



UCONN

SPIRITPRIDETRADITION

TRYOUT INFORMATION PACKET

2017-2018

SPIRIT, PRIDE, & TRADITION PROGRAM

The Spirit, Pride, & Tradition Program (SPT) includes Jonathan the Husky (mascot), the UConn Cheerleading Team, and the UConn Dance Team. These student ambassadors represent our University on and off campus all season long and display great pride in what they do. From cheering on the sidelines at football and men's & women's basketball games, to hosting clinics and attending community outreach events; the spirit and passion of the individuals who make up the Spirit, Pride, and Tradition Program is truly inspiring.



JONATHAN THE HUSKY

The University of Connecticut Mascot has been a tradition for decades. From attending campus and community events, to bringing smiles to thousands of husky fans at sporting events and making appearances all across the country, Jonathan is one of the most recognized and photographed symbols of the pride and spirit of UConn. The identities of the student leaders selected to wear the costume remain a secret, even on campus. However, their energy, and fierce but friendly pride shines through. The opportunity to represent UConn in this fashion is quite the honor!

Who is eligible to tryout?

All full-time students who are enrolled at the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus and are in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to tryout. The University's academic policy can be found here: <http://policy.uconn.edu>

Incoming freshmen and transfer students are eligible to tryout prior to their first year at UConn, and must present a letter/email of acceptance from the University's admissions office at registration. If you have not received your acceptance letter/email, you may still attend the tryout 'pending admission'.

Are there technical requirements?

Yes. All candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Ability to take creative/innovative photos
- A prepared skit - between :30 and :45 seconds - can include props and music/voice recordings
- Cardio & fitness - Each mascot must be able to perform 35 consecutive push ups
- General dance ability
- Ability to interact with fans
- Overall energy and situational creativity
- Presence in the suit

What do I need to bring with me to the tryout?

- Athletic clothes (loose fitting) to wear underneath the suit (shorts/t-shirt/sneakers)
- **Assumption of Risk Form (found on the last page of this packet)**
- Acceptance letter/printed email copy (incoming freshman or transfer students) or UConn I.D. (current students)
- Water

JONATHAN THE HUSKY (continued)

- Towel & sweatband
- Any props you would like to use for your skit
- General knowledge of UConn history, football, and men's/women's basketball

What are the general expectations if I make the team?

- After classes, this MUST be your priority
- 1-2 appearances per week throughout the semester, in addition to scheduled game rotations. Game rotations may fall during various University breaks.
- Mandatory attendance NCA/NDA Camp (August)
- Pre-camp practice (most likely early August) & early move in one week prior to classes.
- Travel - select football and post-season basketball tournaments as assigned
- Maintain academic eligibility per SPT policy
- Weekly/bi-weekly practices and meetings as needed (additional training/practices/study hall as assigned)
- Upkeep and cleanliness of the costume and apparel
- Independence, responsibility, dependability, creativity, & strong communication skills

Tryout/Interview Date:

Friday, May 19th | Guyer Gym/Greer Fieldhouse | **4-9 PM**

Register For Tryouts TODAY Online At:

<http://spirit.uconn.edu/tryouts/>



UConn CHEERLEADING TEAM

The UConn Cheerleaders are visible representatives of UConn as well as the state of Connecticut. These men and women can be seen at all home and select away football games, men's and women's home basketball games, on the road at AAC and NCAA Tournaments each March, and at many events on and off campus in the community throughout the semester. The team also attends NCA Camp in Boston each season! The cheerleading team is full of hard working, dedicated, and committed individuals who represent UConn at the highest level. There is nothing like the excitement of being a part of the Husky Nation: performing at some of the largest, nationally televised games and traveling to various venues around the country. It is an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity to represent the University of Connecticut and earning a place on this team has the potential to create fantastic opportunities and experiences of a lifetime!

Who is eligible to tryout?

All full-time students who are enrolled at the University of Connecticut (including regional campuses and commuter students) and are in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to tryout. The University's academic policy can be found here: <http://policy.uconn.edu>

Incoming freshmen and transfer students are eligible to tryout prior to their first year at UConn, and must present a letter/email of acceptance from the University's admissions office at registration. If you have not received your acceptance letter/email, you may still attend the tryout 'pending admission'.

