



2015-2016 Evaluation Information and Frequently Asked Questions

➤ How much does it cost to participate in evaluations?

A fee of \$125 (cash only) includes each athlete's annual registration, insurance fees, and three weeks of individual and team evaluations. This is due on the first day of evaluations. ***Please note that your registration will not be processed until any outstanding balance you may have is paid in full!**

➤ How do I decide which evaluation to attend?

First determine your age for the 2015 - 2016 season then your skill level. Attend the evaluations that match up to both for you.

Age - The age used for Athlete Evaluations, Team Placements, and all forms where the athlete's "competition age" is requested will be determined by the age of the athlete on the USASF eligibility cut off date of August 31, 2015.

Skill Level - The skills list below must be able to be safely performed without a spot.

Level 1 evaluations - No experience is necessary. Athletes will be asked to demonstrate any skills they have learned including rolls, cart wheels, round off, and walkovers.

Level 2 evaluations - Athletes will be asked to demonstrate the following skills: standing back handspring, back walkover back handspring, round off back handspring, and a Level 2 specialty pass.

Level 3 evaluations - Athletes will be asked to demonstrate the following skills: jump combination (2 to 4 jumps) connected to a back handspring series (2 or 3 back handsprings), round off back handspring tuck, and a Level 3 specialty pass.

Level 4 evaluations - Athletes will be asked to demonstrate the following skills: standing tuck, toe touch back handspring tuck, standing 2 back handsprings to a tuck, round off back handspring layout, and a Level 4 specialty pass.

Level 5 evaluations - Athletes will be asked to demonstrate the following skills: quad jump back tuck, round off back handspring full, standing series of back handsprings to full, and a Level 5 specialty pass.

Evaluation Dates and Times:

Week 1- May 4 - 9, 2015- Individual Evaluations

Monday, May 4 and Wednesday, May 6 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Level 1 and 2 athletes ages 11 and younger

Monday, May 4 and Wednesday, May 6 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Level 1 and 2 athletes ages 12 and older

Tuesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 7 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Level 3 and 4 athletes ages 11 and younger

Tuesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 7 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Level 3 and 4 athletes ages 12 and older

Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Please send each athlete with a lunch) Level 5 athletes of all ages including Open team athletes

*Open team athletes will also be evaluated during this evaluation process. Please indicate on your registration form if you are interested in being considered for one of these teams. Please note that this division is aged/skilled differently as these teams will compete in the International Level 5 division. This division is primarily devoted to athletes out of High School and those who are too old to participate in the other all star divisions. However younger athletes may be considered to fill certain roles. Athletes must be 14 years old by December 31, 2015 to participate in this division and demonstrate Level 5 skills.

Week 2 and 3 - May 11 – 21, 2015 Team Evaluations

Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Level 3 athletes of all ages

Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Level 4 athletes of all ages

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Level 1 and 2 athletes ages 11 and younger

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Level 1 and 2 athletes ages 12 and older

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Level 5 athletes of all ages

Week 4 May 25 - May 29, 2015 Gym closed for teams -

Normal classes and lessons will not be interrupted. Staff will work to place athletes on teams. We hope to have teams posted online by May 31, 2015. Practice schedules will

also be posted at that time. Parent meetings will take place on June 1 and 2, 2015. Practice wear fittings and team practices begin on June 3 and 4, 2015. Your first monthly payment and half of your practice wear payment is due at the first practice. Parents may attend the practice wear fitting to ensure proper sizing of the garments.

➤ **Do I need to come to all the nights of the evaluation for my level?**

Yes, our coaches like to evaluate all athletes multiple times so that they can get a fair assessment of each athlete's abilities.

➤ **I have an obligation on one of the evaluation nights. Will I still make a team if I miss a night?**

Yes, just let one of our staff members know so we can make a note of it on your evaluation paperwork.

➤ **What should I wear?**

At Top Gun, we take great pride in our appearance because we believe that presentation is everything. We ask that you begin your season with "Top Gun Pride" by wearing the following items to Athlete Evaluations:

Males - t-shirt, shorts, socks, and sneakers, hair should be clean cut and face should be clean shaven, absolutely no jewelry

Females – tank top and/or t-shirt, shorts or leggings, socks and sneakers, hair in a high ponytail with a matching bow, absolutely no jewelry

(*Please wear Top Gun colors only - black, gold, white, and jag print are acceptable. Any Top Gun clothing you current own is also acceptable. If you would like to purchase any Top Gun apparel or merchandise, we have plenty of items for both athletes and parents on sale in our pro-shop.

➤ **I cannot participate in evaluations at my set time. What do I do?**

Please contact Top Gun immediately so we can discuss your options. You may be able to attend a different date or time, set up a private evaluation, or do a video evaluation.

Video submissions MAY be allowed in cases of severely injured athletes and athletes that live extremely far away. If allowed, a skills video and a recent competition video must be submitted. All video evaluations are subject to the \$125 evaluation fee. This video will be used for **tentative** team placement only. Final evaluation and placement will be determined once an athlete has been cleared by a medical professional or has moved to the local area and can fully participate in an in person evaluation and team practice.

➤ **How will the coaches know which stunting position(s) I should perform?**

Our coaches have years of experience and will build stunt groups and teach skills for all positions. You may be asked to try multiple positions during the evaluation process. The position(s) performed during the evaluation process may or may not be the position(s) you will perform once placed on a team.

