



Expectations & Policies Overview 2020-2021

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, 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**. Failure to maintain GPA standards may result in consequences.

All members will be required to attend at least **one hour** of study hall and/or tutoring. **First year** students will be required to do **two hours** of study hall each week.

Attendance:

While your academic success is priority, the success of the team depends on **everyone** being at practices, assigned games, camp/clinics, and appearances. Coach may require written documentation prior to an absence.

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**.

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.

You may risk immediate dismissal or suspension from the Spirit Program for the following:

- Attending any practice, game, appearance, or competition under the influence or suspected consumption of alcohol and/or other non-prescribed drugs. This includes smelling of alcohol (breath or body).
- Illegal substance abuse or habitual substance abuse (including alcohol).
- If arrested or illegal behavior.
- Any actions/behavior deemed inappropriate by Spirit Program Director/Coaches.

Personal Appearance & Uniforms

Uniformity is one important aspect of a Spirit Program. Practices attire will be scheduled at the beginning of the year. 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 body tattoos are required to be covered and not be visible for games, appearances, or competitions. Exception will be game-day facial tattoos. Body jewelry of any type is not allowed for practice, games, appearances, or competitions. Also applies for gum, candy, and hats.

All returnable items, such as uniforms and wind suits, will be returned at the end of the season.

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.

Travel:

The coach will determine traveling squad. Spots will be determined based on recruiting, skills, attitude, tryout results, academic standing, and seniority. The size of the squad traveling will be determined by budget restrictions and in accordance with the Big 12 Conference, the NCAA, and University rules and regulations.

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. The coach and athlete relationship and squad relationships are of the highest value to a successful team. **Mutual respect** should be displayed to all members of the team and staff.

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. 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:

The National's Squad team member selection is at the discretion of the Coach. The decision is final and based on, but not limited to attitude, timeliness throughout year, progress in all skill levels, routine elements, and performance ability. Discipline issues may also be considered. The Coach can replace members of the National's team with an alternate at any given time.

End-of -Year Recognition Gifts:

Students who are in good standing on the squad may receive a gift for each year of completed service on the squad.