

## Registration for the 2026-2027 season of Biddeford Recreation Youth Competition Cheerleading opens this September!

Biddeford Recreation is pleased to welcome back returning Head Coaches Catrina Wade, Hannah Beaupre, and Adrianna Miller! Combined, our coaches bring over two decades of youth coaching experience to our program. Supporting our program will also be a dedicated group of volunteer junior coaches.

This season we are offering divisions for Pre-K to 8th grade. Each team can accommodate up to 20 participants (*minimum of 10 required per team to hold the division*). The season runs from October 2026 through early April 2027 and includes three to five competitions or exhibitions for each team in winter/spring, depending on division.

See below for details on this exciting season!

### Mark your Calendars!

### Team Evaluations: Sunday, October 11, 2026

**Registration required:** all cheerleaders participating in evaluations must sign up at [biddefordrec.com](http://biddefordrec.com) and pay the eval fee.

#### Evaluation Fee: \$50.00

*Following evaluations, Team Fees will be invoiced minus the cost of the evaluations.*

**Location for Evaluations:** J. R. Martin Community Center gymnasium

#### Evaluation Times:

- Cubs (Grades 2-4): 10:30am - 11:30am
- Cats (Grades 4-6): 11:30am - 12:30pm
- Tigers (Grades 7-8): 12:30pm - 1:30pm
- Combined block for evals - Tots (Ages 3-5) and Paws (Grades K-2): 1:30pm - 2:00pm

**Special Note:** Cheerleaders in a grade that qualifies for two divisions must attend the evaluation block designated for your age group. *Please anticipate being assigned to the team specific to your age division; "cheering-up" exceptions are limited and not guaranteed. Assignments will be determined by the evaluation panel.*

#### Check-in/Check-out Required for Evaluations:

- All participants for evaluations must be walked into the building by a parent/guardian and checked in with a coach in the gym.
- All participants must also be checked-out with a coach at the end as well; coaches will not dismiss students to leave the building without a parent or guardian present.

### **Billing and Registration Info for Evaluations:**

- New participants must have an approved household account at [www.biddefordrec.com](http://www.biddefordrec.com) in order to register. Accounts need to be created by Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to receive Office approval.
- Returning participants must log into their existing account to register prior to attending evaluations.
- Existing balances on accounts due to past registrations must either be paid in full or set up on an approved payment plan to register for evaluations. Payment plan requests must be submitted to the Main Office and approved by Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- *No one will be permitted to attend evaluations without being registered due to liability reasons.*

### **Season Dates:**

**Parent Meeting:** during this meeting, coaches will share important information about the season, including participation expectations, billing details, and answer questions.

**When:** Friday, October 23, 2026

**Location:** J. R. Martin Community Center dining room

**Times:** all meetings will be held between 5:00-7:30pm. We will send out the meeting schedule once teams are announced.

### **Practices:**

*\*Practices will be held on the following dates, times TBD based on final number of teams*

**MANDATORY Preseason Clinic:** Sunday, October 25, 2026

*No sessions on November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Regular Sunday Practices:** starting November 8<sup>th</sup> through the end of the season in early April 2027.

Divisions for Cats and Tigers may have additional weekday practices added; subject to facility availability.

**Practice location:** J. Richard Martin Community Center gym.

**\*Special note for Tots team:** this team will start practices on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Competition Info for 2027:** *Subject to change*

- Friends and Family Team Exhibition event returns February 6, 2027!
- Biddeford Recreation is excited to share that we are again hosting our competition this year at BHS on February 20, 2027!
- Our program will attend competitions in 2027 – dates and locations will be announced following the MYCCA annual fall meeting later this year.

**Save the Date:** the tentative date for the end of season banquet is Monday, April 12, 2027

## Program Fees: SAME FORMAT AS LAST YEAR!

Biddeford Recreation has changed the payment format for this program. In past seasons, participants purchased uniforms to own and paid a separate registration fee to the department to cover staff costs and program expenses. In an effort to streamline this program budget and reduce participation costs, we have purchased uniforms that will be owned by the department for participants to BORROW for the season and return at the banquet.

Your team fee will cover a uniform to borrow, shoes to keep, participants' practice tee to keep, bow to keep, and department expenses such as coaching staff, competition fees, music licensing, MYCCA annual membership, and more.

Teams Fees and payment schedules are listed below. As a reminder, this is the ONLY fee due for the season. **The average overall savings for the season based on previous season uniform costs and department registration fees ranges between \$100-200 per cheerleader!**

### **2026-2027 Team Fees:**

- **Tots:** \$160.00 resident/\$170.00 non-resident
  - \$50.00 paid for evaluations
  - Two additional payments of \$55.00/\$60.00 due on 10/23/26 and 11/13/26
- **Paws (Grades K-2):** \$275.00 resident/\$285.00 non-resident
  - \$50.00 paid for evaluations
  - *Two additional payments due on:*
    - 10/23/26: \$125.00/\$135.00 and
    - 11/13/26: \$100.00
- **Cubs (Grades 2-4)/ Cats (Grades 4-6)/ Tigers (Grades 7-8):** \$375.00 resident/\$385.00 non-resident
  - \$50.00 paid for evaluations
  - *Three additional payments due on:*
    - 10/23/26: \$125.00/\$135.00,
    - 11/13/26: \$100.00 and
    - 12/11/26: \$100.00

***All team fees may be paid as one full payment if preferred.***

**Team Fee Payment Plans:** Families requesting payment plans or extensions may email Deputy Recreation Director, Erika Dube at [erika.dube@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:erika.dube@biddefordmaine.org) to discuss options. Requests must be made by Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. *All payment plans must be completed by January 15, 2027.*

**Team Fee Scholarships:** Competition Cheering Team Fees are also eligible for scholarships if you are a Biddeford resident. For this season, the maximum scholarship value is 50%; scholarship eligibility will be evaluated and your discount will be determined by application materials submitted. Families may submit a scholarship request form. If the Department has a current form on file that was submitted in the last year and there are no changes, please email your scholarship request to Recreation Director, Lisa Thompson at [lisa.thompson@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@biddefordmaine.org).

**The deadline to request a scholarship is Monday, November 2nd, 2026.**

## **Attendance Expectations**

Competition Cheering is a team sport like no other. Athletes rely on each other to learn stunts and choreography and will build on these skills throughout the season. Missing practices impacts the ability for coaches to work with stunt groups adequately and place cheerleaders appropriately in routines. Missing competitions means entire stunts and routines may need to be modified.

With that in mind, please consider that your child's participation in this program is a commitment. This year we will be tracking attendance and allowing cheerleaders 3 unexcused absences for the season before we will need to discuss whether they may continue. Athletes that leave the season early due to attendance issues will not be eligible for refunds.

Competition Cheering is a longer season than most recreation programs. We hope by providing this information in advance that this gives you the necessary information to decide if you are able to honor the commitment.