Are there technical requirements?

Most importantly, candidates for the cheerleading team are expected to have a strong understanding of fan interaction and crowd-leading techniques, sharp and precise motions, and the ability to project energy, confidence, and excitement. In addition to select cheers, chants, and the fight song, candidates will be evaluated on their jumps, and stunting ability (Flyers - leg/back flexibility, advanced twisting and inversion dismounts, full ups, etc. Bases - the ability to base body positions, advanced twisting and inversion dismounts, full ups, etc.). For tumbling, we ask that you perform your highest level skill. Male candidates will be asked to demonstrate partner stunting potential (chair, toss hands, toss hands extension), as well as motion/cheer technique. Overall, we are looking for well-rounded cheerleaders, with great attitudes, a strong work ethic, and an eagerness to learn.

UConn CHEERLEADING TEAM (continued)

What do I need to bring with me to the tryout?

- Fitted Tank Top (t-shirt for males)
- Shorts (athletic or spandex shorts - basketball shorts for males)
- Attire should be UConn colors please
- Please wear Game Day Makeup (smokey eye shadow, red lipstick, etc.) & Game Day Hair (half up/half down either curled or straightened with a bow)
- Cheer shoes (sneakers if you do not have cheer shoes)
- **Assumption of Risk Form (found on the last page of this packet)**
- Acceptance letter/printed email copy (incoming freshman or transfer students) or UConn I.D. (current student)
- Water
- General knowledge of UConn history, football, and men's/women's basketball

What are the general expectations if I make the team?

- After classes, this MUST be your priority
- 1-2 appearances per week throughout the semester, in addition to scheduled games. Games may fall during various University breaks.
- Mandatory attendance NCA/NDA Camp (August)
- Pre-camp practice (most likely early August) & early move in one week prior to classes. Additional practices *may* be added over the summer.
- Travel - select football and post-season basketball tournaments as assigned
- Maintain academic eligibility per SPT policy
- Approximately 6-9 hours of practice per week (additional training/practices/study hall as assigned)
- Respect to teammates and coaches, strong work ethic, and a 'team' mindset

Tryout Dates:

Saturday, May 20th | Greer Fieldhouse | **8-5 PM**

Saturday, May 20th | TBD | **6-9 PM (Interviews)**

Sunday, May 21st | Greer Fieldhouse | **9-5 PM**

** You Must Attend Both Days Of Tryouts. Cuts May Be Made After Day 1. A Detailed Schedule Will Be Emailed **

Register For Tryouts TODAY Online At:

<http://spirit.uconn.edu/tryouts/>

University of Connecticut | Spirit, Pride, & Tradition Program
860-486-6588 | www.spirit.uconn.edu

UConn DANCE TEAM

The University of Connecticut Dance Team can be seen entertaining crowds at the home football games, men's and women's home basketball games, and other campus/community events throughout the year. The Dance Team performs hip hop, jazz, pom, and novelty dances choreographed by the coaches and team members. They attend NDA Camp each summer in Boston and also have the opportunity to work with some of the nation's leading choreographers in preparation to represent UConn at the NDA Collegiate Nationals in Daytona Beach, FL each April. It is an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity to represent the University of Connecticut and earning a place on this team has the potential to create fantastic opportunities and experiences of a lifetime!

Who is eligible to tryout?

All full-time students who are enrolled at the University of Connecticut (including regional campuses and commuter students) and are in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to tryout. The University's academic policy can be found here: <http://policy.uconn.edu>

Incoming freshmen and transfer students are eligible to tryout prior to their first year at UConn, and must present a letter/email of acceptance from the University's admissions office at registration. If you have not received your acceptance letter, you may still attend the tryout 'pending admission'.

Are there technical requirements?

Candidates for the dance team are expected to have a strong understanding of sideline cheering, jazz, pom, and hip hop dance styles as well as solid technical skills (triple/quad pirouettes, a variety of leaps, flexibility, fouette a la seconde turns, foundational Hip Hop skills such as a headstand, kip up and headspring, along with solid showmanship, and confidence). We are looking for well-rounded dancers, with great attitudes, a strong work ethic, and an eagerness to learn. Since UConn Dance Team members perform in venues that accommodate thousands of fans, they must have an engaging, outgoing personality, and energy that can be felt from a very far distance.

