



THUNDER ELITE 2026-2027 PREP AND ELITE TEAM CALENDAR

WELCOME TO THE EXCITING SEASON AHEAD FOR OUR ELITE AND PREP TEAMS! WE'VE PREPARED A COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS, GYM CLOSURES, COMPETITIONS, AND SHOWCASES TO ENSURE A PHENOMENAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR ATHLETES. PLEASE REVIEW OUR FULL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION AND CALENDAR BELOW!

We understand that life can be unpredictable, but attendance is critical for every athlete's success and for team progress. Planned absences—such as family vacations, school trips, or other known conflicts—must be submitted to your coach at least two weeks in advance for consideration. Approval is not guaranteed, especially during mandatory practice weeks. Unplanned absences, such as illness or emergencies, should be communicated to your coach by 3:00 PM on the day of practice. We know that family time matters too. That's why Thunder includes planned breaks and holidays throughout the year to support a balance between commitment to the team and time with loved ones.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

Mandatory Events/Practices



- Practice the week before/after choreography (Elite teams)
- Choreography dates
- Skills Camp (Elite Teams)
- Practices the week of any competition
- Practices the week of any performance
- Any Practice after Christmas Break until the Aloha Competition (Elite Teams)
 - Reminder: Prep teams are required to attend all practices the week of a competition

HIGHLY ENCOURAGED EVENTS!

- Thunder Tailgate
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Party

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS IN CHEERLEADING

Showing up really matters in cheer because every athlete plays a vital role—there are no backup players. When even one person is absent, a stunt may not go up, timing can be thrown off, and formations may fall apart, affecting the entire practice. With limited weekly practice hours, there's little room to miss key skills, updates, or timing work that the team depends on. Consistent attendance builds confidence, helps the team function as one unit, and supports safe, successful performances. Beyond the mat, being present teaches athletes how to manage their time, honor commitments, and be accountable not just for themselves, but for teammates who rely on them.

**A FULL COPY OF ALL OUR POLICIES CAN BE ACCESSED AT
WWW.THUNDERELITE.COM/TEAMS**

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Welcome to the exciting season ahead for our Elite and Prep teams! We've prepared a comprehensive calendar of events, gym closures, competitions, and showcases to ensure a phenomenal experience for our athletes. Please take note of the important details below!

- **May 18th: Tryouts Begin!**

- Elite Teams (Travel)

- Description: Sign up for an Elite Team by completing your registration packet before tryouts on May 18th. Packets can be submitted digitally or printed and turned in in-person. Tryout practices will start May 18th. Practices will be held every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm.

- Athletes who do not make it onto an Elite may be placed on Prep.

- Prep Teams (Local)

- Description: Sign up for a Prep Team by completing your registration packet before tryouts on May 18th. Packets can be submitted digitally or printed and turned in in person. Tryout practices will start May 18th. and will be held twice a week, depending on your athlete's age group. Practices will continue twice a week based on age groups until teams are divided on May 29th.

- Birth Years 2017-2020: Mondays & Wednesdays 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

- Birth Years 2011-2016: Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

- **May 25th: No Practices**

- Description: Enjoy the holiday! No practices for any teams.

- **May 29th: Team Announcements**

- Team announcements will be shared on our Facebook and our Instagram pages!

- Information will include practice days and times, coach contact information and first practice details!

- **July 3rd-July 11th: No Practices**

- Description: Enjoy the summer break! No practices for any teams. Practices resume on July 13th.

- **July 16th No practice for Prep Teams**

- **July 16th and 17th: ELITE Team Skills Camp**

- Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on both days

- Location: North Clackamas Park, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr. Milwaukie

- Description: Elite Teams' skills camp to kick off the season. Specific event details have been emailed to participants.

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- **July 26th: Thunder Elite Tailgate**

- Description: All Thunder teams will get together for a fun Thunder tailgate! Bring your favorite summertime treat and get to know all the fantastic Thunder families! (please note we do not have a water hookup or access to power outside)
- Location: Thunder Elite Parking lot
- Time: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

- **August 10th-14th: ELITE TEAM CHOREOGRAPHY**

- Location: Thunder Elite
 - Choreo days and times are TBA.
- Description: Elite Teams' choreography days. No regular practices on these dates. Athletes will wear their regular practice attire along with white shoes—important reminder: Practices the week before, after, and of choreography are all MANDATORY.



