

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY 2008-2009 CHEER/DANCE SQUAD TRYOUT
INFORMATION

All information subject to change

Mission Statement:

The principal goal of the Montana State University Spirit Squad is to support and represent Montana State University- Bozeman, as well as support the student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletic programs of Montana State University- Bozeman.

***The following information in this packet, is for both the cheer and dance tryouts at Montana State University. All questions should be directed to head Coach Dani Ruoff.*

Tryout Event Information:

Live Tryouts

DATE: Sunday, April 13th, 2008

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Shroyer Gymnasium (Brick Breeden Field house)

***This is the only scheduled tryout at this time. Due to interest and or tryout results, there may or may not be an additional tryout in the fall of 2008.**

Tryout skills practice schedule for Cheer and Dance:

April 10th, 11th and 12th, 2008 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

**You may request additional or different times, but these must be scheduled with Coach Ruoff. There must be at least two days notice in order to get the proper amount of people for stunting.*

Tryout skills practices are not required, but are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED*

**MSU Dance Team tryouts are held separately from MSU Cheer Squad tryouts (however, they are the same weekend and both are held at the same times just in different locations...)*

**A participation waiver must be signed and turned in before any individual may participate in tryouts.*

**Practices will be run by the MSU Cheer and Dance Squad coaching staff*

Tryout Results for Cheer:

Participants will be contacted with results within 1 week after tryouts.

The final team size is not predetermined. However, the team will consist of at least 10 males and 10 females. Alternate positions will also be available. (Two different teams may be selected.)

Tryout Results for Dance:

Participants will be contacted with results within 1 week after tryouts. The final team size is not predetermined. However, the team will consist of at least ten dance team members. Alternate positions will also be available.

Cheer and Dance Squad Eligibility:

Any individual may tryout for a position on the MSU Cheer and Dance Squad. However, once offered a position, every person must meet the following requirements by the beginning of the fall 2008 semester to be an official member of the MSU Spirit Squad:

1. 2.00 cumulative GPA and in good standing academically with the university
2. Enrolled at Montana State University-Bozeman
3. Follow all academic rules and regulations for the NCAA and MSU-Bozeman Athletics

Resume for Cheer and Dance participants:

DUE BY: Monday, April 7th, 2008

Each resume must consist of the following:

1. Full name
2. Address
3. Phone number
4. **Full length** photograph. (Does not have to be a professional photograph. Both color and black and white photos are acceptable)
5. Current educational situation including:
 - a. School of attendance
 - b. Current Cumulative GPA (using a 4-point scale)
 - c. Field of educational interest
6. Synopsis of prior cheer and or dance experience (or lists other athletic activities if no prior cheer and or dance experience.)
7. Cover letter that explains:
 - a. Why you would like to be a part of the MSU Spirit Squad
 - b. Why you should be selected to be a part of the spirit squad

***NOTE:** Resumes do not need to be typed. Resumes and photos will not be returned. Participants are responsible for paying the postage. Resumes **must** be received (i.e. in the athletics office) by Monday, April 7th, 2008. **Late arrival of resumes will result in an automatic 15-point deduction from tryout scores.**

Resumes are to be sent to:

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse
c/o Dani Ruoff (Head Spirit Squad Coach)
#1 Bobcat Circle
PO Box 173380
Bozeman, MT 59717

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS:

Tryouts will be comprised of 4 sections for cheer:

1. Cheer
2. Cheer-Dance
3. Stunting
4. Interview

Cheer Requirements: You will be required to perform one cheer of your choice during the tryout. The cheer may be original, or from a previous school or team (i.e. high school, all-star team, college). Males will not be required to perform a cheer.

Cheer-Dance Requirements:

You will be required to perform a dance, at least 5 eight-counts in length, during your tryout. The dance may be original, or from a previous school or team (i.e. high school fight song, all-star dance routine, college fight song). The stereo will be provided, however, individuals will be responsible for their own music. If, for some reason, your music is damaged or not working in the sound system, there will be music available to finish your tryout. Both CD's and cassette tapes are acceptable. All music will be returned immediately after the tryout. Males will not be required to perform a dance.

Stunting Requirements:

(Basics are what needs to be learned in order to stunt at MSU. If the basics are good then we can do the collegiate level stunts. Progression will be instructed and strictly followed for all stunting that is done at Montana State University.)

