



2025-26

tryout packet





LJHS Cheerleading Tryout Information Packet 2025-2026

We are pleased you would like to take part in starting a tradition of excellence in Lafayette Jefferson Broncho cheerleading. We at Lafayette Jefferson feel that cheerleading is a rewarding and exciting sport that teaches teamwork, dedication, academics, leadership, school spirit, and hard work. Being chosen to represent Lafayette Jefferson High School as a cheerleader is an honor. As a Lafayette Jefferson cheerleader you will be in the spotlight and will be expected to perform to the best of your ability throughout the year at all times. With this in mind please read the following information and discuss with your parent or guardian, so that you are fully aware of the responsibility and commitment being asked of you as a Lafayette Jefferson High School cheerleader.

While deciding whether or not to be a part of the cheerleading program at Jefferson, please remember and consider all the time and effort this sport will take on both students and parents; practice after school, sign painting, pep rallies, summer camp, FUNDRAISERS, competitions, weekend games and events. Due to the fact that cheerleading is a team sport, one individual's inability to follow through on their commitment affects the entire squad.

The varsity team competes in UCA Game Day division competitions- We aim to become the leading cheerleading program in the area, not only on the sideline but also on the competition mats. Full dedication to creating and executing a winning competition routine is expected by varsity squad members as we seek to make our way to another Regional Championship win with full squad tumbling skills, clean, crisp, confident builds, and Broncho spirit and energy.

In addition to the time commitment, the academic load, other outside commitments, and the financial responsibilities should also be carefully considered. Please consider ALL of these factors before deciding to tryout. Cheerleaders demand that they be considered athletes. To be treated like an athlete, one must work and act as an athlete. This means being committed to your team and to yourself.

We look forward to an exciting try-out week and wish each and every one of you the best of luck!!

Broncho Cheer Social Media:

Facebook- Lafayette Jefferson Cheerleading

Instagram- @lafayettejeffersoncheer

Twitter- @bronchocheer

**Zarah Skelton
Head Cheerleading Coach
Lafayette Jefferson High School**



FAQ:

Q: Are you an all-girl team?

NOPE! Broncho Cheer is a coed program- We welcome female and male athletes. We have a Freshmen, JV, and Varsity team. We cheer all football games, girls and boys basketball games, and our Varsity team competes 3-5 times throughout the fall. Our program is a collegiate-style program, meaning we model ourselves after the college teams our athletes seek to become a part of one day. We work on group and partner stunts.

Q: Are you a sport or a club?

A SPORT, of course! We follow IHSA and USA Cheer protocols, and we are a UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) program. The camp and competitions we attend are UCA-sanctioned.

Q: What are you looking for?

We focus on Game Day success- motions, jumps, tumbling, stunting, and crowd interaction. We do expect our athletes to be adaptable and versatile and to share our vision in including ourselves in what cheer looks like globally in today's world. We expect athletes to be role models and to uphold our standards.

Q: Can I cheer just football games?

NO! We do NOT separate into football, basketball, and comp teams. Choosing to try out and accepting a position on one of our squads means committing to your team ALL YEAR. It is a huge commitment, yes. But, we think it is one that you'll enjoy- As long as you're willing to work hard and be a dependable teammate.

Q: Who should try out?

We are looking for athletes unafraid to try new things, excited to compete, spirited, and goal-oriented. We want people who will pour into the program as much as they take from it. If you are unfamiliar with our style of cheer or what we do, please research us by looking at our social media.

Broncho Cheer Social Media:

Facebook- Lafayette Jefferson Cheerleading

Instagram- @lafayettejeffersoncheer

Twitter- @bronchocheer

Required Tryout Registration Info

In order to try out, you must register and have updated Final Forms accounts. Registration includes candidate **AND** guardian permission and signatures.

