

## Registration for the 2024-2025 season of Biddeford Youth Competition Cheering is now open!

Join our thriving Biddeford Youth Competition Program! In this program, coaches will introduce the fundamentals of competition cheering, building upon these as athletes advance to new divisions, and build on choreography and routines as the season progresses.

Biddeford Recreation is pleased to welcome back returning coaches Catrina Woodard for year 9 with our cheer program and Hannah Beaupre for year 6! Catrina and Hannah will be joined by 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 2024 through early April 2025 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!



### What makes Biddeford Youth Competition Cheering different?

We are grateful to our coaches and parents for sharing feedback about the Biddeford Youth Competition Cheering program. These stories are just a few examples of what makes this program so great and why you should join us this year!

**Coach Hannah:** “I have been overjoyed to be a part of this program starting at 6 years old. I have spent 5 years as an athlete, and am going into my 6th season as a coach. There truly is no better program for young cheerleaders, as each person involved is ready and equipped to provide a welcoming, safe, and competitive environment that will help your child grow into the cheerleader they aspire to be.”

“Biddeford Youth Cheerleading has been such a positive experience for my daughter! Watching her confidence and friendships grow through this program is everything I hoped for. Her coaches have created an environment with positive reinforcement and structure that allows the girls to shine, work hard, and meet their goals!” – **Biddeford Cheering Parent**

“My daughter has been with this program since she was two and a half making it a total of eight years with them. The coaches have continued to help her grow in not only the cheer world but also as a person. They have pushed her to not give up and to always give it her all. They make sure that all the athletes feel like they are a valued part of the team. Each one of these coaches are amazing role models for our cheerleaders. They have a true passion for the sport and share it with their teams. Each with their own strengths, skills and motivation that they bring to the mat every week. Because of this program she has gained confidence not only as a cheerleader but also as a person. She has made connections to lifelong friends. She has incredible role models that are helping mold her into a well-rounded kiddo! I’m forever grateful for this program, the impact they have had on my daughter and that this was where she found her love for cheering!” - **Biddeford Cheering Parent**

## **Mark your Calendars! Team Evaluations: Sunday, September 29, 2024**

**Registration required:** all cheerleaders participating in evaluations must sign up at [biddefordrec.com](http://biddefordrec.com) and pay the eval fee. *The last day to register for evaluations is Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

### **Evaluation Fee: \$40.00**

*Following evaluations, athletes will have this fee applied to their Team fee.*

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

### **Evaluation Times:**

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

**Special Note:** Cheerleaders in a grade that qualifies for two divisions can go up or down a division, as determined by the evaluation panel. They will need to attend both evaluations to be considered for an older division.

## **Season Dates:**

**Parent Meeting:** during this meeting, coaches will share important information about the season, answer questions, conduct uniform sizings, and organize old uniform sales.

**When:** Thursday, October 17, 2024

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

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

### **Practices:**

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

**Saturdays:** October 19 and 26, and November 2

**Sundays:** starting November 10<sup>th</sup> through the end of the season in March 2025

**Practice location:** TBD

**Special note for Tots team:** this team may start practices later in the season, stay tuned for updates.

### **Competition Dates for 2025:** *Subject to change*

- **New this year!** Friends and Family Team Exhibition event in January!
- Cheers from the Heart: February 15, 2025
- Gray/New Gloucester: March 1, 2025
- Elite Cheer Challenge: March 8, 2025
- South Portland Fire Invitational: March 15, 2025
- Maine Cheer Classic: March 29, 2025

**Program Fees:** Participant Costs will be divided this season into two categories: a Team Registration Fee to Biddeford Recreation and a Uniform Fee.

**Team Fees:** Team Registration Fees cover participants' practice tee, bow, and department expenses such as coaching staff, competition fees, music licensing, MYCCA annual membership, and more.

- Tots: \$120.00 resident/\$130.00 non-resident
- Paws (Grades K-2): \$150.00 resident/\$160.00 non-resident
- Cubs (Grades 2-4): \$175.00 resident/\$185.00 non-resident
- Cats (Grades 4-6): \$200.00 resident/\$210.00 non-resident
- Tigers (Grades 7-8): \$200.00 resident/\$210.00 non-resident

**Team Payment Deadlines:**

- **Evaluation Fee:** \$40.00 paid at registration; applied to assigned team fee
- **Team Payment 1:** 50% of Team Fee balance is due at team announcement during the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- **Team Payment 2:** The final 50% remaining balance is due by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Team Fee Payment Plans:** Families requesting payment plans may email Deputy Recreation Director, Erika Dube at [erika.dube@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:erika.dube@biddefordmaine.org) to discuss options. *All payment plans must be completed by February 1, 2025.*

**Team Fee Scholarships:** Competition Cheering Team Fees are also eligible for scholarships. Families may submit a scholarship request form. If the Department has a current form on file that was submitted in the last year, please email your scholarship request to Recreation Director, Lisa Thompson at [lisa.thompson@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@biddefordmaine.org).

**Uniform Fees:**

- **Tots (Ages 3-5):** our Tots team will perform as an exhibition group this season. Their uniform will consist of their team tee and bow (provided by the department), and black shorts/white sneakers (provided by the families). This team will not have a separate uniform cost.
- For the older teams (Paws, Cubs, Cats, and Tigers) uniform fees vary between \$250-350.
- Returning cheerleaders to the same team who have a uniform from the 2023-2024 season in good condition and that still fits will not have to incur the uniform fee.
- For others, we will have a variety of options to off-set uniform expenses, including fundraisers and options to sell/purchase old uniform pieces, etc.

*If you have questions on uniforms, please email Coach Hannah at [hannahbeaupre12@gmail.com](mailto:hannahbeaupre12@gmail.com).*

**Uniform Payment Deadline:**

All purchases, sales/swaps, etc. for uniform fees must be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure arrival for competition season.

## **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 and competition dates in advance that this gives you the necessary information to decide if you are able to honor the commitment.