



2017-2018

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Spirit Squad Tryout Information Packet

www.huskers.com/spiritsquad



Nebraska Spirit Squad



@HuskerCheerSquad @HuskerScarlets



@HuskerSpirit

Overview of the Nebraska Spirit Squad

The University of Nebraska Spirit Squad is the blanket term for The Cheer Squad, the Scarlets Dance Team and the Mascots. The Spirit Squad is under the direction of the Athletic Department.

The purpose of our program is to serve as leaders of student-driven school spirit, promote school pride and create an exciting game experience and home court advantage while unifying students, alumni and fans in support of the University of Nebraska and our athletic teams.

Spirit Squad members serve as public relations ambassadors for the Athletic Department and the University at-large. They reflect the goals and values of the University on and off-campus all season long and take great pride in their contributions to the Huskers. Members appear on behalf of the University at athletic games as well as campus and community events. The Squad operates under the core values of integrity, trust, respect, teamwork, and loyalty. The program is dedicated to excellence in all it pursues.

The Spirit Squad is under the direction of Head Coach Erynn Nicholson and is managed by Marlon Lozano.

The Cheer/Yell Squad is made up of 18-22 members and use traditional cheers, signs, jumps and sidelines dances to enhance the fan experience at Husker athletic events. Although they may support any one of our varsity sports, they primarily cheer at home football, volleyball, men's and women's basketball games.

The Scarlets Dance Team is made up of 14-18 squad members. Although they may support any one of our varsity sports, the Scarlets perform dance routines to entertain crowds primarily at home football, men's and women's basketball and select baseball and softball games.

Our Mascots are Herbie Husker and Lil' Red. They are always a crowd favorite, appearing at numerous athletic events as well events across campus and in the community.

April 8, 2017	Cheer First Round
April 9, 2017	Cheer Callbacks and Final Cuts
April 22, 2017	Dance Team First & Second Rounds
April 23, 2017	Dance Team Callbacks and Final Cuts
May 1, 2017	Official Roster Announcement on huskers.com/spiritsquad
May 8, 2017	Uniform Fitting and All-Squad Meeting (Time TBA)
July 10-21, 2017	Mandatory Cheer Training Camp
July 23-August 9, 2017	Mandatory Dance Team Training Camp (includes UDA College Camp in Wisconsin Dells, WI)

Minimum requirements

- ✓ Fully admitted to UNL by the first day of their respective tryout.
- ✓ Possess and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
- ✓ Earn a minimum 2.0 semester grade point average in 12 or more graded hours.
- ✓ Have a pre-participation physical exam dated within one year of auditions and is good throughout the 2017-2018 season.
- ✓ Possess and maintain personal health insurance while on squad

All portions of the tryout process will take place on UNL City Campus.

Students wishing to be considered for the 2017-2018 Cheer Squad or Scarlets Dance Team MUST TRYOUT IN-PERSON ON THE DATES LISTED. NO VIDEO AUDITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

TRYOUTS ARE CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Summary of the Rules and Expectations for the 2017-2018 Nebraska Spirit Squad

Purpose and Selection Process

This summary is intended to inform prospective members, their parents and other interested parties of the various policies and expectations of the University of Nebraska Spirit Squad Program. In all policy and program matters, members of the Spirit Squad shall first be law-abiding citizens and outstanding representatives of the University.

All UNL undergraduate students (male or female) as of fall 2017 (including incoming freshmen) may apply and must maintain undergraduate status while on squad. The squad is selected by a judging panel composed of individuals chosen for their experience and expertise in the areas of cheer, dance and/or leadership along with the Spirit Squad Head Coach. Those selected for the team must also pass a background check before making the official roster.

Scholarships and Benefits

Eligible Squad members who receive a 2.5 or better semester grade point average in 12 or more earned hours may receive an academic scholarship ranging from \$500-\$600 per semester in the fall and spring. Spirit Squad scholarships are not available for summer sessions. 2017-2018 Squad members will also receive adidas training gear, lunch at the training table 2x per week and a Sun Tan City service package among other perks. Uniforms, strength and conditioning coaching, a nutritionist as well as official team travel expenses, are covered by Athletics.

Life Skills Seminar

First year Squad members will be required to take the Life Skills Seminar class held on Sunday evenings in the fall semester. This is a MANDATORY non-credit course but Squad members must register for the course in order for it to appear on their schedule. Registration procedures will be communicated to those required to take the class.

