Wednesday, April 20th-22nd (4:00- 6:00 pm) at the New Gym at Etowah

Cheerleaders will be taught a dance, a cheer, and a chant to be performed at tryouts. Cheerleaders will also have the opportunity to work on jumps for tryouts. Mats for tumbling will only be available on the day of tryouts. Each participant will receive a YouTube link with music to enable them to practice the dance routine. ET Booth students will dismiss as car riders and walk over to Etowah's New Gym.

Tryouts: Thursday, April 23rd at Etowah High School New Gym

NO spectators for tryouts. Parents/Guardians may wait outside the new gym. Please do not enter the building during our tryout times.

Tryouts will begin with 6th grade @ 4:00 sharp and run until completed.

All participants should wear a ***plain white t-shirt with their number clearly marked on the front and back of the shirt***, black shorts (no Nike Pro or Spandex), high ponytail, sneakers or cheer shoes, no show white socks, and no jewelry. Tumblers will have the opportunity to warm up prior to tryout.



Rising 6th graders must arrive at Etowah at the new gym entrance. Check-in at 3:45 p.m. Tryouts will begin at 4:00 p.m. sharp. Remember that the High School Releases at 3:15. Things clear out pretty quickly there so please plan your arrival after the HS students have cleared.

Rising 7th and 8th graders will wait to be released till after 2nd load at ET Booth. They will change in the locker room at ET Booth and arrive in tryout attire. Locker rooms will not be available at the High School. The girls will be escorted to Etowah HS for tryouts. Estimated start time to begin at 4:45 p.m. Tryouts can run long depending on the number of participants. We encourage you to pack an additional snack for the day.

Team Placement/Judging:

The number of girls chosen for each squad will be determined by the Natural Break in the scores. Results from the tryouts will be posted by each participant's number to social media and emails will be sent on Friday, April 24th.

Judging: Each cheerleader will be judged by a panel of collegiate cheerleaders and will be judged in the following categories:

- Spirit (10)
- Cheer (10)
- Dance (10)
- Chant (10)
- Toe Touch (10)
- Three consecutive jumps OR tumbling pass (5)

- Camp Participation/ Attitude (10)
- Appearance (correct tryout attire, confidence) (5)

Cheerleader - General

The Cherokee County School District has determined that participation in interscholastic & extracurricular activities is a privilege for students enrolled in the School District. A student participating in such activities is considered to be a school leader; and, with leadership comes additional responsibility. Consequently, students must adhere to the standards and expectations contained in the School District's Activity Code of Conduct (Appendix J). As such, if a student violates these standards, the board may withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities, regardless of whether the violation occurred at a school-related or non-school-related activity. The board may also withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities if the student violations occur outside of the scope of the activity's "season"; or, beyond the scope of the school day or year.

We consider cheerleading a sport that will push you physically and mentally to strive to reach a higher skill level. With this in mind, it is expected that each cheerleader will:

- Display a strong work ethic
- Have a positive attitude on and off the field.
- Respect all coaches, board members, team moms, fellow squad members and authority figures.
- Attend ALL mandatory camps, practices and games.
- Adhere to the dress code for practices and games.
- Keep all grades above passing (A-C) in all classes and keep good conduct grades. Report cards will be required to be turned in during the season and if there are any violations to the grade policy, the cheerleader will be put on academic probation. Academic probation only applies to those who have made the squad.
- Display appropriate behavior in their daily life. This includes, but is not limited to; no fighting, no cursing and or the display of other disruptive or inappropriate behavior in public or social networks. DO NOT USE drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco- use of such products is strictly prohibited and will be grounds for dismissal. Any disciplinary actions at school must be reported by email to the EJC Board immediately. Failure to report to the EJC Board could result in suspension or dismissal from the cheer squad.
- DO NOT USE Social Media/personal email/personal cell phone to threaten, intimidate, or insult or bully others. This includes, but is not limited to, text messages, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter and Snapchat communication or any other social media. Any inappropriate screen names, pictures, phrases, or songs on your social media page/profile or text may result in disciplinary action as well.
- As cheerleaders and representatives of the Etowah Junior Cheer Program, you are role models and are expected to be on your best behavior at all times. Discipline will be based on the severity of the violation. It may include sitting out of all or part of a game or could result in dismissal from the squad. Depending on the severity of the violation, The Board will discuss the issue with the Etowah Athletic Director and determine the consequences.

