



USA SPIRIT NATIONALS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATION/REGISTRATION

How does a team qualify for Spirit Nationals?

Show Cheer, Show Cheer Non-Tumbling, Group Stunt and Game Day (Cheer) Divisions - It is required that at least 75% of the cheer members competing at the 2025 USA Spirit Nationals in cheer divisions must have completed the summer camp 2024 Varsity Spirit/NFHS Squad Credentialing Program.

All Divisions, including Game Day – Prior qualification through a USA Regional competition or other sanctioned event/process is required in order to attend Spirit Nationals in any division. Bids to Nationals are awarded to teams receiving 80% of total possible points for all cheer, group stunt and game day cheer divisions and 75% of total possible points for all song, jazz, pep flag, mascot, and game day song divisions, regardless of any penalties received.

How does a team register for Spirit Nationals?

Log into your myVarsity account, find the event in the Competition Search, and click on Register Now.

Do I have to pay when I register?

No money is due at the time of registration. **In fact, it is requested that you wait for the USA office to check and confirm the registration is correct before payment to avoid over or under paying.**

What happens if I register and pay for Nationals but do not qualify?

If for some reason you do not qualify for Nationals, we will refund any monies paid.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

When do divisions compete during the Event?

Group Stunt Prelims and Finals – **Thursday, February 13, 2025.**

Show Cheer, Mascot, and Crowdleader™ Teams divisions – Prelims take place on **Friday, February 14, 2025**, and Finals take place on **Saturday, February 15, 2025.**

Cheer Game Day divisions – Takes place on **Saturday, February 15, 2025.**

Song/Pom, Song/Jazz, and Pep Flag/Short Flag divisions – Prelims take place on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**, and Finals take place on **Monday, February 17, 2025.**

Song/Pom Game Day division – Takes place on **Sunday, February 16, 2025.**

When should my team be in Anaheim to compete?

Group Stunt Divisions – teams need to be in Anaheim and available to compete as of 4:00 PM on Thursday, February 13th.

Show Cheer, Mascot, and Crowdleader™ divisions – teams will need to be in Anaheim and available to compete as of Friday morning, February 14th.

Cheer Game Day Divisions – teams will need to be in Anaheim and available to compete on Saturday, February 15th.

Song/Pom, Song/Jazz, and Pep Flag/Short Flag divisions and Song/Pom Game Day Division – teams will need to be in Anaheim and available to compete as of Sunday morning, February 16th.

PRE-EVENT PLANNING

How do I book hotel rooms?

USA is happy to work with our housing partner, Team Travel Source, to provide hotel arrangements for your team. Although it is not a requirement to go through Team Travel Source to attend the event, we highly recommend this as they are experts in working with teams to meet your housing needs.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book hotel rooms through Team Travel Source.

Does the USA book airfare for schools?

The USA is working in conjunction with *ALTOUR* to arrange the most convenient flights for you at the best possible prices.

For a quote contact ALTOUR at 1-866-719-0379 or submit an on- line request at varsity@aitvl.com.

How can we purchase tickets to visit the Disneyland Resort during the event?

Additional information will be sent separately to schools registered for Spirit Nationals once it is finalized.

When will we know exactly when we are competing?

A preliminary schedule will be sent out approximately two weeks prior to the event start date. The final schedule will be available by checking usa.varsity.com after 5:00 PM (PST) the Wednesday prior to the competition. **It is the advisor/coach's responsibility to check the schedule for accuracy of divisions, team size, etc. prior to the day of competition.**

How can I check to see if there are any legality issues with my routine?

Please send a video of skills in question to USARules@varsity.com for cheer teams or USADanceRules@varsity.com for song/pom teams by January 19, 2025. Please refer to the Spirit Nationals Guidelines for more information on how to submit a video.

ADMISSIONS

How many coaches' wristbands will each team receive?

Each team will receive two complimentary coach wristbands. Additional coaches above the two complimentary per squad need to be purchased as part of the team registrations.

How do my parents/families purchase admission to the event?

Admission **must be** pre-purchased. The link for spectator tickets will be available on the USA website Spirit Nationals page as we get closer to the event start date. **No cash admission purchases will take place on-site during the event.**

DEADLINES AND PAPERWORK

What are the deadlines associated with my registration?

- **December 2, 2024** – All Spirit Nationals registrations must be entered online.
- **December 13, 2024** – To secure performance order, \$100 per participant registration deposit or payment in full must be received in the USA Office.
- **December 20, 2024** – Original Spirit Nationals Roster is due in the USA office.
- **January 19, 2025** – Deadline for division and roster changes. No refunds for participant/team cancellations after this date and full competition fees will still be due. **There are no division or roster changes after January 19, 2025.** Deadline is subject to change.
- **January 24, 2025** - The 2025 USA Spirit Nationals Digital Waiver must be submitted on or before this date.
- **January 31, 2025** – Final balance due

What additional paperwork do I need to submit prior to the event?

