Welcome to Nittany Dreamers!
2025-26 Season

We are so excited to start a brand-new year with you and your child(ren)! Nittany Dreamers is a wonderful group that provides your child(ren) with a great learning experience, a chance to make new friends, an opportunity to learn skills they can take with them and use throughout their entire life and have a lot of fun!

Our goal is to provide your child(ren) with the best learning opportunity we can while building a relationship with them. We are delighted in your interest in joining Nittany Dreamers and can't wait to begin the fun!

Be sure to visit and bookmark our website:
www.nittanydreamers.org

The Nittany Dreamers website will have updated information on it, including the lesson schedule, board member and instructor information, and pictures.

Below you will information about our practices and their location, team uniforms, fundraisers, monthly tuition cost, an opportunity for professional pictures, and advisory board and instructor contact information.

Practice Location and Schedule

We hold practice on Mondays at the State College Alliance Church, 1221 W Whitehall Rd, State College, PA 16801

Schedule: Every Monday, October – May (unless otherwise specified)

Beginner Twirlers: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Intermediate Twirlers: 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Senior Twirlers: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Flags: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Advanced Twirlers: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Feature Twirlers: 7:00-8:00 p.m

Enrollment

Any child 4 years old through 12th grade can be enrolled in Nittany Dreamers if they are willing learn and can act appropriately in a classroom environment.

Practice

Groups will be assigned at registration by the instructors. During the season, students may be moved to another group by the instructors based on ability and try-outs. Children interested in both twirling and flags are encouraged to take both classes. When parade routine practices begin in January, the student must decide if they will do baton or silks in the parade performances.

Suggested dress for lessons is shorts or stretch pants, t-shirts or tank tops, etc. Baggy or loose-fitting clothing is not recommended because batons/flags can get caught in the clothing. Long hair should be tied back and secured. Sneakers or twirling shoes are also required. No flip-flops. sandals or boots, please.

During practice, we respectfully ask that parents wait outside in the hallway of the gym, so we can maximize our time. Parents will be invited into the gym on special occasions to watch their child perform. Parents are not required to wait inside the building, but we do ask that you come into the building to drop off and pick up your child for their safety.

2025-26 Practice Schedule

October: 20, 27	February: 3*, 9, 15, 23	June: TBD
November: 3, 10, 17	March: 2, 16, 23, 30	July: TBD
December: 1, 8, 16**	April: 6, 13, 20, 27	
January: 5, 12, 26	May: 4, 11, 18	

* Practice is on Tuesday as the church has other commitments on the Monday of that week
** Tryouts for Advanced/Feature. No classes for Beginner, Intermediate, Senior, or Silks

Practice Cancellations

Nittany Dreamers practice schedule is based on the State College Area School District schedule. If schools in this district have off school or school is canceled, there will be no lessons for that night for Nittany Dreamers, unless specified.

If there is school but there is another reason to cancel practice (inclement weather, issues at our practice location, etc.), a notice will be sent via email BEFORE 4:00PM the day of the practice.

Communication and Alerts

Nittany Dreamers is going to continue "Going Green." Emails will be our main source of communication so please check your email regularly for the latest updates. The email for all official group communications is nittanydreamers@gmail.com

All important emails and updates will come from this email, so please add it to your contacts. If you do not use email or do not check your email regularly, please let us know so that we make sure you receive all the necessary information.

Try-Outs

Try-outs are held each year for two groups, the Feature and the Advanced group. All interested students will be given a list of required tricks and information on the try-outs. These try-outs are held in December. Try-out results are determined by the instructors as well as a guest judge.

Try-Outs will be held December 15th (5:30-8:00) *Might take longer or shorter*

Cost

Monthly tuition is $45.00 and is due regardless of the number of classes you child(ren) attend. The first tuition payment for ***October is a partial payment of $25.00***. Tuition is collected for October (partial payment), November, December, January, February, March, April, May and Summer (June/July/August) for a ***total of 9 tuition payments***. Tuition is due at the first practice of every month. If you have multiple children enrolled in Nittany Dreamers, tuition is discounted $10 per child (i.e. tuition for 2 children would be $70.00 per month instead of $90.00 per month).

All students are required to pay a ***Supply Fee of $5.00***. This fee covers commonly used materials for the group including baton/grip tape, glitter, hair supplies (ribbon, clips, hair spray), etc.

New students must pay a ***one-time registration fee of $5.00***. They are also required to purchase a ***t-shirt ($12.00)***, ***warm-up jacket ($50.00)***, and ***warm-up pants ($40.00)***. These students will also be measured for a ***baton ($28.00 or $30.00 per baton)***.

Returning students have the option to purchase new Nittany Dreamers apparel at the rates listed above.

T-shirts and warm-ups are worn during the fall, winter, and spring months. Orders for these apparel items are taken at registration in the fall, and each member is responsible for covering the cost of these items.

Students are provided with a uniform for the summer performance season after the collection of a ***one-time deposit of $40.00***. This deposit is returned upon the return a uniform in good condition.

