



2012
SCHOOL CHEER,
YOUTH RECREATIONAL CHEER,
&
ALL STAR CHEER & DANCE
INFORMATION BOOKLET

Contest of Champions
1553 Boren Drive
Ocoee, FL 34764
info@contestofchampions.com

These pages contain Contest of Champions information regarding classifications, categories, rules, regulations and safety guidelines. For additional information and details, please call 1-800-421-4159 or visit www.contestofchampions.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>
Cheer Competition & Awards	ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex	Sunday, February 26, 2012

**** Contest schedule is subject to change anytime at the discretion of the Event Director ****

CONTEST DIRECTORS

ROGER HAYES Event Producer

This is Roger's nineteenth year as the Event Producer for the Contest of Champions. Roger resides in Dallas, Texas, he is the owner of Spirit Productions, Inc. He was an instructor for the National Cheerleaders Association for 10 years and was a Collegiate All American. He is a former cheerleader for Tulane University, the NFL New Orleans Saints and Mississippi State University. While living in New Orleans, Louisiana, he was the Official Mascot for the 1984 Louisiana World's Fair, Seymore D. Fair. He is currently serving as Event Producer of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He has produced and choreographed cheerleading performances for Mike Miller & Associates, SPECIAL EVENTS, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Jeep Eagle Aloha Bowl, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland, London's Grand Christmas Parade, in London, England and the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic Pre-game and Half-time shows in Dallas, Texas. In 1994 he was a production assistant for the Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant and choreographed for the 75th Annual Miss America Boardwalk Parade. As the former founder and owner of America's Best, Roger conducted cheer and dance camps and championships nationwide. He has served as a judge for the National Cheerleaders Association, Atlantic Cheer & Dance, American Cheer Power, Mardi Gras Nationals, Golden State Spirit Association and the 2005 USASF Cheerleading Worlds in Orlando, Florida. Currently, Roger is the owner of Spirit of America Productions. The company provides performance opportunities for cheerleaders and dancers in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**For specific cheer competition related questions,
please contact Roger Hayes at:**

Roger@SpiritofAmericaProductions.com

LAURA DAVIS Event Producer

Laura is from Dallas, Texas and has been active in the field of Dance/Drill Team since the early 70's. This is Laura's twelfth year as the Event Producer for the Contest of Champions. She is an Executive Director/Owner of Starmakers Dance & Performance Camps. Her background includes attending Kilgore College earning an Associate of Arts degree while performing as a Rangerette Lieutenant and Swingster. She completed her degree in Dance from North Texas State University and earned her Masters Degree in Physical Education at the University of Texas at Tyler. Laura is a former Director of the South Garland High School Southern Belles and was later the Assistant Director and Choreographer of the Kilgore College Rangerettes. She was an instructor for N.C.A. SUPERSTAR for 16 years ultimately serving in the office as Curriculum Coordinator. Additionally, she has choreographed numerous bowl game pre-game & half-time shows such as the Aloha Bowl and Cotton Bowl. She has had extensive choreographic involvement in the dance productions coordinated by Mike Miller & Associates as part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade each year since 1986. Laura has served as the 1st Vice President & as Sergeant at Arms for the Dance Drill Team Directors of America. She has been an adjudicator and choreographer throughout the country for the past 30 years. Currently, Laura is the owner of Spirit of America Productions. The company provides performance opportunities for cheerleaders and dancers in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**For specific dance competition related questions,
please contact Laura Davis at:**

Laura@SpiritofAmericaProductions.com

EVENT PARTICIPATION & ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. EVENT PARTICIPATION

The Contest of Champions is an open competition, independent of any association or camp, requiring no qualifier to participate. The event is open to all school and youth recreation cheer teams nationwide. Participation in our event requires purchase of a competition package. A contest only commuter package is available to Florida groups only. For more detailed information about the competition, please call 1-800-421-4159. Additional information is available through our website at www.contestofchampions.com.

2. ENTRY FORMS

You must send in your completed entry form(s) prior to January 13, 2012. Upon signature of the entry form, the Director is agreeing that they have read, have understood and have agreed to the competition rules & regulations, awards and penalties, and accept its contents.

All new contest entries, additions or changes must be received in our office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012 in order to avoid the additional fees below. This is not a post marked due date, it is an in our office due date. All fees are for each new, late or revised entry.

Post January 13, 2012 Deadline Fees:

January 14, 2012 - February 3, 2012: \$100.00
February 4, 2012 - February 17, 2012: \$200.00
After February 17, 2012: \$400.00

Note: Entries are not official until all entry forms and fees have been received in our office. Phone calls to make changes or deletions will not be accepted. This policy is in place to aid in the prompt distribution of the final Contest information. You may fax your changes to 407-656-7466. Changes are not official until you have received written confirmation from our office.