A flyer is a very prestigious and demanding position here at Top Gun. Our flyers are required to dedicate many additional hours of intense training. Any female athlete that would like to be **CONSIDERED** for a flying position will be evaluated at the end of each Athlete Evaluation session. Being evaluated **DOES NOT GUARANTEE** an athlete will fly. Likewise, an athlete that was not evaluated may end up being chosen to fly. Criteria considered when evaluating an athlete's flying potential will include size in relation to the bases on the team on which she is placed, skill, body control, flexibility, showmanship and poise.

➤ **I am really nervous about evaluations. Do you have any advice?**

Remember that this is an evaluation of what you are comfortable doing. Show us your most confident skills. Prepare for evaluations beforehand by making healthy lifestyle choices, attending work out sessions, evaluation prep clinics, or continuing to utilize other techniques you use to prepare for performances and building confidence in your skills. The coaches want to see you enjoying cheerleading and the evaluation process.

➤ **Can my friends and family come support me during evaluations?**

No, we do not allow spectators at evaluations. Only the athletes being evaluated during a session will be allowed in the gym.

➤ **I just learned a new skill. Should I do it at evaluations?**

That is a personal choice. Coaches will be asking to see skills that you have listed on your cheer profile. They are looking for skills you can perform easily and with confidence. If you are confident in this new skill go for it. If you are still building your confidence you can choose to demonstrate it later during the evaluation process. Skills performed with spotters will not be allowed during the evaluation process.

➤ **What level team will I be placed on for this season?**

We are evaluating you to be a part of the Top Gun family not a specific team. We will be fielding teams in as many divisions as possible. Team size and level will be determined after Athlete Evaluations but is subject to change throughout the course of the season. Attending a skill level evaluation does not guarantee that you will be placed on a team of that skill level. These level groupings allow the coaches to evaluate you with others of a similar skill level. Team placement is based on many factors including tumbling skills, stunting position and ability, age, team size, performance, attitude,

attendance, and work ethic. Coaches will be making final decisions on team placement including role on the team, team level, and team size. This is subject to change as athletes' skills or participation levels change throughout the season.

➤ **I want to be part of Top Gun. What do I do now?**

1. Fill out your cheer profile and other paperwork.
2. Select the evaluation dates that match your age and skill level.
3. Bring completed paperwork and \$125 (cash only) to your first day of evaluations.
4. Show your skills with confidence.
5. Learn new things from the amazing Top Gun coaches.
6. Enjoy the 2015-2016 season with Top Gun.

➤ **I was completing my evaluation registration and do not know my USASF number. Where can I find it?**

If you have previously competed in any all star division with any program you have a USASF profile. The number can be found via your online log in or on your USASF ID card. If you have never registered with the USASF please let us know and we can help you set up a profile. Registration with the USASF is on a cycle from August 1 - July 31. You will need to pay your annual renewal fee after August 1, 2015 directly to USASF through their website if you will be participating in any all star competition during the 2015-2016 season.

AFTER EVALUATION FAQs

➤ **I missed evaluations but would still really like to be a part of Top Gun. What can I do?**

It is possible to make a team later in the season through a Late Athlete Evaluation. However, spaces on teams may be very limited and we are often only looking for athletes of a specific age or skill level. In addition, monthly fees are calculated annually and include competitive expenses. Anyone starting late will still be required to pay those fees. You may also miss some of the training, team bonding experiences, and memories that make each season so special and memorable. So do not put off being a part of the best all star program in the WORLD! Register now and get the full Top Gun experience!

➤ **I was placed on a team that I think is too easy. Can this be changed?**

Our coaches spend hours putting teams together. This is not something that we take lightly. Our goal at Top Gun is to put together strong teams at their level that are built for success. This means that some athletes may move to a new level, spend multiple seasons at the same level, or return to a level that the athlete has competed in previously. We ask that you give us two weeks of practice before you question team

placement. Every season, there is a lot of movement with athletes through the end of summer.

➤ **I need to be on the same team as my friends so that we can car pool. Is this possible?**

We ask that you let us know about your situation beforehand. While we can make no guarantees about team placement, we will try our best to work with you.

➤ **How often do teams practice?**

Our teams are scheduled to practice twice per week. During competition season, coaches may feel the need to add additional practices. This may not happen to every team but some teams in the gym did have additional practices last season in order to prepare for their upcoming competitions.

➤ **My family will be on vacation for two weeks during the summer, will this jeopardize my spot on the team?**

No, we just ask that you let us know on your registration form and remind your team coaches once you are placed on a team.

➤ **What fees are associated with Top Gun?**

Fees are divided into equal monthly payments across most of the season. Athletes joining teams after the initial evaluation will be responsible for certain fees. The monthly payments include tuition, coaching fees, choreography, music, and competition fees.

Equal monthly payments are required from June 2015 – March 2016.

Level 1 - 4 - \$285 per month

Level 5 - \$300 per month

All athletes will also pay \$50 for April 2016. This covers tuition only as all competitive expenses will have been paid out at this time.

If an athlete is on a team that will be participating in The Cheerleading Worlds or Summit National Championship an additional payment of \$50 for the remainder of April's tuition as well as the registration (varies based on bid packages) associated with these competitions will be required.

USASF annual dues, Booster Club dues, camps, and apparel are not included with the monthly payments. These items are an additional cost. USASF annual dues are set by and paid directly to the USASF. Booster Club dues are required of all athletes and are paid directly to the Booster Club. Camp costs will vary by team. Apparel costs vary

from the package rate that all athletes are required to purchase based on the optional garments and items selected.