Parents – General

- Our first priority is the safety of the cheerleaders. Our second priority is for each squad to have fun representing the Etowah district by showcasing their talent on the sidelines as well as during the halftime show. It will take many hours of hard work involving the entire squad to make this happen. As a parent/guardian of an Etowah Junior Cheerleader your child's squad will need your help and support and expect you as a parent/guardian to:
 - Attend all Parent/Guardian Meetings.
 - Pay all cheerleading fees by the due dates.
 - Ensure that your child is at all required practices, games, and camps dressed appropriately and on time! If a pattern begins with a parent that is consistently late, your cheerleader may have to sit out a specified amount of time at the next game and could be removed from the squad. This pertains to picking up from practice as well.
 - Give positive support to coaches, cheerleaders, team moms and board members at all times.
 - Attend the games and display good spirit, sportsmanship and attitude.
 - Sign and Adhere to the "[Appendix J: Student Activity Code of Conduct](#)"
 - Support your cheerleader and encourage team spirit and cooperation.
 - Go through the chain of command for all issues: starting with the team mom and going up from there to solve problems/disputes.

- Support the organization by volunteering your time as needed. There are several volunteer opportunities available (practice parents, banner parents, dance chaperones etc.) It is the expectation that each family will volunteer 2-3 hours during the season.
- Pick up your child in a timely manner after practices. If you are habitually late picking your cheerleader up from practice, demerits will be issued.

***Failure to abide by the parent responsibilities may result in one or all of the following:**

- Suspension of parent(s) from practice and/or games
- Your child being dismissed from the squad.

Attendance Policy

Cheerleaders must arrive on time, fully dressed for each practice or game. An absent cheerleader affects the entire team's opportunity to safely practice and perform their skills, particularly relating to their halftime routine, to which they have dedicated significant time, and extraordinary heart, sweat, and teamwork.

ABSENCES

***Parents **MUST** email the board regarding any cheerleader absences, tardies, or if your cheerleader needs to leave early. Notifying the team mom does **NOT** mean the board has or will be notified. Always send an email: EtowahJuniorEaglesCheer@gmail.com

Excused Absences

- Death in the family
- Personal illness (doctor's note preferable)
- Religious holiday/event
- School Mandated Event

Unexcused Absences

- Any absences that do not meet the requirements of an excused absence.
- (1) unexcused missed practice will result in being issued 3 demerits.
- Any (2) unexcused missed practices from August-October will result in sitting out the first quarter of the following game, NO EXCEPTIONS
- Any unexcused missed game will result in sitting out the first half of the following game, NO EXCEPTIONS
- If any cheerleader accumulates 2 unexcused games absences during the season, they will be removed from the halftime routine. NO EXCEPTIONS

Other Absences

- Any other absences must be turned in to the board in writing in a timely manner for consideration on a case-by-case basis. This is intended to allow families to attend important events such as family weddings, baptisms, reunions, school functions etc.

TARDIES

- First time offense will result in a warning; excessive tardies are not permitted and will result in demerits.

INJURIES

- Cheerleaders who are unable to cheer due to injury must attend each practice or game in full dress/uniform, and sit with the coach/team.

MANDATORY DATES

- Cheerleaders are expected to attend ALL mandatory dates for the entire duration of the event including Camp, Stunt Clinic, Team Building, Practices and Games.
- Some dates have not been officially set in stone, and are, therefore, subject to change; attendance is still expected, regardless of changes.
- Labor Day Weekend/Fall Break: Games are scheduled Labor Day weekend as well as one of the weekends during the Cherokee County fall break. These are treated as all other games for attendance purposes.

Dress Code

Practices:

- Hair pulled back, no show socks, appropriate racerback sports bra (racerback/**make sure no bra straps are showing**), white cheer shoes, correct practice wear per day, no jewelry.

Friday before Game Day:

- Uniforms will be worn to school on the Friday prior to games UNLESS otherwise instructed by coaches/board.

Games:

- Hair in pony (unless otherwise specified), team bow, no show white socks, no jewelry, white cheer shoes, uniform, white racerback sports bra.
- Must bring poms, team water jug, cheer bag with all apparel--jacket, leggings, poncho, etc.
- All athletes must be in the SAME uniform throughout the entire game, including, if necessary, raincoat, leggings, jacket etc.. If a cheerleader does not have the item needed, they will sit out until it is brought to the game.
- **Home Games:** Arrive on the track in uniform and ready to warm up **30 minutes before game time**.
- **Away Games:** Arrive on the track in uniform and ready to warm up **30 minutes before game time**.
- Cheerleaders are expected to stay for the duration of the game. Games WILL be scheduled over Labor Day and Fall Break. Please make note of this on your calendar now and plan accordingly.
- Pom Poms are provided by EJC and are the property of the program. Each cheerleader will be responsible for their pair of poms during the season. Poms are to be returned to EJC at the end of the season. Any cheerleader with lost or damaged beyond use poms will be charged \$25 for their replacement.

Demerits will be given for Dress Code infractions. An infraction will not be given if the offense is immediately fixable, i.e. a cheerleader left her watch on, but can remove it when reminded OR if a cheerleader forgot a bow but her teammate has an extra.