Practices and Attendance

Practice schedules will be determined by availability of facilities and class schedules. Cheer Squad members should not schedule any Monday night classes for the academic year. Practices, games and scheduled appearances are mandatory. Spirit Squad duties are a priority, second only to academics. Good communication and effective time management are required.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Social Media Policy

Squad members are expected to be outstanding, law-abiding citizens. This expectation is foremost when it comes to the use of alcohol and representation of self through social media. The Spirit Squad is a highly visible group within the community and the behaviors of Squad members are under constant observation in and out of uniform. Squad members are often an easy target for criticism regarding their conduct particularly if indulging or over-indulging in alcoholic beverages. With this in mind, the Squad will adhere to the following policies:

- Spirit Squad members of legal drinking age shall not procure an alcoholic beverage for another squad member who is under 21 at any time.
- Spirit Squad members may not purchase, possess or consume alcohol during any part of an away trip regardless of age.
- Spirit Squad members shall not consume alcoholic beverages before or during an event or practice, regardless of age.
- Spirit Squad members shall not draw negative attention to the team due to inappropriate drinking behavior regardless of age. This includes observations in public, photos, Facebook posts, tweets and other media.
- Squad members may not smoke or use other forms of tobacco while in uniform.
- Personal social media accounts should not depict alcohol, drug or tobacco use even if not in uniform.
- Personal social media accounts should always positively represent the squad.
- If an illness or injury due to drinking prohibits a Spirit Squad member from participating in any event including practice, games or appearances, that member will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Travel

Traveling is a privilege and reward, not a right of membership on Spirit Squad. Many factors are considered when assigning travel opportunities including, but not limited to, contribution to squad activities, attitude and commitment, work ethic, academic performance and seniority. The number of travel opportunities available is determined at the discretion of the Athletic Department in accordance with budget guidelines, University regulations and the Big Ten Conference.

Winter and Spring Break

All Squad members will have responsibilities over winter and spring break. Squad members may trade games in the winter to accommodate travel plans but all members are responsible for their assigned games. There may also be away travel or practice over winter break. Tardiness or absences in the event of serious illness or inclement weather will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The men's and women's NCAA and NIT Basketball Tournaments may fall over spring break. We are expected to participate with a set number of squad members at each event. We ask that all Squad members wait to make plans over spring break until the travel party for each event has been selected.

Communication

Communication regarding Spirit Squad matters will be conducted between the student and coaching staff. This includes requests for feedback after the tryout process. Parents/Guardians will be contacted only in the case of an emergency or immediate need. Questions and concerns directed to any member of the coaching staff from parents or other related parties regarding Spirit Squad matters will be re-directed to the student.

Email and text messaging are common forms of communication used by the coaching staff. All squad members are responsible for reading through email communications and responding to emails and text messages promptly.

Personal Responsibility

All Squad members must maintain their skills and a healthy, physically fit appearance throughout the year. If, in the opinion of the coaching staff, a squad member is unable to perform skills or remain healthy and physically fit (for reasons other than injury) corrective actions will be taken until improvements are made at the satisfaction of the coaching staff.

Any Squad member may be dismissed from the team for any of the following reasons:

1. Attitude
2. Lack of ability
3. Poor attendance and/or tardiness
4. Personality conflicts
5. Inability to follow rules and procedures
6. Representation of self through social media inconsistent with team values and expectations
7. Insubordination and other behaviors deemed inappropriate by the coaching staff and/or administration
8. Best interest of the team as determined by the coaching staff and/or administration

Squad members may also be dismissed for other reasons not listed above, as determined by the coaching staff and/or the administration.

Failure to comply with Squad rules and expectations or other verbal directions may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or dismissal from the Squad, at the discretion of the coaching staff and appropriate administrators. The severity and frequency of the violation(s) will be considered when making final decisions.

2017-2018 Spirit Squad Tryout Participant Agreement

The participant agreement form acknowledges that you have read and accept the guidelines presented in the summary above. Applicants (and their parent if the applicant is under age 19) must read and sign the participant agreement form before they are allowed to participate in any part of tryouts. PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

As an applicant for the University of Nebraska Spirit Squad, I understand that I have chosen to be a candidate and fully understand the rules and expectations of the Spirit Squad program. I also recognize and accept the inherent subjective nature of the audition process. The goal of the audition process is to choose a team that best fits the needs and vision of the program and all decisions are final.

