Expectations & Policies Overview
2018-2019

There are certain philosophies and policies that will govern the Texas Tech Spirit Program. These policies and expectations are subject to change. Members are expected to follow the policies set forth in this document. Failure to do so may result in termination from Program.

Given the opportunity to be a member of the Texas Tech Spirit Program will be considered a privilege; it is understood that any person dedicated to being a part of the Spirit Program is also making a philosophical commitment to the program. This is a yearlong commitment. The intent is to continue elevating the program in the Lubbock community, the state of Texas, and nationally during games, appearances, and competition. The Texas Tech Spirit Program is in the Division of Undergraduate Education & Student Affairs within the Center for Campus Life office. Comprised of a Co-Ed Cheer Squad, All-Girl Cheer Squad, Pom Squad, Raider Red, and the Masked Rider, the Spirit Program is managed by a Spirit Program Director, Cheer & Mascot Coach, and Pom Squad Coach.

**Purpose & Mission:**
The Texas Tech Spirit Program will promote and uphold Texas Tech spirit and traditions while striving to motivate, inspire, and entertain fans at games, appearances, community outreach events, and competitions. Members will maintain a good sportsmanship while focusing on academic success, student development, leadership opportunities, student health and wellbeing while operating within safety regulations set forth by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches & Administrators (AACCA).

**Program Benefits:**
Each member meeting eligibility qualify for the following benefits:
- Quality Education
- Academic Leadership Scholarship ($1,000 split into two equal payments, waives out of state tuition)
- Travel Expenses Paid for out of town games
- Uniforms, Camp & Practice Attire, and Equipment Provided
- Partial Meal Plan
- Academic Tutoring Services Provided
- Discounted Family Football Tickets
- Contracted Athletic Trainer
- Supportive Alumni
- Collegiate National Competition Opportunities
- Tanning & Skin Care Services
- Eyelash Extensions & Services
- Texas Tech & Big 12 Conference Experiences and Traditions

**Academic Status & Eligibility:**
Members must maintain good academic standing during year of service. Each must demonstrate academic progress in securing a degree. The Spirit Program Director & Coaches through grade and attendance checks will monitor academic progress. To be eligible, students must maintain a 2.00 (or higher) current and cumulative GPA.
Attendance:
While your academic success is priority, the success of the team depends on everyone being at practices, assigned games, camp/clinics, and appearances.

Program members may have to give up part, or all, of their Thanksgiving holiday break, winter holiday break and Spring Break to attend practices, games, and/or appearances.

The Spirit Program will cover, but not limited to, football, women’s volleyball, and men’s & women’s basketball games, and selected other Texas Tech sports. Members may also have the opportunity to travel to post season football bowl games, conference and NCAA/NIT post-season basketball tournaments. In addition, public appearances are required by squad members to attend throughout the year. Incentives should not have to be offered when needs for appearances are announced. It is the responsibility of each member to make public appearances. Spirit Program members will also be required to attend summer practices.

Conduct:
Spirit Program members are highly visible symbols of Texas Tech University and, thus, must conduct themselves accordingly at ALL times. You should do nothing to bring embarrassment to the University, your family, your squad, Coaches/Spirit Program Director, the Center for Campus Life, or to yourself.

Personal Appearance & Uniforms
Spirit Program members will practice good personal hygiene and be well groomed.

Cheer Males: Facial hair must be shaved for a “clean cut” look at games and appearances, hair must be a natural shade of color with a professional looking hairstyle/cut. Cheer shoes provided by program must be worn for practices, games, appearances, and competitions.

Female Cheerleaders: Must have hair pulled half-up for games, appearances, and competitions. Ponytails are recommended for practices. A grosgrain ribbon will be used for games, appearances, and practices. Hair color should be natural in appearance. Curled hair is required due to television and photo opportunities. Cheer shoes provided by program must be worn for practices, games, appearances, and competitions.

Pom Squad: Must have hair fixed appropriately for the uniform assigned. Hairstyles may change for different functions, games, and events, but ultimately the decision is that of the coach. All hair color should be natural in appearance. Shoes provided by the program must be worn for practices, games, appearances, and competitions.

All body tattoos are required to be covered and not be visible for tryouts, games, appearances, or competitions. Exception will be game-day facial tattoos provided by Spirit Program.

Financial Resources:
The Spirit Program is supported by student service fees and operates from an annual predetermined budget managed by the Spirit Program Director that serves as the primary financial source for the squad; however, there may be times that squad members are asked to fundraise or pay for certain items.

Coaching Staff:
The Spirit Program Staff were selected by Texas Tech University to provide leadership, oversight, and guidance to the TTU Spirit Program.

Insurance/Injuries:
It is expected that each member have personal health insurance coverage. A current copy of the member’s insurance card must be handed in and will be kept on file in the Spirit Program office. Texas Tech University does not have insurance to cover injury or illness arising from participation in spirit activities.

An athletic trainer will be available for consultation and treatment on injuries.