What can I expect at the tryout?

Candidates will execute technical skills across the floor (leaps, turns, kicks, jumps) and will learn and perform a short hip hop combination, as well as a jazz combination. Following each combination, there also may be a couple of eight counts where you can showcase your individual skills and style. Please make sure your hair is secure, you are wearing performance-ready makeup, and your clothes are dance appropriate.

UConn DANCE TEAM (continued)

What do I need to bring with me to the tryout?

- Fitted tank top or crop top (no t-shirts)
- Formfitting spandex dance shorts (no loose clothing) for jazz (tights optional)
- Proper shoes for jazz/technique
- Sneakers for hip hop (no combat boots or dark soles)
- Sweats or basketball shorts for hip hop
- **Assumption of Risk Form (found on the last page of this packet)**
- Acceptance letter/printed email copy (incoming freshman or transfer students) or UConn I.D. (current student)
- Water
- General knowledge of UConn history, football, and men's/women's basketball

What are the general expectations if I make the team?

- After classes, this **MUST** be your priority
- 1-2 appearances per week throughout the semester, in addition to scheduled games. Games may fall during various University breaks.
- Mandatory attendance NDA/NCA Camp (August)
- Pre-camp practice (most likely early August) & early move in one week prior to classes. Additional practices *may* be added over the summer.
- Travel - select basketball/football games as assigned and NDA College Nationals
- Maintain academic eligibility per SPT policy
- Approximately 9 hours of practice per week (additional training/practices/study hall as assigned)
- Respect to teammates and coaches, strong work ethic, and a 'team' mindset

Tryout Date:

Sunday, May 21st | Guyer Gym | 8-12 PM

Sunday, May 21st | Northwest Dining Hall | 1-5 PM

Sunday, May 21st | Northwest Dining Hall | 6-8 PM (Interviews)

** You Must Attend Both Sessions Of Tryouts. A Detailed Schedule Will Be Emailed **

Register For Tryouts TODAY Online At:

<http://spirit.uconn.edu/tryouts/>

SPT CONTACT INFORMATION

- If you have any questions regarding cheer, dance, or mascot tryouts, please email: [Spirit@uconn.edu](mailto:spirit@uconn.edu).
- Information will be updated on our website at www.spirit.uconn.edu. Please check your email and the website often, in case there are last-minute changes.
- Don't forget to register for tryouts online!
(you will not be permitted to participate if you have not registered!)

GOOD LUCK!

We look forward to building amazing
teams for the 2017-2018 season!



**Acknowledgement of Risk
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
SPIRIT~PRIDE~TRADITION PROGRAM**

Tryouts – May 19-21, 2017

This is an acknowledgement of risk made by _____ YOUR NAME HERE _____, regarding my participation in the University of Connecticut Spirit Pride Tradition Program Tryouts hosted by the University of Connecticut from May 19 through May 21, 2017.

I fully recognize that there may be direct, indirect or inherent risks and hazards involved in this activity and it is with full knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding this activity and to the extent permitted by the laws of the State of Connecticut, that I release the University of Connecticut, its employees, agents and representatives from any liability whatsoever arising out of my participation in this activity. **The following is a description and examples of some of the risks associated with this activity: fractures, broken bones, concussions, bruised, sprained, and torn muscles and ligaments.** I also understand that the University of Connecticut does not require me to participate in this activity, but that I am choosing to do so, despite the possible dangers and risks.

I assure the University of Connecticut that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude or restrict my participation in this activity and that the University will not be held responsible for any medical costs that may directly or indirectly result from my participation in this activity.

I agree to assume all of the risks and responsibilities in any way associated with my participation in this activity and understand that this Acknowledgement of Risk shall bind the members of my family.

If any term of this document shall be held illegal, unenforceable, or in conflict with any law governing this document, the validity of the remaining portions shall not be affected thereby.

I further state that I am fully competent to sign this Agreement; and that I execute this Acknowledgement of Risk for full, adequate, and complete consideration fully intending me and for my family, estate, heirs, administrators, personal representatives, or assigns to be bound by the same.

PARTICIPANT:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

(Required if under 18 years old)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Signature)

(Signature)