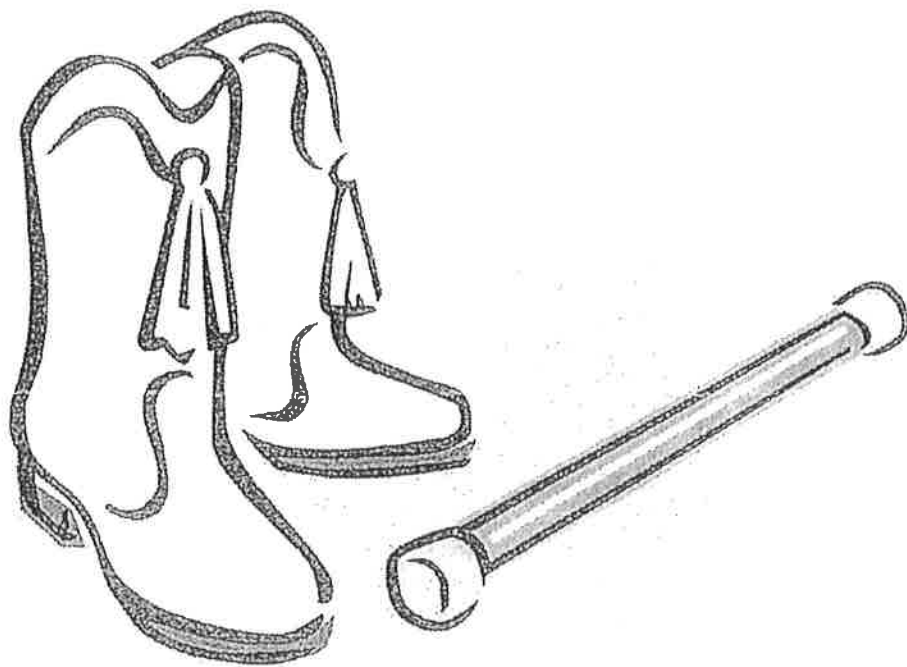


**Legacy High School Silver Spurs Drill Team**

**2015-2016 Silver Spurs Parent Meeting**

**May 18, 2015**



## AGENDA

1. Greetings and Introductions
2. Welcome to Team
3. 2015-2016 Team Theme
4. Helping our Daughters to Be Successful
5. Communication
6. Booster Club
7. Fundraising Activities
8. Calendar of Events
9. Special Events
10. Mom Activities
11. Dad Activities
12. Drill Team Etiquette
13. Words of Wisdom from the Director
14. Contact Information

## Welcome 2015-2016 Silver Spurs Parents

Welcome to the Silver Spurs! This is going to be a fun and exciting year for both you and your daughter. Whether this is your first year as a drill team parent or this will be your last, our goal is to help both you and your daughter have a wonderful year filled with many happy memories.

It is our intention to provide you with a guide to help both you and your daughter navigate the next year so you both will be able to more fully enjoy all of the experiences that come from being a member of the Silver Spurs Team.

### 2015-2016 Team Theme

This year the team has chosen the theme "Live Life Anchored." The idea of the theme is to remind the girls to stay true to themselves and to their squad. They must remember to stay grounded and not let the little things in life affect them.

### Helping Our Daughters Be Successful

Our daughters are amazing young ladies. Just by making it through the try-out phase, they have already begun to exhibit some wonderful qualities that will carry them far as they continue on the path to becoming adults. They are smart, tenacious, eager, dedicated, and talented. Many of these young ladies have been studio dancers for most of their lives. Some have a little training, and some have none at all. The bonds that will unite them all together are their love of dance, their pride in their team, and the memories they create as they take this journey together.

Drill team is hard. Our daughters will be pushed to limits they didn't know they had. There may be times when they are so weary they want to quit. Juggling the practices with homework and family responsibilities, church, friends and other interests may not always be easy. There will be DRAMA! These are teenagers remember? As moms, we are our girls' personal cheerleading squads. It is our job to help them stay focused, confident, and motivated to succeed. To help our girls meet their goals, moms can:

- Be encouraging. The girls need to know that you believe in them and their ability. Reassure them that they would not be on the team if they did not deserve to be.
- Be supportive. The girls need to know that you appreciate how hard they are working and that you have faith in them.
- Be present. The girls need you to see their progress. Come watch them whenever you can. If your daughter tells you she doesn't want you to be at the games, or she doesn't mind if you don't come to a performance, **DON'T BELIEVE HER!** She will look for you in the stands on Friday nights, and she will be hoping you will be at the shows.
- Be proud and be loud! The girls love the cheering and applause they get when they step out on that field. Recognize what a thrill it is for them and let everyone know that your daughter is out there.
- Be a part of the team. They may not always say so, but the girls really do appreciate the participation you put in to making the team successful. They love it when you help with making their events successful.

