

Tips and Tricks for Maintaining a Spirit Program

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Tips, Tricks and Advice

Take your Time!

- Rome wasn't built in a day, nor any spiritleader program. It takes years to solidify your expectations.
- It can take up to 4 years to get exactly what you want out of your program and your vision.
- Make goals for the start of each season. What do you want to accomplish for the summer? Football season? Basketball season? Competition?

Don't go it alone!

Work with a partner. Be on the same page as your co-advisor and life will be so much better for you! My co-advisor and I split different responsibilities and also game duty when necessary. We are friends. We really work well together. It is all about balance.

Document Everything!

- The first complaint one hears is “I didn’t know”. Most likely the spiritleader did. Or the parent. We use email, texting, facebook/twitter and a webpage to get information out. There is no excuse.
- We revamp our constitution every year. It is quite lengthy as is our try-out process information.

Informational Meetings

- For two years we decided to have an 8th grade only information meeting and then a 9th-12th grade meeting. We liked that we could keep it very positive and fresh without returner output. We aren’t doing it this year just because of time constraints.
- We use google docs to have an online application. It cuts down on the amount of paperwork and put responsibility on candidates and their families.

Lincoln High School Spiritleaders

This application is due NO LATER THAN APRIL 5, 2013 AT 2:30 pm. A time stamp will be placed on your application. Duplicate submissions after the original one will not be counted unless the original application is not complete.

Student Candidate's First Name *

Student Candidate's Last Name *

Street Address, City, Zip Code *

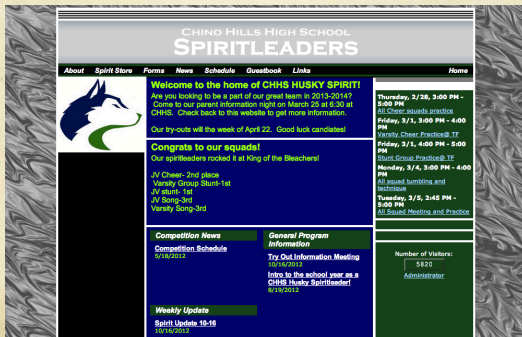
Student's cell phone *

Student's email *

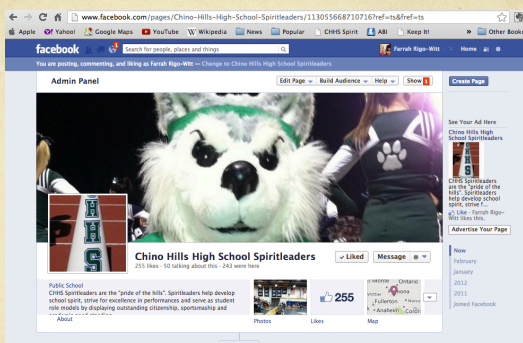
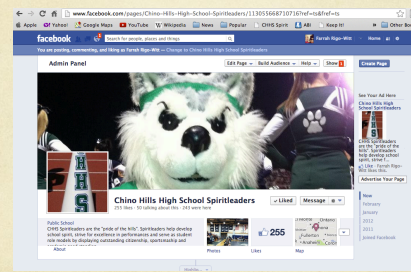
Communicate!

- We use facebook, our own webpage, weekly emails and twitter to get information out. We also have weekly meetings with the spiritleaders. By having all these avenues we put the responsibility of knowing information in the hands of the parent and spiritleader.

Hometeamsonline.com



Facebook



Money, Money, Money

- One positive thought about asking for "donations":
 - Easier to remove student from squad!

Some of your budget will go to acquiring clothing for spiritleaders who refuse to pay. If you can get activities or athletics to help pay, that is AMAZING, but let's face it, it probably won't happen. ☺

- Our boosters currently take care of our money. We have a good relationship with our parent booster board so it works. Just remember that YOU ARE THE ADVISOR. The boosters fundraise for the girls so that you can do your job. They can advise you on budgetary issues but they don't have the control.
- Make sure your parents are aware of this. If you have to, take back your money controlling abilities. Many programs have had to dissolve their booster organizations because the parents have overstepped boundaries.
- It is a huge timesaver to have our parents do the books. They are very transparent and are also controlled by our general booster board who goes through frequent audits.

Get admin on your side

- Biggest concerns:
- "Our principal doesn't support us. Everyone hates the cheerleaders."
- Tackle the reasons why a negative attitude is involved. Was it the previous relationship between admin and advisors and coaches? Were parents involved? Administration is paid to deal with the big problems. Let them. They are supposed to support the entire school. If a conflict occurred in the past find out how a solution was agreed upon and move on from there.

Companies we like

- GTM- extremely good quality and CHEAP! We bought "unity" uniforms for all spiritleaders this year and have been happy so far with the durability.
- US Spiritleaders- some of the best choreography and usable material that we have seen. The focus is on learning routines.
- USA-good for safety, team building and leadership. It is great for an entire program to work together- Songleading, pep flags, mascots and cheer. USA also offers "game time championships" that isn't as intense as regular competition and is based on school routines like dancing to the fight song. We are doing that this year at Nationals in Anaheim.

LEGAL ISSUES

It's Been A Year with AB 1575

- How has it gone?
 - How has your school adapted to the continuing changes in school finance and law?
- Remember: It only *enforces* the State of California's guarantee of a free education and sets up a more clear way of reading the law.

How this is affecting schools:

- Some school programs have just been stripped. They can not afford donations or anything.
- Varsity Uniform Reps have said that orders came in very late in the season.
- School programs have survived because the parents pay out the donations or raise a huge amount of money; roughly \$2000 a year per spiritleader.

- What some programs are finding is that some families are refusing to pay just on principle and they do have that right.
- We had 2 spiritleader families opt to not pay.
 - One of these was a returner who had all the "optional" items from the year before.

Solutions to uniforms:

Most schools do not offer funds to buy uniforms. You can ask for “donations” so that all budgetary items are equal. If families want to buy a separate uniform, they can. Have it in writing however that families understand that responsibility and that it is just an “extra”.

This year we offered a “spirit pack”. It included a uniform, coaching, sweatshirt, bow, briefs and shoes. After that we will offered all the extras. Warm ups, camp, camp clothes, etc.

OVERALL...

I believe that parents will find a way to help their children. No matter what type of program you have at your school, parents want the best experience for their kids.

As long as you do not deny access to your program due to money then you should be ok. We have NEVER denied someone access to our program. I believe that is what is going to save many programs. It just depends on your school culture.

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- In the next week we will be putting out our 2013-2014 try-out and constitution information. If you would like to see a copy of the documents we create, you can email me or visit our website. You can also see the way our application

- Thank you!