

ICCA Membership Benefits

COACHES' CONFERENCE - This annual conference is held in late March or early April. It offers many great speakers, and sessions to help coaches gain more knowledge in coaching their cheerleaders, and offers cheer training courses such as AACCA. This is also a great place to network with other coaches and gain cheer education.

FREE CLINICS - There are several free clinics held for Iowa schools every August available for ICCA member coaches and their cheerleaders. Cheers, chants, jumps, and dances are taught at the clinics. Please notify your district rep if your school will be attending. This is for ICCA member schools only. See the ICCA website for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS - The ICCA proudly awards scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors. ICCA members may nominate cheerleaders from their own squads; each nominee must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA. A team of judges choose the winners based on recommendations and essays. Scholarships are also awarded at Honor Squad, State Championships, All-State, and All-Stars. All scholarship checks are processed and sent in August.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - The State Championships are another ICCA and IHSAA sponsored event. This is a chance for high school cheer teams to compete against other teams around the state. All coaches must be ICCA members and fulfill requirements for participation. Cheerleaders who compete must be bona fide high school cheerleaders. Championship Divisions include: Cheer/Dance for 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and Coed; Group Stunt for 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and Coed; and the Time Out Cheer Division for 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A. The Championships are held in November at the Jacobson Exhibition Center at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. Cheer/Dance squads with highly entertaining routines are asked to perform at the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in March.

ALL-STATE SQUAD - The Iowa All-State Cheerleading Squad is an ICCA/IHSAA sponsored select team. Any varsity cheerleader can try out for the team. Tryouts are held in October, and a team of 20-45 of Iowa's best cheerleaders is chosen. The team comes together and performs during halftime of two of the Friday games during the IHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tournament. All coaches must be ICCA members and fulfill requirements for participation.

HONOR SQUAD - The Iowa Cheer Honor Squad is a special squad sponsored by the ICCA and the IHSAA. An ICCA member coach is allowed to nominate up to three varsity cheerleaders who are juniors and/or seniors. Criteria for choosing the cheerleaders is completely up to the coach. Around 200 cheerleaders are chosen for this squad. This squad performs their routine at the IHSAA State Football Championships in the UNI Dome. All coaches must be an ICCA member and fulfill requirements for participation.

NEWSLETTER - The ICCA Newsletter will be emailed to members four times a year (August, December, February, and May) and offers current information about events and situations that involve cheerleaders and their coaches. Composed of articles submitted by Board and Rep. Council members, the ICCA newsletter is free of advertising so the focus can be on information and education for the ICCA membership.

AWARDS - ICCA gives several awards annually including Coach of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Athletic Director/Administrator, Contributor of the Year, Years of Service, and Friend of Cheerleading. In some instances, ICCA may present Sportsmanship and Distinguished Service Awards.

ALL-STARS - The ICCA, in conjunction with the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA), offers an opportunity for skilled junior and senior cheerleaders in Iowa to come together to cheer for the Iowa All-Star basketball teams at their event held in March. Tryouts are completed by sending in a video with a short cheer incorporating strong motions, a short dance, and toe touch.

SHRINE BOWL - The ICCA works with the Iowa Shriners at UNI in late July for the Shriner football game. They learn a choreographed routine and various cheers which are performed during the Shrine football game on Saturday. The cheerleaders, as well as the football players, are able to participate in the many wonderful activities hosted by the Shriners during week, as well as raise money to assist Shriners Hospitals.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS - The cheerleaders learn a routine the morning of the Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies in Ames. The cheerleaders then hold a cheer clinic for the Special Olympic athletes in the afternoon. In the evening, the cheerleaders perform the routine during the Opening Ceremonies held at Hilton Coliseum.

WEBSITE - ICCA has a website with information regarding ICCA events and general cheerleading information. The website is used to register for ICCA membership and events. To view this website, please go to **www.iowacheercoaches.org**.