

FBC O'Fallon Upward Basketball Cheerleading 2012 – FAQ

What are Upward sports?

Upward is a fun, reliable, passionate and encouraging sports experience for boys and girls, in K5 through sixth grade. Upward provides first class, organized and detailed sports programming in basketball, soccer, flag football and cheerleading. Unique aspects of Upward include an evaluation system that promotes equal and competitive teams as well as a substitution system which allows for equal playing time for all participants. Through Upward, children are exposed to quality coaching and sport development. Upward emphasizes character and integrity instead of a “win at all costs” mentality associated with today’s sports world.

Why Upward Cheerleading?

Upward Cheerleading is designed to provide the best sports experience for every child. The unique format of Upward Cheerleading exists to help teach cheerleaders the basic fundamentals of cheerleading. This includes cheers, chants, motions, jumps and pom routines along with cheerleading terminology.

How do I obtain information about the Upward organization?

For more information about Upward Unlimited, visit www.upward.org

What age groups can participate in Upward Basketball Cheerleading?

Girls who will be in K5 - 6th grades for the 2011 – 2012 school year are eligible. Children must turn 5 by January 1, 2012 to participate.

How much does it cost for my child to participate in the Upward program and what’s included?

Early bird registration through Nov 15 is \$60

After Nov 15, the cost is \$75

Registration ends Nov 29

Registration fee includes: Cheer top & skirt, hair ribbon, megaphone, poms, and many other Upward materials.

Note: Matching Upward mock turtlenecks can be purchased for an additional \$15 and must be noted on your registration form.

I'm concerned about the cost. Are scholarships available?

We will do our best to provide some type of either partial or full scholarship for families who aren't able to afford the program cost. All parents who are interested will be required to fill out a scholarship application. Additionally, as a small way of saying thank you to those who serve, Upward has decided to sponsor any and every child who may have a parent or legal guardian who is currently deployed overseas and away from home.

How is Upward cheerleading different from other cheerleading programs?

Upward Cheerleading reflects a spirit squad format. All cheers learned will be used to encourage both teams that are playing, no negative cheers will be permitted. All cheerleaders will wear identical uniforms. There is no tumbling and stunting included in the Upward Cheerleading program.

When are cheerleading orientations? Are orientations mandatory?

Orientation Dates - must attend one to participate

- Saturday, Nov 15 (9:00 am - 12:00 noon)

- Tuesday, Nov 29 (5:30 pm - 8:00 pm)

Yes, orientation is required for every participant.

Are the orientations tryouts? Will anyone not make the squad?

No, orientation is not tryouts. The orientation dates for cheerleaders will be a time to correctly size the uniforms they will be receiving, as well as introduce the cheerleader and their parent to the Upward Cheerleading program. There will be a special activity called a cheer clinic planned specifically for those children who will be participating in the Upward Cheerleading program. Additionally, "Every child is a winner" at Upward, and in that spirit every child will make the squad.

When/Where are practices? How long will they last?

Practices will be held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from Jan 2-March 8 on the campus of FBC O'Fallon. All practices will last 1 hour. At this point it is likely all practices will begin at 5:30pm.

When/Where are games? How long will they last?

Games will be held on Saturday mornings from Jan 21-Mar10 on the campus of FBC O'Fallon. All games will consist of four 9-min quarters and an 8-min half-time. For scheduling purposes no games will last beyond 1 hour. At this point games will likely begin at 9:00am and run through early afternoon.

How much will my child get to cheer during games? How many children per squad?

Upward cheerleading encourages cheers and chants throughout the games, a short, learned cheer between quarters and a cheer or pom routine performed at half-time. For Upward Cheerleading, ideally we will have 6-10 children per squad.

How do I let someone know that I would like to be my child's cheerleading coach?

Email – upwardbb@fbcofallon.org with the subject line Coach volunteer
OR

Document your interest in the designated location on your child's registration form.

Additionally, ALL coaches will be required to fill out and return the Cheerleading Coach application form to the Upward office @ FBC O'Fallon. The best time to do this is on registration night; however it can be mailed, emailed or faxed back to the church.

Note: ALL coaches will have a background check performed to aid in the safety of children participating in the program.

Is it possible for me to have my child participate on the same squad as a friend?

Cheerleaders are not drafted to squads according to ability level, but randomly assigned to an age-specific squad by our computer system. However, if there is a legitimate requirement for carpooling – i.e. traveling several miles, sister the same age – a child's name must be entered in the carpool link section on BOTH children's registration forms. We will do our best to fulfill these requests, however cannot guarantee this will occur.

I have one child participating in cheerleading and another participating in basketball, is it possible for their practice schedules and games to be at the same time?

We will try to accommodate family requests as best as possible. Please make sure to indicate on all your children's registration forms your desire for this to happen.

How do I take care of my child's uniform?

Machine wash COLD with like colors

Gentle Cycle

Do not use Bleach. Use non-chlorinated detergent when washing your child's uniform

Do not tumble dry low - Line Dry Flat

Do not iron

Do not dry-clean