Changes to entries made after February 3, 2012 will not be reflected in our pre-printed contest programs or adjudication sheets and critique tapes. The name change will be announced the day of competition.

3. CONFIRMATIONS

Once your forms and fees have been processed, you will receive a confirmation letter and payment receipt. A written confirmation will be sent after each change that has been received and processed in our office. It is the Director's responsibility to make sure all information contained in each confirmation is correct.

4. RELAX!

Your event coordinator will be in contact with you throughout your Contest of Champions experience to assist in all aspects of your trip.

5. WAIVER/RELEASE FORM:

Each performer's and alternate's legal guardian must sign a 2012 Waiver Release Form. This is a standard form that releases the Walt Disney Company, as well as the Contest of Champions from any liability. Please duplicate as needed. These forms are due no later than January 13, 2012.

SCHOOL CHEER DIVISIONS

There is a 36 member limit (unless otherwise noted) on all junior high/middle school, high school and private/Christian/parochial school squads. Private/Christian/parochial division is optional. These schools may choose to enter a varsity category, but they cannot compete in both. No cheerleader may represent more than one school squad. Contest of Champions reserves the right to combine or close divisions at any time prior to the event.

LEVEL 3 - Refer to the USASF Level 3 Rules section for skill limitations.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	6 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
JR. HIGH/MIDDLE FRESHMAN	9 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
	9 th grade only	Male/female	5-36 Members
JR. VARSITY	11 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	5-36 Members
COED	12 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members

LEVEL 4 - Refer to the USASF Level 4 Rules section for skill limitations.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	6 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL FRESHMAN	9 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
	9 th grade only	Male/female	5-36 Members
JR. VARSITY	11 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
SM VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	5-10 Members
MED. VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	11-15 Members
LG VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	16-20 Members
X-LG VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	21-36 Members
COED	12 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members

LEVEL 5 - Refer to the USASF LEVEL 5 RULES section for skill limitations.

JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL NON MOUNT	9 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
SM JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL	9 th grade & under	Male/female	5-20 Members
LG JR. HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL FRESHMAN	9 th grade & under	Male/female	21-36 Members
	9 th grade only	Male/female	5-36 Members
JR. VARSITY	11 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
VARSITY NON MOUNT	12 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members
SM VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	5-10 Members
MED VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	11-15 Members
LG VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	16-20 Members
X-LG VARSITY	12 th grade & under	Female only	21-36 Members
SM COED	12 th grade & under	1-4 males	5-20 Members
LG COED	12 th grade & under	5 or more males	5-36 Members
SM COED X-LG VARSITY	12 th grade & under	1-4 males	21-36 Members
PRIVATE SCHOOL	12 th grade & under	Male/female	5-36 Members

***Spring floor competition will be an option for School cheer teams in Level 4 and Level 5. Indicate on the registration form if you elect to compete on a spring floor. Divisions will be separated from spring floor and non-spring floor teams. Awards will be given accordingly. ALL YOUTH RECREATION TEAMS WILL COMPETE ON NON-SPRING FLOOR.**

YOUTH RECREATION CHEER DIVISIONS

Recreation team squads have a 36 member limit, are non-school affiliated and cheer for an organized sport (basketball, football, soccer, etc...). No cheerleader may represent more than one recreation squad. Divisions are based on grade and skill level. Contest of Champions reserves the right to combine or close divisions at any time prior to the event. **ALL YOUTH RECREATION TEAMS WILL COMPETE ON NON-SPRING FLOOR.**

YOUTH RECREATION TEAMS- The following divisions will be divided into levels based on skill limitations.

Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 will be offered. Refer to the USASF Levels at www.USASF.net for skill limitations.

TINY	Kindergarten and under
MINI	3 rd grade and under
YOUTH	6 th grade and under
JUNIOR	9 th grade and under
SENIOR	12 th grade and under

ALL-STAR RECREATION CHEER DIVISIONS

All-Star Recreation divisions are available to All-Star programs that do not meet the Youth Recreation guidelines above but have a recreation type program in their gym. These are partial season competitive teams that generally practice less than 5 hours a week. These team members MAY NOT crossover to or from all-star teams. **ALL-STAR RECREATION TEAMS WILL COMPETE ON SPRING FLOOR.**

ALL STAR RECREATION TEAMS - The following divisions will be divided into levels based on skill limitations.

Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 will be offered. Refer to the USASF Levels at www.USASF.net for skill limitations

TINY	Kindergarten and under
MINI	3 rd grade and under
YOUTH	6 th grade and under
JUNIOR	9 th grade and under
SENIOR	12 th grade and under

ALL-STAR CHEER DIVISIONS

All-Star teams are created with the primary focus on performance and competition. All-Star squads have a 36 member limit (unless otherwise noted). Divisions are based on participant's age and skill level. The competitor's age as of August 31, 2012 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2011-2012 competitive year. Small teams consist of 5-20 members and large teams consist of 21-36 members. Contest of Champions reserves the right to combine or close divisions at any time prior to the event following USASF division guidelines.