An original Spirit Nationals roster that includes participants, alternates, and coaches needs to be turned into the USA office for each division in which you are competing.

All participants, alternates, and personnel entering the restricted areas need to complete a Spirit Nationals digital waiver. The link to the waiver is on the registration details. **Each registration has a specific release so make sure to provide the correct registration link to participants.**

What paperwork do I need to bring to registration at the event?

At event registration you may be required to show proof of all digital waivers being submitted if they were not submitted by the deadline.

Proof of music licensing for all music being used must be shown at event registration.

EVENT PLANNING

When can I pick up my registration packet?

Registration packets will be available for pick-up by the authorized team representative only starting on **Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM**. Packets will not be mailed in advance.

We purchased Disney tickets, but I will not be at the event until later. Can my parents each pick up their tickets?

Individuals are not allowed to pick up portions of the registration packet.

Where do coaches get their wristbands?

All individuals who will be accessing the restricted areas (coaches, choreographers, personnel) need to check in at the Coach Check in to show proof of their USA Cheer Membership to receive a wristband.

Who can access the restricted areas?

Only those individuals with the appropriate USA Cheer credential will be allowed into the restricted areas. **The USA Cheer General Membership is not an acceptable membership for restricted area access.**

My child will be with me at the event, can they go with me into the restricted areas so I can stay with my team?

No. Children under the age of 18 who are not competing are not allowed in the restricted areas.

Where can my team practice during the event?

Open warm up will be available starting Friday, February 14th.

Can my team practice on Thursday while my Group Stunt team performs?

No. Warm up will only be available for the Group Stunt teams who are competing on Thursday.

What is the size of the floor we will be competing on?

All Show Cheer, Crowleader™ Teams and Mascots will perform on a carpet bonded foam mat measuring 42' (front to back) x 54' (side to side). All stunts and/or tumbling must be **completed** on the mat surface.

Group Stunt teams will perform on carpet bonded foam mat, measuring at least 28' (front to back) x 42' (side to side) – four (4) strips.

Song/Pom, Song/Jazz and Pep Flag categories/divisions will perform on a Marley, parquet, basketball court, or similar surface measuring at least 42' x 42'.

Performance areas may change as a result of final registration.

How does warm up work? How much time will I get?

Each team will be given approximately 20 – 30 minutes on the official practice floor prior to performing.

Official warm up mats for cheerleading teams will measure 54' x 42'.

Song/Pom and Song/Jazz will have two strips of Marley flooring available warm up area a long with a 42' x 42' marked square on the convention center cement flooring for team warm up.

Will my team be given an official warm up time?

All cheerleading, song/pom, song/jazz, and pep flag/short flag squads will receive a schedule practice time.

Mascots may warm up 20 – 30 minutes prior to performing but will not receive an official warm up time.

Group stunt teams will not be provided an official warm up time. A full warm up floor will be available for teams to share for warm up in the official warm up area 20 – 30 minutes prior to each team's performance.

Will there be someone available to review my performance for legality issues during my warm up?

Legality Officials will not be available prior to any performance.

How many teams advance to finals?

Group Stunt - If either Group Stunt category has 10 or more entries for preliminaries, then finals will take place with 25% of that division advancing. If either category reaches 40 entries or more for preliminaries, the category will be randomly subdivided into two groups for preliminaries (A and B or A, B, and C, etc.). 25% of each subdivided group will be selected to perform again in finals.

Team Divisions - For **All** Novice divisions (including Non-Tumbling Show Cheer Novice), **30%** of the division will advance to finals with a minimum of two (2) teams advancing. For **All** Intermediate divisions, Non-Tumbling Show Cheer Advanced, Crowdleader™ Teams, Song/Jazz, Pep Flag, and the Mascot division, **35%** of the division will advance to finals with a minimum of two (2) teams advancing. For **All** Advanced divisions (excluding Non-Tumbling Show Cheer Advanced), **40%** of the division will advance to finals, with a minimum of two (2) teams advancing.

Please note the percentage of teams advancing to finals is subject to change pending final enrollment for Nationals.

Does my preliminary score count towards my total score?

Preliminary scores will **not** count toward final placement, rather they will only be used for advancing teams to finals. All finals scores will count 100% for final placement. Scores are 100% for Prelims and 100% for Finals.

What awards will my team receive?

Game Day (excluding Crowdleader™) - Trophies will be presented to 50% of the teams competing in each division. For teams placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, individual medallions will be given to each participant. First place teams will also receive a Nationals banner. No additional Champion gifts are awarded to individual performers for Game Day divisions.

All Divisions (except Game Day) - Trophies will be presented to 50% of the teams competing in each division. For teams placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, individual medallions will be given to each participant. First place teams will also receive a Nationals banner and each individual team participant will receive a National Champions gift.

When can I get my recaps?

Once awards are announced for the division, recaps will be available for pick up.