Please make all checks payable to Nittany Dreamers and add your child(ren)'s name in the memo portion of the check. If paying by cash, please attach a note stating your child(ren)'s name.

Code of Conduct

During lessons, your child's involvement and behavior in class is important to make a lesson run efficiently. We understand 30 to 60 minutes can be a long time for some children, so we will take breaks to allow students to get a drink or use the restroom.

All members of Nittany Dreamers are asked to act respectfully and appropriately because everyone's actions are a reflection on the entire group. This includes social media activity.

A Code of Conduct will be issued to each family at registration. This document explains what is expected before/during/after practices, parades, performances, and fundraisers. This should be reviewed with your student(s).

Attendance

Attendance at practice is very important. New things are taught at each session, and time is given to practice and refine tricks/routines. This is especially important when parade routines are being taught. Your child's understanding of the routine is vital to how the whole group will look.

Nittany Dreamers greatly appreciates those who make the effort to attend as many events and practices as they can. A reward will be given to students who have perfect attendance at practice and performances throughout the year at our end of year picnic.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from practice, performances, or parades, it is important that you email about their absence. This allows instructors to plan accordingly.

Illness Guidelines and Safety Procedures

Nittany Dreamers follows State College Area School District's illness guidelines as well as any illness guidelines that State College Alliance Church may have in place. We ask that if your child is sick and misses school or after school activities, to please keep them home to help keep others safe.

Baton, Flag, and Clothing Orders:

Nittany Dreamers will provide the opportunity to order apparel (t-shirts and warm-ups) and equipment (batons, baton accessories, flags, etc.) at registration. Forms to record orders for apparel and equipment are included in the registration packet.

We encourage students to purchase baton practice caps and use them while practicing throughout the season to help protect the baton ends. If practice caps are not used during practice, there is an increased chance of end wear, and they may need to be replaced. Nittany Dreamers does keep a small stock of baton ball and tip ends that can be purchased for the same price we buy them for.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are necessary to help cover our expenses each season. Members can participate in the fundraiser at the given time and sell the required amount of items ***OR*** choose to pay a buyout fee. If you choose to pay the buyout fee, the money will be due at the same time as the fundraiser money is due. The number items each student is required to sell, and the buyout fee amount are

determined and shared with families closer to the fundraiser timeframe (typically January/February).

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Throughout the season, there will be opportunity for parents/guardians to volunteer and help our events and performances run smoothly. While volunteering is not required, we do appreciate the help at events. If you are willing to help at our events and performances, please sign up to volunteer when the event/performance email is sent to families the week of the event.

Uniforms

There will be a chance for students to try on uniforms in the winter/early spring. Once sizes are determined, uniforms will be distributed in the spring ahead of our summer performance season. ***A uniform deposit of $40.00 is required per uniform.*** This deposit must be collected before a uniform is distributed to your child.

Once you have your uniform, it is your responsibility to maintain and clean the uniform. To help with this, we ask that your child changes out of their uniform or covers the uniform up with other clothing immediately after a parade or event. Uniforms should only be washed a few times during the season. Over washing the uniform will damage it. ***Handwash only. Do not machine dry. Lay flat to air dry.***

Students are expected to be respectful and behave properly while in uniform before/during/after events and performances. This includes activity posted on social media. Remember, your behavior reflects on the entire Nittany Dreamers group. While in uniform, students are expected to:

- Cover any visible tattoos.
- Wear stud earrings only. No other jewelry.
- Maintain naturally colored hair only.
- Wear clear or no nail polish.
- Do not use profanity.
- Do not smoke.
- Engage in appropriate behavior with significant others/friends that attend our events/performances. Meet these individuals at the conclusion of the event/performance.

Professional Photographs

Nittany Dreamers hires a professional photographer to take a group and individual pictures each season. This photo shoot will occur in the spring. More information, including date/time/location and photo order forms, will be provided as we approach the scheduled session.

Instructors

Our instructors have sole authority and responsibility for determining how Nittany Dreamers is instructed. This includes how many practices can be taught at once and how long each practice should run, the criteria and lesson plans for each practice, the entire try-out process, music selection, "appropriate dress" for both practices and performances, and placement of students in parades and performances.

The instructors also work closely with our advisory board on a variety of matters.

Our instructors are:

Khloe Moore
Baton Instructor

Gabrielle Swavely
Baton and Silks Instructor

Advisory Board

The Nittany Dreamers Advisory Board handles all non-instructional aspects of the group. This includes monthly tuition payments, apparel orders and payment, insurance, paperwork, uniform distribution and deposits, fundraising organization and coordination, etc. The board also consults with the instructors on a variety of issues, including event and performance logistics.

Our board members are:

Mandi Gatto
(mother of Tori & Josie)
psuartist@gmail.com

Jen Harrington
(mother of Emily)
jl2807@yahoo.com

Tom Harrington
(father of Emily)
nyy7mantle@yahoo.com

The Nittany Dreamers Advisory Board and Instructors are always available to discuss comments, suggestions, and/or concerns from parents, students, and family members. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us individually. You are also welcome to email the group at nittanydreamers@gmail.com.