**FOR THE 2011-2012 DIVISIONS REFER TO
WWW.USASF.NET**

ALL-STAR DANCE TEAM DIVISIONS

All-Star Dance teams are created with the primary focus on performance and competition. Divisions are now based on participant's age. The age of the competitor as of August 31, 2011 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2011-2012 season. Contest of Champions reserves the right to combine or open divisions at any time prior to the event. Note: All dance team performances will take place on 50 feet deep x 50 feet wide carpeted spring floor.

TINY	5 years and younger
MINI	8 years and younger
YOUTH	11 years and younger
JUNIOR	14 years and younger
SENIOR	18 years and younger
OPEN	18 years and older

CATEGORIES

All routine categories offered for each division.

JAZZ A jazz routine incorporates stylized dance movements and combinations, formation changes, group work, leaps and turns. Emphasis is placed on proper technical execution, extension, control, body placement and team uniformity.

POM Poms must be used **80%** of the routine. Important characteristics of a pom routine include synchronization and visual effect, clean and precise motions, strong pom technique, and incorporate dance technical elements. Visual effect includes level changes, group work, formation changes, the use of different color poms, etc.

HIP HOP Routines emphasize the street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation. Teams may also put an additional focus on athletic incorporations such as jumps, jump variations, combo jumps and other tricks.

MODERN Routines implement the principles of fall and recovery and/or contraction and release and weight sharing to express inner feeling as related to the musical or narrative piece.

OPEN An Open category will be offered only when separate dance categories are not offered in an age division. A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles outlined in the USASF category listings. All styles will be judged against each other in this category. Emphasis is placed on choreography, proper technical execution, visual effect, creativity, staging and team uniformity.

VARIETY Routines clearly emphasize Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, and Kick styles. Each of the four styles will be scored equally and should be emphasized equally throughout the routine. At least 4 eight counts of kicks must be performed to encompass the kick portion of the score.

KICK Routines emphasize control, height uniformity, extension, toe points, timing and creativity of a variety of kick series. Fifty kicks must be performed in the routine. For a kick to be counted, at least half of the team must perform the kick. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force at least one inch from the floor.

LYRICAL Routines combine the principles of jazz and ballet and emphasize proper technical execution, the use of flexibility, balance and mood. Routines are fluid in movement and focus on emotion that compliments the musical selection.

PROP Routines emphasize the use of props or a variety of props. The manipulation of the prop must be the main focal point of the routine. Each team will be given 2 minutes to set up and 2 minutes to take down their props before and after the performance if necessary.

PRODUCTION Production teams must have at least 25 members, and routines must emphasize a theme or a storyline. Routines may be any style of dance that is outlined in the USASF category listing. Production routines will have a maximum of 5 minutes to complete their routine.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

TIME LIMITS

SQUAD/TEAM

2½ Minutes

Teams may elect to perform any or all of their 2 ½ minute routine to music. Timing does not include entering positioning or exiting the performance floor. Timing will begin with the first beat of music or the first word of your cheer until the last beat of music or last word of your cheer. Formal entrances are prohibited and will not be judged. Timing penalties will apply (see penalty information).

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Performances are scheduled by the order deposits are received by our office. If you are the first group to submit your deposits in your division, you will be the last to perform. Performances will be adjusted accordingly to facilitate crossovers and is subject to change for any reason the Contest Director deems necessary. The decision of the Contest Director is final in all scheduling situations.

PERFORMANCE FACILITIES

All teams will perform on a 42 feet deep x 54 feet wide floor. The same dimensions apply to the spring floor performance area.

WARM UP

All teams will have a timed warm-up on a 42 feet deep x 54 feet wide floor. Teams will also warm-up on a stunt strip and tumble strip prior to the full floor. Prior to your warm-up time, squads may stretch and warm-up outside on the fields at the Sports Complex. However, due to liability no squads will be permitted to stunt unless they are on the warm-up mat. Disney Security, Ushers and Contest Staff will enforce this policy on the day of competition.

PROPS/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The only props allowed are poms, megaphones and signs. The use of mini-tramps, springboards, bells, hats or any other props will not be permitted. Flags and banners may not be used in conjunction with stunting or tumbling.

MASCOTS & CHARACTER COSTUMES

The use of mascots and character costumes are permitted for performances at Disney's Wide World of

Sports® Complex. These costumes may not be worn in the *Walt Disney World*® Theme Parks.

COSTUMING/CHOREOGRAPHY

Suggestive, offensive or vulgar choreography that is deemed inappropriate for family audiences will be penalized. All choreography should be appropriate for all ages. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography that is implying something improper or indecent, sexual in content or utilizes profane gestures. Costuming should be appropriate for all performers.