If I am chosen to be a member of the University of Nebraska Spirit Squad, I understand this is a one year commitment. I agree to uphold the guidelines of the program from the moment I am selected throughout the academic year.

In the spirit of excellence, I agree that the needs of the Spirit Squad will take priority second only to academics. I understand that each member is an integral part of the success of the Squad and I choose to put service to the Squad as a whole ahead of myself. I understand that the Spirit Squad is a highly visible representative of the University and it is the responsibility of all members to uphold the standards of the program and the Athletic Department. **Membership on Spirit Squad is a privilege, not a right.** I agree that if the coaching staff and/or administration should determine that I have violated the terms of this Agreement, consequences may include disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from activities and performances, loss of travel privileges, immediate dismissal from the Squad and loss of benefits that accompany membership on the team.

My signature below indicates that I have read and completely understand the Summary of the Rules and Expectations for 2017-18 Spirit Squad provided to me. I recognize and agree that any interpretation of the Rules and Expectations made by the coaching staff and/or Athletic Department shall be binding as it applies to me.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 19)

Date

Erynn Nicholson Butzke
Spirit Squad Head Coach
One Memorial Stadium
P.O. Box 880136
Lincoln, NE 68588-0136
O: (402) 472-0846
F: (402) 472-9168

Marlon Lozano
Spirit Squad Manager of Operations
One Memorial Stadium
P.O. Box 880136
Lincoln, NE 68588-0136
O: (402) 472-4622
F: (402) 472-9168

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

Cheer Tryouts

- In the first round applicants will be asked to perform jumps (Men: toe touch and double toe touch; Women: toe touch, double toe touch, right/left side hurdlers and a right front hurdler); a sideline routine, cheer and the fight song. Women will also be evaluated on right/left high kicks.
- Callbacks will be held on Sunday, April 9th. Finalists will complete the sports information quiz, timed two-mile run and personal interview. In the final skills assessment, applicants will be asked to demonstrate a toe touch, double toe touch and series of 3 connection jumps; offense and defense cheers, sideline routine and fight song.

We are looking for the following qualities:

- Athleticism
- Coordination and rhythm
- Strong motion technique
- Collegiate appearance and poise
- Crowd appeal
- Vocal quality and ability to project
- Positivity, genuine spirit and enthusiasm
- The ability to positively LEAD and MOTIVATE a crowd!
- Good public speaking skills
- Friendly and engaging personality
- Team-player mentality and a sense of commitment to the program
- Ability and desire to uphold a standard of excellence in their personal conduct and character
- Positive leadership skills
- In-game management skills
- Potential to contribute and grow with the program

The Cheer Squad currently does not stunt or tumble at athletic or community events however many squad members possess these skills. Although you will not be asked to demonstrate stunting or tumbling skills at this year's tryout, you will be asked about your previous cheerleading experience and you may refer to your training and abilities in these areas.

Women should wear a crop top or sports bra, shorts and athletic shoes. Your top may be any color but should have no other University logos or identifying marks. Wear appropriate undergarments for modesty and function (i.e. not tugging on bra straps). Attach your tryout number to the center front of your top. Tattoos should be covered and make-up and hair should be game day ready. Female applicants may wear one pair of stud earrings only and all body jewelry must be removed.

Men should wear a plain T-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes. Attach your tryout number to the center front of your shirt. Tattoos should be covered. Hair should be neat and away from the face. Facial hair should be short and neatly groomed. Male applicants may not wear earrings during tryouts.

Interviews for all applicants are in business casual attire. Neatness and overall presentation will count towards your evaluation.

Dance Team Auditions

- In the first round applicants will be asked to demonstrate technique in center (R/L turns in passé and coupé, R/L front, side and switch leaps, double toe touch, right calypso, turning disc, turns in second with variations, high kicks and kip up), a short combination and the fight song.
- Those advancing to the second round will perform the jazz routine and the fight song/other technical skills as needed.
- In the third round, finalists will complete the sports information quiz, timed two-mile run and personal interview. They will also perform the jazz routine, a hip hop routine and the fight song. Finalists will also perform a freestyle to steady-beat, popular music showcasing the applicants best skills. The freestyle should highlight personal strengths and will be evaluated on the difficulty and uniqueness of skills, as well as expression, style and execution.