- **August 10th-14th: Prep Team Summer Break:**

- Description: No practices for Prep Teams from August 10th to 14th.

- **August 22nd: Prep Dance Choreography**

- Description: Prep team choreography session to complete their routine by learning their dance choreography.
 - Please note Baby Bolts will do all their choreography during practice times.
- Flurries 9:00 am - 10:30 am
- Black Ice 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- Cyclones 11:00 am - 12:30 pm



- **September 7th: No Practices**

- Description: Enjoy the holiday! No practices for any teams.

- **September 11th - 13th: Thunder Games (ELITE TEAMS ONLY)**

- Location: Camp Collins, 3001 SE Oxbow Pkwy, Gresham, OR 97080
 - Time: Drop off September 11th at 6:00 pm
 - Pick up: September 13th at 9:30 am
- Description: Bonding event for Elite Teams. Athletes stay the weekend with coaches and staff. More information will be available as it gets closer.



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- September 20th: Prep Team Bonding
 - Location: Thunder Elite Gym
 - Description: Prep Teams' bonding activities at the gym.
 - Baby Bolts and Flurries
 - Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
 - Black Ice and Cyclones
 - Time 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
- **October 7th & 8th: PINK Practices**
 - Description: In support of breast cancer awareness, we will be doing a pink-themed practice! The kids can deck out in pink and will not be required to wear their normal practice attire this day! (Please, no body paint, but glittery makeup is okay).
- **October 25th: Trunk or Treat (ALL TEAMS)**
 - Time: The event starts at 6:30 pm (Setup at 5:30 pm)
 - Location: Thunder Elite Parking Lot
 - Description: This is one of our absolute favorite events of the season!! This event is for both PREP and ELITE athletes!! Trunk or treating is a fun activity for our cheerleaders to bond and celebrate the holiday. Parents decorate their cars and dress in fun costumes, and our wonderful cheerleaders will trick or treat around the parking lot to all the different trunks. The staff will vote on the winners of our trunk contest! Thunder Elite Trunk or Treat bags will be provided.
 - The top 3 cards will be awarded
 - 1st – \$100 off tuition 2nd– \$75 off tuition 3rd - \$50 off tuition
- **November 14th: Thunder Struck (ALL TEAMS)**
 - Location: Thunder Elite
 - Description: All teams will perform at the gym in front of their family and friends to get prepare for the upcoming competition season. We fill the whole gym with family and friends to really pump up our teams before their first competitions! This is an awesome event. The Thunderstruck pro shop will be open starting at 10:00 am! We offer our largest pro-shop sale for fan gear and Christmas gifts! Families tend to get here early, so make sure to get there early!
 - Performance Times TBA



Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **November 25th and November 26th: Gym Closed for Thanksgiving**
 - Description: Enjoy the holiday! No practices for any teams.

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- **December 5th and 6th: The American Northwest Competition(ALL TEAMS)**

- Oregon Convention Center 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232
- Description: All Teams competition. Prep Teams compete on Saturday ONLY.
- Times: TBA



Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **December 20th: Christmas Party (ALL TEAMS)**

- Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Thunder Elite
- Description: Athlete-only Christmas party! Events at the party: Individual and team pictures with Santa and the Minion! The pictures will be available to download off the website and print out at home! Don't forget to wear your best Christmas PJs for our highly competitive Christmas PJ Competition! Each child will go home with their own custom Thunder Elite ornament! (Party price and ornament is included in the tuition fees.)
 - We will also be raffling off our amazing, themed baskets. Raffle tickets will be 4 tickets for \$1.00.

- **December 21st - 27th: Gym Break**

- Description: Enjoy the holiday break! No practices for any teams. Regular practices resume on December 28th

- **December 31st: Closed**

- Description: Enjoy the holiday! No practices for any teams.