MALES:

1. Half elevator cradle
 2. Full elevator cradle
 3. Toss chair
 4. Toss hands
- (All with proper dismounts)

FEMALES:

Flying:

1. Half elevator cradle
2. Full elevator cradle
3. Toss chair
4. Toss hands

Basing:

1. Half elevator cradle
2. Full elevator cradle

***NOTE:** Any other stunts for males or females such as liberty, one-hand liberty, cupie, arabesque, one-hand arabesque, high torch, low torch, heel stretch, bow-and-arrow, or scorpion, and transitions or varying mounts such as a tic-tock, retake, walk-in, guitar-up, pony-up, rewind, grenade, full-up, or toss to any stunt will be deemed as extra credit. You are allowed 3 attempts to complete an extra credit stunt. No penalty will be assessed for failing to complete an extra credit stunt.

****NOTE:** Although there will be appropriate spotters for stunting, and all basic stunting will follow MHSA guidelines, there is an inherent risk to collegiate cheerleading that includes the potential of minor to major injury. Such injuries may include, but are not limited to, exhaustion, sprains, strains, bruises, dislocations, lacerations, broken bones, and cervical spine injury. Participation in the tryout process is at your own risk. **Neither MSU-Bozeman nor the MSU-**

Bozeman Spirit Squad coaching staff may be held responsible for any injuries that may occur to video or live tryout participants during or after the tryout process. There will be optional practices held during the month of April and a three-day work shop (before the tryouts,) will be held in order to work on stunting skills. The MSU Spirit Squad coaching staff will run the practices. If you have any questions concerning the stunting portion of the tryout, please do not hesitate to contact the coaching staff.

ALSO, The MSU Cheer Squad coaching staff reserves the right to refuse stunting privileges to any person that does not possess appropriate and/or safe stunting techniques, or does not follow safety guidelines.

Tryout requirements for Dance participants:

Dance participants will go through an extensive tryout process. This will consist of learning at least two but not limited to two dances with a dance instructor.

During this time each participant will be viewed on technique, rhythm, body movement, body posture, confidence and overall attitude.

Dance participants will be judged on a scale during the last day of tryouts on April 13th.

Interview requirements for cheer and dance:

The interview portion of the tryout will consist of several questions that will be asked by the head coach, and then answered by both male and female participants towards the end of the tryout process. The interview is mainly used to determine the attitude, maturity, drive, and personality of each potential cheerleader and or dancer. Video participants will also be required to complete an interview portion.

TRYOUTS ARE MANDATORY FOR ANY PERSON SEEKING A POSITION ON THE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY CHEER AND OR DANCE SQUAD!!!

*Video tryouts are optional for those who cannot make the live tryout.

*Live tryouts are open to the public. (There will be an area for viewing.)

Video tryout requirements:

Cheer:

Any person not able to attend live tryouts may tryout by video, and must complete the same requirements as the live tryout participants. The video must include the following: (1) one cheer of your choice; (2) one dance of your choice at least 5 eight-counts in length; (3) stunting requirements listed under your gender and position; and (4) answer the two following questions: Why do you want to be a part of the Bobcat Spirit Squad? Why should you be picked to be a part of the Bobcat Spirit Squad?

The videos are due by Monday, April 7th, 2008, along with the resumes. If you tryout by video, you are still required to complete a resume. **Individuals are responsible for the postage for both the video and the resume.** Video tryouts will be judged on the same day as the live tryouts. Videos will not be returned.

Dance:

Any person not able to attend live tryouts may tryout by video, and must complete the same requirements as the live tryout participants. The video must include the following: (1) two

dances of your choice; and (2) answer the two following questions: Why do you want to be a part of the Bobcat Spirit Squad? Why should you be picked to be a part of the Bobcat Spirit Squad? The videos are due by Monday, April 7th, 2008, along with the resumes. If you tryout by video, you are still required to complete a resume. **Individuals are responsible for the postage for both the video and the resume.** Video tryouts will be judged on the same day as the live tryouts. Videos will not be returned.

Videos are to be sent to:

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse
c/o Dani Ruoff (Head Spirit Squad Coach)
#1 Bobcat Circle
PO Box 173380
Bozeman, MT 59718

VIDEO TRYOUTS ARE DUE BY Monday, April 7th, 2008

Tryout Attire

Cheer:

Appropriate tryout attire for both males and females includes:

1. Dark colored shorts
2. Plain t-shirt
3. Tennis shoes or cheer/dance shoes
4. Long hair must be worn up in a ponytail or bun, and bangs must be kept out of the face
5. No sweatshirts or sweatpants
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND.** This includes all watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, ankle bracelets, earrings, belly rings, tongue rings, or any other piercing.