Demerits

Etowah Junior Cheerleaders are leaders in the community representing the Etowah Cheer program. Participation in this program is an honor and a privilege and as such, our cheerleaders are expected to act above and beyond the expectation of conduct. To achieve these goals, we use a demerit system. This demerit system is our primary disciplinary tool, and it serves as a general guideline for the expectations of every Etowah Junior Cheerleader. Demerits are cumulative throughout the season; and can be given by coaches or EJC Board. Coaches and EJC Board reserve the right to assign extra demerits, as they deem necessary. Cheerleaders dismissed from the Etowah Junior Cheer Program will not be entitled to any refunds.

Point Allocation

1 point	Use of cell phone without permission during practice or game
1 point	Arrival to game in incomplete uniform
1 point	Not following weekly practice wear attire
1 point	Excessive talking or horse play during practice or game
1 point	Long nails, artificial nails, colored nail polish at games or practice. Sport length and neutral colored nails are acceptable.
1 point	Leaving trash behind at practice or game.
1 point	Habitually getting picked up late from practice. A warning will be issued. After the warning, demerits will be given.
1 point	Entering the locker room before second wave dismissal.
3 points	Unexcused missed practice.
3 points	Use of foul language or poor sportsmanship.
3 points	Leaving early or being tardy to practice or game WITHOUT notification to the Board.

Sit out 1/4	Unexcused missed practice
Sit out 1/2	Unexcused missed game
6 points*	Arguing, bullying, gossiping, fighting
6 points*	Insubordination, extreme unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate/disrespectful behavior toward any Etowah Junior Cheer coach, team parent, volunteer, or toward the opposing team and their coaches, parents, etc.
6 points*	ANY inappropriate or illegal behavior on social media, email, or text, including, but not limited to, saying/posting/lip-syncing curse words, racial slurs, sexual messages/innuendos, posting/texting/emailing inappropriate or potentially harmful photos, inappropriate dress, inappropriate posts/messages on personal page/account or a third parties page/account, etc.
6 points*	Inappropriate behavior that results in suspension or reflects negatively on the reputation of Etowah Junior Cheer Program - failure to abide by Cherokee County County Code of Conduct (Appendix J), etc. Use of smoking/vapes, drinking, drugs will result in immediate dismissal from Etowah Junior Cheer.

Accumulated Points/Consequence:

- 3 points: Conditioning - 25 pushups, 25 sit ups, 15 burpees, and 1 lap.
- *6 points: Conditioning - 25 pushups, 25 sit ups, 15 burpees, and 2 laps AND sit out first quarter of the following game.
- 9 points: 50 pushups, 50 sit ups, 25 burpees, run 1 lap AND sit out first quarter of the following game.
- 12 points: 50 pushups, 50 sit ups, 25 burpees, run 2 laps AND sit out first HALF of the following game.
- 15 points: Immediate removal from the half-time routine.
- 20 points: Dismissed from the squad.
- Incorrect practice attire: will result in at practice conditioning- 25 burpees.
 - Multiple offenses (2+)- 25 burpees and 1 lap.
- 2 Unexcused missed practices: Sit out the first quarter of the following game.
- Unexcused missed game: Sit out first half of the following game.
- 2 Unexcused Game Absences: Immediate removal from the half-time routine.

*Any offense in the **6-point** category will result in automatic sitting of the first quarter of the following game.



Etowah Junior Eagles Cheer

Breakdown of Fees

Tryout Fee: \$45

- Facility
- Clinics (Varsity Helpers)
- Judges
- Insurance Rider

EJC Program Dues: \$915 for new athletes, \$815 for returning athletes

- Uniform
- Cold Weather Wear - Jacket and Joggers
- Cheer Bag - We are reusing bags from last year. If you do not need a new bag, dues will be \$815
- Water Bottle - Water bottles will be reused every year. If you need a new one, the cost is \$15.
- Compression Shorts
- Game Day Bow
- Practice Wear Tank/Shirt
- Camp - 3-days, Music and Choreography
- Technique Clinic- 1 day
- Coaches (Paid)
- Team Mom squad funds (home game goodie bags, parade decorations, etc) \$25 each cheerleader
- Homecoming Dance (admission included)
- Banquet (No additional cost for cheerleaders)
- End of Season Gifts
- Squad Supplies

***Note:** Pom Poms are provided by EJC and are the property of the program. Each cheerleader will be responsible for their pair of poms during the season. Poms are to be returned to EJC at the end of the season. Any cheerleader with lost or damaged beyond use poms will be charged \$25 for their replacement.

Additional Uniform Items Required (at additional cost):

(All items must be approved by board member)

- White **racerback** sports bra for game days. **(straps must not be visible while in uniform or practice wear)**
- Black, grey, or white **racerback** sports bra for practice **(straps must not be visible while in uniform or practice wear)**
- All white cheer shoes with white laces