- **January 9th - 10th: Aloha Competition (ALL TEAMS)**

- Oregon Convention Center 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232
- Description: All Teams competition. Prep Teams compete on Saturday ONLY.
- **Make sure to bust out your Hawaiian/Aloha Gear for this fun themed event!!!**
THUNDER ALWAYS GOES HARD AT THIS EVENT, SO PREPARE NOW!!
- Times: TBA



Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **January 23rd-24th Battle in Tacoma (ELITE TEAMS)**

- Greater Tacoma Convention Center 1500 Commerce St, Tacoma, WA 98402
- Description: All-Star Elite Teams competition. There is no stay to play so feel free to book a hotel wherever you'd like!



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- **January TBA: BURPEE A THON (ELITE TEAMS)**

- Description: The funds raised from this and their raffle baskets from Christmas will go toward team Nationals/Summit gear. Everyone **MUST** participate in this fundraiser! Your team will spend 15 minutes of practice time to perform as many burpees as possible. You/your athlete will collect donations and/or pledges to raise money for your team. Pledge forms are being sent home this week. Please collect pledges between now and the burpee-a-thon!



- **February 20th-21st All Star Grand Prix (ELITE TEAMS)**

- SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, 1400 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Description: All-Star Elite Teams competition. There is no stay to play so feel free to book a hotel where ever you'd like!



Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY

- **February 26th - February 28th: PacWest - Grand Nationals (ALL TEAMS)**

- Oregon Convention Center 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232
- Description: All Teams competition. **PREP teams will compete on FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY!**
- Times: TBA



Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **March 3rd and March 4th: Last Prep Practices**

- Description: Athletes will prepare for the Spring showcase (their last performance).

- **March 6th: Spring Showcase (Prep Only)**

- Location: Thunder Elite Gym
- Description: Prep Teams will perform at the gym in front of their family and friends. For any friends or family who could not attend local events, this is a perfect time to see how amazing the teams are!! This is the last time our teams will perform locally for all-star and our final performance for our prep teams! The fun family event is a must-attend!!
- Times are all TBA



- **March 20th-21st NCA All-Star Nationals (LIGHTNING ONLY)**

- Toyota Center and the George R. Brown Convention Center
- Lightning will attend NCA All-Star Nationals in Houston Texas. Coaches Fees and Athlete registration costs (Estimated at \$500) will be due to Thunder Elite on October 15th. Parents will book their own flights/transportation, but NCA Hotels are booked solely with the event producer.
COACHES FEE AND COMP FEE FOR LIGHTNING ONLY NON Refundable
- **Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.**

Please note: The gym WILL NOT be closed for spring break. This is too close to our upcoming competitions

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- **April 3rd-4th: Super Mega Nationals (ELITE TEAMS)**

- Oregon Convention Center 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232
- Description: Elite Teams Only competition.
- Times: TBA

Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **April 10th-11th: West Regional Summit (Elite Teams)**

- Location: Phoenix Convention Center 100 N 3rd St Phoenix, AZ, 85004
- Description: Times are TBA. Teams must win a bid to attend this event. Please plan on attending. Plan financially and reserve these dates ahead of time! 😊 When we receive the bids more information will be sent out. Reminder: The 2 practices before every gym event are mandatory. Booking through our housing partner is required for all athletes, coaches and spectators attending this event. Information on how to do this will be sent out via email so make sure to watch for that in the future.

Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY.

- **April 29th - May 2nd: SUMMIT in Orlando, FL (ELITE JR/SR TEAMS ONLY)**

- Location: ESPN World Wide Sports
- Description: Summit is an end-of-the-season event for the ELITE teams. Teams must win a bid to attend this event. Please plan on attending. Plan financially and reserve these dates ahead of time! 😊 When we receive the bids, more information will be sent out.

Important Reminder: Practices the week of an event or competition are MANDATORY..

- **May TBA: All-Star Awards (ELITE TEAMS ONLY)**

- Location: Gray Gables Estates 3009 SE Chestnut St Portland, OR 97267
- Description: This is a fun time for all the kids! We get dressed up, enjoy dinner, and all the kids get their yearbooks! No one misses this event because it is so much fun! The event will be held at the Gray Gables Estates. Parents and cheerleaders are welcome to attend. Tickets for the cheerleaders are included in their package. Parent tickets will be available for purchase when the event gets closer.

We can't wait to make this season a memorable one! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Let's make it a fantastic year for our athletes!

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