Dance:

Appropriate tryout attire for both male and female includes:

1. Dance gear that is appropriate in look and length
2. Dance shoes or tennis shoes
3. Long hair must be worn up in a ponytail or bun, and bangs must be kept out of the face
4. No sweatshirts or sweatpants
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND.** This includes all watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, ankle bracelets, earrings, belly rings, tongue rings, or any other piercing.

Judging Information

The judging panel will consist of no less than 5 judges plus the coaching staff at Montana State University Bozeman.

There will be 100 points possible, plus 10 points of extra credit. The points for tryouts will be broken down in the following fashion:

Cheer judging:

15 Points- Cheer Resume

See resume section for requirements.

10 Points- Individual Cheer

See cheer section for requirements.

10 Points- Individual Cheer-Dance

See dance section for requirements.

15 Points- Stunting

See stunting section for requirements.

10 Points- Interview

See interview section for details.

20 Points- Attitude

Individual will be judged on their overall attitude. Is the individual positive, optimistic, determined, charismatic, etc.?

10 Points- Appearance

Has the individual followed the attire requirements? Does the individual look clean and confident?

10 Points- Entrance

How does the individual enter the tryout area? Are they peppy? Do they catch your attention? Would they be able to work in front of a crowd?

Possible 10 Points- Extra Credit

Extra credit will include anything extra an individual wishes to show the judges. This may be gymnastic skills, extra dances or cheers, jumps, or advanced stunting skills. Individuals may only gain points for extra credit activities. No individual may lose points for any extra credit activity. Attempting extra credit activities does not guarantee extra points being awarded.

Dance Judging

15 Points- Dance Resume

See resume section for requirements.

10 Points- Interview

See interview section for details.

20 Points- Attitude

Individual will be judged on their overall attitude. Is the individual positive, optimistic, determined, charismatic, etc.?

10 Points- Appearance

Has the individual followed the attire requirements? Does the individual look clean and confident?

10 Points- Entrance

How does the individual enter the tryout area? Are they peppy? Do they catch your attention? Would they be able to work in front of a crowd?

Possible 10 Points- Extra Credit

Extra credit will include anything extra an individual wishes to show the judges. Individuals may only gain points for extra credit activities. No individual may lose points for any extra credit activity. Attempting extra credit activities does not guarantee extra points being awarded.

TRYOUT CHECKLIST

1. Cheer and or Dance resume turned in by April 7th, 2008
2. Complete and submit participation waiver
3. Attend tryout skills practices (not required, but recommended)
4. Attend live tryouts (or have video tryout in by April 13th)
 - a. Wear appropriate attire
 - b. Complete skills requirements
5. Tryout results released
6. Accept or decline MSU Cheer Squad or Dance Squad position

****PLEASE NOTE****

No individual is automatically guaranteed a position on the Montana State University Spirit Squad. Previous cheer and or dance experience including that at the high school, college, and all-star levels, or previous experience on the Montana State University Spirit Squad, or attendance at UCA, COA, USA, Cheer Ltd., NCA, MSU-Bozeman, local dance studios, Just for Kix, or DR Cheer camps DOES NOT IN ANY WAY guarantee a position on the MSU-Bozeman Spirit Squad. Any individual wishing to join the squad must participate in the same tryout process as everyone else.

Contact Information

All questions must be directed to Head Coach Dani Ruoff.

Office: (406) 994-5797

Cell: (406) 208-0485

Brick Breeden Field house
c/o Dani Ruoff
#1 Bobcat Circle
Bozeman, MT 59717

druoff@msubobcats.com

Lodging Information

All individuals attending the live tryouts are responsible for their lodging and meals during their time in Bozeman. Montana State University-Bozeman or the Montana State University-Bozeman Spirit Squad staff for either lodging or meals will make **no** prior arrangements. Listed below are some lodging options in Bozeman.

- Continental Motor Inn (406) 587- 9231
- Royal 7 Budget Inn (406) 587-3130
- Microtel Inn and Suites (406) 3797
- Wingate Inn (406) 586-4230
- Comfort Inn (406) 587-2322

Thank you very much for your interest! Cheer and Dance hard and good luck!