Overall, we are looking for:

- Elite technical skill and ability to pick up material quickly
- Coordination and rhythm
- Strong motions and attention to detail
- Collegiate, fit appearance and poise
- Crowd appeal
- Vocal quality and ability to project
- Positivity, genuine spirit and enthusiasm
- Engaging performance quality
- Good public speaking skills
- Friendly and engaging personality
- Team-player mentality and a sense of commitment to the program
- Ability and desire to uphold a standard of excellence in their personal conduct and character
- Positive leadership skills
- In-game management skills
- Potential to contribute and grow with the program

Women should wear an embellished crop top or sports bra, fitted shorts and jazz shoes. Tops may be any color but should have no other University logos or identifying marks. Men should wear a plain T-shirt, black shorts and jazz shoes. Wear appropriate undergarments for modesty and function (i.e. not tugging on bra straps or enough coverage on shorts). You may bring sweats or baggy pants and tennis shoes to wear during the hip hop dance. Attach your tryout number to the center front of your top. Make-up and hair should be game day ready.

Interviews are in business casual attire. Neatness and overall presentation will count towards your evaluation.

Interview/Sports Information Quiz

In the interview we want to get to know you and get a sense of how you will interact with our fans. Best advice is to BE AUTHENTIC! Squad members also have to know what they are watching in order to lead the crowd! We are looking for a working knowledge of Nebraska Athletics, the Big Ten Conference and rules of the various games. Most of the questions are derived from actual fan interactions and spelling counts! Here are a few sample questions:

1. Who are our current head coaches in all 24 varsity sports?
2. What schools made up the Big Ten Conference during the 2016-2017 season and where are they located?
3. When is a good time to call a defensive cheer during a basketball game?
4. What does "three and out" mean?
5. What does the official's arm signal for a first down look like?
6. In volleyball, what is a sideout?
7. Who is your favorite Nebraska athlete and why?

Fitness

Finalists will be asked to complete a two-mile run with a goal time of 18:00 or under in the morning on Day 2. Music devices such as iPods WILL be allowed. Nebraska Athletics, its staff or officials will not assume any responsibility or liability for damages incurred should you choose to use them. There will not be a cut immediately following this component however, completion and time will be considered in determining the final team. Men will also be asked to complete a strength drill that will include push-ups and a sprint with the Nebraska flag.

The use of running shoes and supportive undergarments is recommended for all applicants. We are not evaluating your appearance. Dress to your level of comfort and needs for warmth. Attach your tryout number to the center front of your outermost layer

Academic Performance

High academic performance is a priority for the Squad. While a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average is required to tryout, applicants must have a 2.5 or higher previous semester GPA (in 12 or more graded hours) to be considered for scholarship privileges. Applicants must have a 2.5 or higher cumulative GPA to be considered for travel privileges. GPAs above the Squad average of 3.5 will receive additional consideration. High school GPA, ACT/SAT test scores and class rank will be considered for incoming freshmen only.

Overall Impression

Many factors are taken into consideration when choosing the best fit squad for the University. Much of the process is inherently subjective. By participating, applicants understand and accept the subjective nature of tryouts and **ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL**.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application packets should include:

- Completed application
 - Signed Participant Agreement
 - Signed Medical Release Form
 - Copy of a pre-participation physical exam dated within one year of your respective tryout
 - Copy of Health Insurance Card (front and back)
 - 5x7 color HEADSHOT (for identification purposes only)
 - \$30 application fee (check or money order only-- made payable to the *University of Nebraska*)
- **Want to try out for Cheer and Dance?** Separate applications and fees must be submitted for each but you may send them in the same envelope.
- **Want to withdraw your application?** Please notify us by email at mlozano@huskers.com, 24 hours prior to your respective tryout. No shows will not have their application fees returned.

Return application materials to:
University of Nebraska Spirit Squad
Attn: 2017-2018 Spirit Squad Tryouts
One Memorial Stadium
P.O. Box 880136
Lincoln, NE 68588-0136

CHEER/YELL SQUAD APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017 BY 5:00PM

SCARLETS DANCE TEAM APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017 BY 5:00PM

Submitted application materials including photos will become the property of Nebraska Athletics and will not be returned