Registration is online and can be accessed in two ways:

1. Head to our website lafayettejeffersoncheer.com and click on the "Tryouts" page. You'll see all required materials, including the **Tryout Registration link**, a link to Final Forms, and all tryout packet info.
2. Scan the below QR code:





Jefferson Cheer Tryout Information

2025-2026

Important Dates:

- Open Gyms- **March 12, March 19, and April 2** from 6-7:30 PM in the aux gym at JHS. *Highly encouraged but not required.*
- Tryouts- **April 9** 5-8 PM in JHS aux (small) gym, **April 10** 5-8 PM in JHS aux (small) gym, and **April 11** 5-? PM in JHS aux (small) gym. *Mandatory.*
- Athlete and Parent Meeting- **April 14** 6 PM in the JHS LGI. *Mandatory upon making a squad.*
- Sizing Meeting- **April 16** 5:30 PM in JHS classroom GA4D1. *Mandatory upon making a squad.*
- Athlete Meet-and-Greet: **April 23**- Soap Fundraising \$ due and more info TBA

Open Gyms: These are for anyone who wants to work on jumps, motions, building, etc. These are not judged- they are to start working with each other, to get ready for tryouts, and to learn more about what is expected of a JHS cheerleader. Highly encouraged for Broncho Builders.

Tryouts: All three nights of tryouts are required. On night 1, you will be assigned a group, you will practice stunting, and you will learn a chant, dance, and the school fight song. On night 2, you will continue working on all elements, plus you will be scored on stunting ability. On night 3, all other elements will be judged. Tryouts are closed to the public. Trying out for a sport is exciting, but can also be a scary time for all those who might be nervous to perform in front of their peers and the coaches. Families and friends- Tryouts are closed because our athletes do not need the added pressure of trying out in front of parents, friends, and strangers. They deserve the respect of a closed tryout in a controlled environment.

A physical MUST be on file to try out AND Final Forms MUST be accurately completed. There are no exceptions. Physicals and Final Forms are DUE by the first event you participate in (first open gym you attend or tryouts).

Schedule/Games:

Football schedules for the upcoming year are TBA. THESE DATES AND TIMES OFTEN CHANGE. Freshmen and JV cheer at home and some local way football and basketball games (and often city/county events), while Varsity squad travels to all football games and local way girls and boys basketball games. Varsity competes- **Competitions are a large part of the varsity schedule** and complete dedication to our competition prep is expected, including choreography days. We compete 4-5 times throughout September-November.

Costs:

These are approximations of costs throughout the year. These items/fees are required. Needs will depend upon each athlete- If you already have an item in GOOD condition (like shoes or liners), you may not need new.

- Warm ups \$90 (Fresh and JV only)
- Shoes \$108
- Camp-wear (two tops, two bottoms, and a bow) \$215 for NEW members, about \$120 for returning members
- Varsity warm ups, varsity socks, crewneck (**varsity ONLY**) \$315
- Poms \$31
- Body liners (1 red, 1 black) \$45 each
- Briefs \$32
- Bows (3) \$20
- Backpack \$100
- Camp \$415
- Varsity competition fee \$250 (**Varsity ONLY**)
- JHS Athletic Participation fee \$40

Gear Payment: All Varsity Co. items will be paid online, upfront. Please see the following dates for payment deadlines:

May 5- Required Varsity Co. balance due online

June 11- Camp payment due (can use soap fundraising toward this)

June 23- Optional Varsity Co. balance due online, JV/F warm up and bow balance due

September 1- VARSITY: Comp fee and crewneck \$ due

*All athletes are responsible for their costs **EVEN IF THEY QUIT** and bills will be sent to collections if left unpaid. In addition, unpaid bills will make the athlete ineligible to try out again the following year.*

Summer Practices and Camp:

Practices over the summer will be **THREE** times a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 PM, plus Thursdays 7-8 PM at Lafayette Area Gymnastics Club, with some additional varsity practices. Practice starts the first week of June and we practice through March. Camp dates are **July 8, 9, 10** at Purdue University. This is an overnight camp and athletes will stay on campus in dorms at Purdue. **Camp is mandatory.**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions!