MUSIC & TAPE REQUIREMENTS

All music should be recorded on a quality CD, Mini-Disk, or MP3 player that has excellent musical clarity. Music should be appropriate for all ages - free from inappropriate language and content. The music should be cued and clearly marked with your team name and classification/category.

The Contest of Champions and the *Walt Disney World*® Resort use professional sound systems and are not responsible for any music that has not been recorded on quality materials. Portable compact disc players will not be permitted to plug into the sound system. A sound technician will control the system, however a team representative will be required to operate your music. This person must stay at the music table throughout each performance.

SCORING PROCESS AND AWARDS

A five member panel of experienced and qualified judges will serve as the judging panel for all events. The high and low score will be discarded and the three middle scores will be added to arrive at the final score. A Point Deduction judge will assess penalty points for obvious bobbles/mistakes, major mistakes, and major falls in the following categories for cheer: stunts, pyramids, standing tumbling, running tumbling, tosses, jumps, dance/motions and transitions/formations. A Point Deduction Judge will assess penalty points for time limit violations, safety violations and general competition guideline violations. These deductions will be subtracted from the final score. Ties will not be broken. Scoresheets are available for the coaches to pick-up approximately 30 minutes after each performance.

POINT DEDUCTIONS

Bobbles

Obvious errors during technical skills (Ex: hands down on tumbling, obvious missed skills; shaky stunts/pyramids; incomplete twisting cradles, memory mistakes involving obvious execution of incorrect moves; etc.) will result in a .5 point deduction for EACH mistake.

Mistakes

Major errors during technical skills (Ex; falls from individual stunts, falls during tumbling skills, falls to floor during dance or transitions) will result in a 1 point deduction for each mistake.

Falls

Major falls during technical skills or OBVIOUS SEVERE mistakes (Ex: multiple falls in a single sequence/series by a couple or stunt group, pyramids that fall or that are severely missed) will result in a 2 point deduction for each mistake.

Time Limit Violations

1 – 10 seconds overtime	10 points
11 or more seconds overtime	15 points

Safety Violations/General Competition Guidelines

A 15 point penalty will be deducted from your total combined score for each infraction of the Contest of Champions safety guidelines.

Inappropriate Choreography/Costuming/Music

Any choreography, costume/uniform or music that is deemed inappropriate will result in a 10 point penalty.

Spotting: A 20 point penalty will be deducted from your total combined score if a spotter assists a stunt more than spotting for safety.

AWARDS

Placement trophies will be awarded in each team division of competition. All teams will receive a placement trophy.

National Champions will receive a National Champion banner, trophy and individual award.

National Grand Champion will be awarded to the team with the highest score in the competition regardless of division. This award will be given in the following competitions –Youth Recreation, All-Star Recreation, School Cheer Non-Spring Floor, School Cheer Spring

Floor and All-Star Cheer. Each member of this team will also receive a unique, one-of-a-kind award.

Each Top Level Team Champion will be awarded to the team with the highest score within each Level (Level 1 - 6) regardless of division. The team will receive a banner and a cash prize of \$1,000.00.

The following divisions are eligible:

**Top Level 2 Youth Rec. Team
**Top Level 3 Youth Rec. Team
**Top Level 4 Youth Rec. Team

**Top Level 2 All-Star Rec. Team
**Top Level 3 All-Star Rec. Team
**Top Level 4 All-Star Rec. Team

**Top Level 3 School Team
**Top Level 4 School Team
**Top Level 5 School Team
**Top Level 3 School Team (spring floor)
**Top Level 4 School Team (spring floor)
**Top Level 5 School Team (spring floor)

**Top Level 1 All-Star Team
**Top Level 2 All-Star Team
**Top Level 3 All-Star Team
**Top Level 4 All-Star Team
**Top Level 5 All-Star Team
**Top Level 6 All-Star Team

*****There must be 5 teams in each level to qualify for this award.***

CHEER SAFETY GUIDELINES USASF

As a coach it is your responsibility to be knowledgeable of and to adhere to the Contest of Champions Safety Guidelines. All questions must be in writing. No phone calls will be accepted. You may email any questions concerning safety guidelines, rules and regulations to the Contest Director, Roger Hayes, at Roger@SpiritofAmericaProductions.com, or fax questions to Roger's attention to the following number (407)656-7466. For pyramid/stunt approval, you must send a copy of the mounting and dismounting of each stunt at least 4 weeks prior to competition day. You may send a DVD or email copy. You will receive a written reply confirming your stunts legality. Spotters **will not be provided** by the Contest of Champions. Your routines should be self spotting. The Contest of Champions and the *Walt Disney World*® Resort **WILL NOT** be responsible for any injuries as a result of a performance.

USASF SAFETY GUIDELINES AND LEVEL LIMITATIONS can be found at

www.USASF.net

