Expectations & Policies Overview
2013-2014

There are certain philosophies and policies that will govern the Texas Tech Spirit Program. Members are expected to follow the policies set forth in this document. A full version of program's expectations will be reviewed following tryouts/auditions.

Given the opportunity to be a member of the Texas Tech Spirit Program will be considered a privilege; 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. 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 Coach, and Pom Squad Coach. (See appendix A: Organization Chart)

Purpose & Philosophies:
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 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
• On-Campus Partial Meal Plan
• Academic Tutoring Services Provided
• Discounted Family Football Season Tickets
• Contracted Trainer
• Supportive Alumni
• Collegiate National Competition
• Tanning & Skin Care Services
• Strength & Conditioning Workout Program
• 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. Failure to maintain GPA standards may result in consequences and possible squad removal.

Attendance:
While your academic success is priority, the success of the team depends on everyone being at practices, assigned games, campclinics, 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. Spirit Program members will also be **required** to attend **summer practices** and **summer camp**.

Events in your personal life do not take precedence over Texas Tech Spirit Program activities. Once schedules are finalized, you must follow the procedure for obtaining game substitutes. The Coaches will deal with any exceptions.

It is understood that an advanced skill level is expected in the Texas Tech Spirit Program. Practice times are for the Coach and team to work on skills together. It is understood that you will have to devote time outside of practice to attain a higher skill level, increase difficulty, stamina, and consistency. Therefore, “open gyms” may be built into and added the regular practice schedule.

Due to conflicting schedules, members of the Texas Tech Spirit Program will not be allowed to participate in Fall Greek Life Recruitment. If interested in participating in Spring Recruitment, member must discuss with Head Coach prior to enrolling.

**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.

Selection as a Spirit Program member separates you from the remainder of the Texas Tech student body. All members must adhere to the Texas Tech University's Student Code of Conduct (www.ttu.edu/studenthandbook).

A **positive attitude** is essential. Any attitudes that appear detrimental to the success of the Spirit Program will be addressed. The Coach and Spirit Program Director do reserve the right to sideline or dismiss a member based on attitude.

**Personal Appearance & Uniforms**

**Uniformity** is one important aspect of a Spirit Program. Any unapproved deviation from the requested dress will have consequences. Spirit Program members will **not be allowed to wear clothing advertising another university/college** while serving as a Spirit Program member.

Uniforms, practice/travel attire, and warm ups must be kept neat and clean. You are responsible for the upkeep of the items in your possession.

All returnable items, such as uniforms and wind suits, will be returned at the end of the season. If you should choose to leave or are dismissed from the Spirit Program, you will be required to return all Tech Spirit items within 48 hours of departure.

**Eating Disorders & Use of Artificial Enhancements:**
Texas Tech Spirit Program members are expected to **maintain** an appearance this is viewed as athletic. A **balanced diet and conditioning** are necessary. The use of artificial enhancements will not be condoned nor supported by the Texas Tech Spirit Program. Anyone contemplating use of supplements or new nutritional programs should seek the advice of the team's athletic trainer.

**Travel:**
The coach will determine traveling squad. Spots will be determined based on recruiting, skills, attitude, tryout results, academic standing, and seniority.
At all times during travel, squad members' behavior shall be **exemplary** and a **great representation** of Texas Tech University.

**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. *(See Appendix A: Organizational Chart)*

**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. Individuals must seek advisement on level of participation if an injury occurs. Excusing oneself without trainer's, or doctor note, may result in an absence. If an injury occurs, the team's athletic trainer and voluntary doctor must release before being able to participate in any practice, game, appearance, or competition.

**Competitions/Nationals:**
While national competitions are an important part of our program, they are secondary to our main mission of promoting and supporting Texas Tech at athletic events and public appearances.