Zarah Skelton – Head coach zskelton@lsc.k12.in.us

Coaching Staff: Tracey Hossfeld (V), Nikki Allen (JV), Brooke Hazelbaker (JV), Nikki Drake (F), and Ashlyn Drake (F)



Jefferson High School

Cheerleading Tryout Procedures 2025

1. **April 9** will be a material day
 - Fight Song, dance, and chant for tryout will be taught
 - Jumps and stunting will be taught/practiced
 - Tryout groups assigned
 - Tumbling **will be scored**
 - 5-8 P.M. in the JHS aux (little) gym
2. **April 10** will be a clinic/scoring day
 - All scored elements will be reviewed/practiced
 - Stunting abilities **will be scored**
 - 5-8 in the JHS Crawley gym
3. **April 11** will be a **scored** night
 - All elements will be scored
 - Results will be delivered at the conclusion of judges' tallying
 - 5-7 pm in the aux gym

All candidates should be dressed in clothes that allow for movement and comfort. Requirements are as follows:

- Any t-shirt or tank but NO Broncho Cheer gear
- Comfortable athletic bottoms such as running shorts, Softee shorts, or athletic leggings- NO jeans, NO spandex shorts, NO see-through leggings
- Proper shoes- cheer shoes or athletic shoes- NO basketball shoes, Converse, flip flops, etc.
- Hair **MUST** be pulled completely up and away from face. Plain bow optional.
- NO jewelry or nail polish other than neutral or red/black. Taped piercings are not acceptable.
- **Final Day (April 11) Dress code:** Solid red top, black athletic bottoms, hair pulled up/back off of face, game day ready makeup.
- **A physical MUST be on file AND Final Forms PLUS Registration completed accurately for each athlete to try out**

DRESSING APPROPRIATELY IS A VITAL PART OF THE TRYOUT PROCEDURE- FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS WILL LEAD COACHES TO BELIEVE THAT YOU DO NOT TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY AND THAT YOU CANNOT FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

Back Handspring Information: Back Handsprings are required to make Varsity. TUMBLING IS A HUGE PILLAR OF CHEERLEADING. Back handsprings are NOT required to make the Freshmen or JV teams. Freshmen are eligible for the Freshmen, JV, and Varsity teams. Sophomores and juniors are eligible for the JV and Varsity (dependent upon a back handspring) teams. Seniors are only eligible for Varsity. For Varsity eligibility, BHS are not scored- they are marked as E (eligible) or NE (not eligible).

- Having a back handspring makes an athlete **ELIGIBLE** for Varsity, it does NOT mean an athlete automatically makes the team. Scores in all areas matter! We want well-rounded athletes with spirit and skill in ALL areas.
- There will be no exceptions to the back handspring requirement.
- To be marked as eligible for Varsity, **back handsprings must be performed at tryouts on our foam mat or on gym floor with proper and safe form, without a spot.** There is a difference between safely executing a skill and simply "throwing it". We DO NOT condone throwing an unperfected skill and risking unnecessary injury. Upon making the team, athletes assume responsibility to be able to perform the skill on track and grass in August and on gym floor in November. ***We will not be spotting BHS more than a "light spot" at tryouts.

This is a closed tryout! Friends and family are not welcome and will be asked to leave!

The coaches will judge the tryouts. The results will be delivered to each athlete in an envelope upon the completion of the tryouts and the compilation of scores. THE JUDGES' DECISION IS FINAL AND NO QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED OR ADDRESSED ON THE NIGHT THE RESULTS ARE POSTED.

Scoring:

New this year: In an effort to enforce and align our goal of attracting and encouraging positive role models in our program, we are including a new judged area this year called Character. This scored area will require a minimum of two teacher/staff member recommendations, which the athlete is responsible for seeking out, and will also include a coachability component for returning athletes. This means athletes who have been a part of our program before (including at Tecumseh) will be scored on their coachability, attitude toward teammates, ability to positively contribute to the team, punctuality, communication, etc. Please see the attached Teacher Recommendation Link page- you will give this link to at least two teachers/staff members/coaches and ask them to fill out the online form to meet your requirement. Some must-knows:

-Teachers/staff members/coaches many NOT be from more than a year ago. This means it would not be okay for a senior to use their 9th grade math teacher and it would not be okay for a freshman to use their 6th grade teacher.

-LJHS and TJHS Cheer coaches will NOT count as eligible to complete this form. Our input goes into the coachability portion of this score instead.

-YOU are responsible for making sure at least two people complete this form.

-Bosses and outside teachers/coaches do not count unless you are a transfer student. Otherwise, it has to be people on our LJHS/TJHS staff.

What you will perform at tryouts, all scored on a 1-10 scale except tumbling:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 1 jump- Toe Touch | 6. Tumbling skills- If applicable, required for Varsity |
| 2. Chant- Taught at tryouts | 7. Showmanship: Facials/Projection/Crowd Leading/Overall Impression |
| 3. Dance- Taught at tryouts | 8. Character: Combined influence from teacher recommendations and coachability score for returning athletes |
| 4. School Fight Song- Taught at tryouts | |
| 5. Stunt skills- Please see attached stunt menu to see detail on how this is judged | |



Tryouts Stunt Menu 2025

Please pick 1 stunt to showcase and 1 dismount to showcase. Please do NOT showcase multiple or connected stunts. Example- **YES** to a straight up/extension with a pop down, but **NO** to a straight up cradle reload to an elevator smoosh. ALL stunts MUST be approved by a coach on day 1 or two of tryouts before being performed on evaluation day. Safety is priority number 1. Stunts are scored on how clean, safe, crisp, and confident they are performed, NOT on difficulty of skill. We would prefer a more “basic” stunt executed well versus a more “elite” stunt that seems shaky and unsafe. *However, we DO expect returning athletes to challenge themselves to showcase their **best** skills.* Everyone is judged on stunts individually and may be a part of an unlimited number of stunt groups, but can only be scored on ONE stunt. All groups will be permitted to perform their stunt twice and only twice (if desired- just go once if you are happy with your stunt). Highest score of the two will be used.

How is this judged?

- Safety, cleanliness, body awareness
- Showmanship: Crisp high V from flyer, big smile, sharp motions, confidence
- Leadership and know-how: Load calls from back spot, full-group awareness of stunt and professional execution

Stunt options:

- elevator/prep
- straight up/extension
- straight up lib
- straight up switchover lib

Dismount options:

- smoosh
- pop down
- J-down
- corkscrew
- twisting cradle/twist down

2025-26 Physical and Final Forms Info:

All potential cheerleaders MUST have an updated physical on file in order to try out. Any student athlete without a physical on file at Jeff High School will NOT be able to try out.

- Physical packets are available in the athletic office and must be turned in to the athletic office
- Final Forms instructions are available in the athletic office- Final Forms must be completed online by both parents AND athletes. Candidates need to join the “Cheer Tryout” sport
- We will NOT take physicals and/or deal with FF issues at tryouts. Take initiative and take care of these items



Teacher Rec Directions: Ask TWO teachers/coaches to scan the QR code below to complete the teacher rec form:

**2025 Broncho Cheer
Teacher Rec Online Form**



FIGHT SONG

SONS OF JEFFERSON HIGH

Forward the Red, forward the Black,
Emblem of honor never to lack;
Thru stress and strain, peril and pain,
Borne to the end with never a strain.
Loyal and true always to you,
All hail to Jefferson High,
Victory's fair light, ever in sight,
Onward we sing thy praise. **LET'S GO JEFF**
Comrades, friends, and brothers true,
We sing to thee, old Red and Black;
Let your mem'ries linger too,
With ev'ry son that's far from you.
There are bonds of friendship here,
Of cherished union, endless love,
Bred by Alma Mater dear **LET'S GO JEFF**
Hail to Sons of Jefferson High.