- Be Mom or Dad. When there is drama (and there will always be some), try to listen to the problem but let the girls work it out for themselves. Our girls will learn a lot about themselves and their teammates as the year goes on, and it may not always be roses and butterflies. Offer advice, but let her make the decisions on the best way to handle the conflict.
- Be mindful of opportunities to make memories with your daughter. This year will pass very quickly, so take advantage of moments to share this experience with your daughter. You will both be glad you did.

### Communication

Teenage girls are great at many things, but passing information to their Parents is not one of them. There will be important announcements, order forms, permission slips, notices and a wealth of other information that is given to our daughters with the intent that at some point it will actually make it into our hands. Unfortunately, experience shows that much of the time the information is left in the bottom of their backpacks, or their lockers, the backseat of their cars, or even blowing around the parking lot at Legacy.

Please ask your daughter frequently if they have any handouts that they should be giving to you. Be aware of the upcoming events on the calendar. Watch for emails, phone calls and texts from the booster club. Be sure we have a way to reach you!

In this packet is information that Brittany Giese emailed to the parents about signing up for Remind 101. It is the same method that Mrs. Parlin and the team officers will be using to communicate information to your daughters. If you don't always check emails or you have a teenager that forgets to give you papers, Remind 101 may be just right for you.

Whatever method you would prefer to be contacted by is fine, but it is really important that we have a reliable method to get information to you. Please let us know what your preferred method of contact is.

### Booster Club

The booster club serves an extremely important role in making the Silver Spurs successful. It is a vital part of helping our girls have the best possible drill team experiences, and is a crucial part in the continued success of the team. The boosters fundraising efforts ensure that many expenses crucial to the girls' success are not passed on to the parents. In past years, the booster club has provided costumes, props, backdrops, travel, competition fees, parties, gifts, and even scholarships (just to name a few). Your membership and participation is necessary to keep the program going, while keeping your costs as low as possible. Without better participation by the parents, the booster club may not be able to continue to be available to provide support and assistance to our Spurs or their parents. You can help by:

- Becoming a member of the booster club. Currently, only about 50% of the team's parents are members. Attend booster club meetings. We will have 4 scheduled meeting this year, with the possibility of an occasional special or emergency meeting if warranted. Booster club board meetings are held monthly.
- Encourage your child to participate in the fundraisers. Look for opportunities to sell or get donations. Some of the girls who were the most successful were willing to try selling at places like Our Place, Fat Daddy's, and even Walmart. You would be amazed how many raffle tickets or discount cards can be sold in a few hours on a Saturday morning greeting people as they are waiting to be seated for breakfast.

## Fundraising Activities

Let's face it...fundraising is not fun! We get that, so we really do try to find fundraisers that are simple, fun and not time consuming but give us the biggest bang for our bucks. This year we are going to be trying out a few new things that we haven't done before as well as trying to improve on some old favorites (or not so favorite). We are for the first time ever, going to work the Texas Rangers Concessions. This is not going to be one of the easy fundraisers but it has the potential to be HUGE! This will take everyone to make this successful. We are asking for just 1 or 2 games worked by each family. We have the chance to make a lot of money so that we will not have to do a different fundraiser each month. Please consider volunteering to work a couple of games...it is not too late. Both you and your daughter must understand that fundraising activities are an expectation that is required for every member of the Silver Spurs whether your daughter is on the JV or the Varsity squad. There are no exemptions from fundraising because your daughter is a dance officer or a social officer. For a variety of reasons, a girl may not be able to participate in a particular fundraising activity and we understand that and will work with you, but it is not acceptable for girls on this team to never participate in any fundraiser. Please remind your daughter of the importance of participation in these activities. The money raised through fundraising will benefit **every** girl on the team whether they're on JV or Varsity.

This year, fundraising will include, but not be limited to:

- Texas Rangers Concessions
- Silver Spurs Nights at local restaurants
- Discount Cards
- Raffle Tickets
- Yard Signs/Stickers
- Private Donations
- There are other fundraising options we are looking into as well.

## Calendar of Events

The 2015-2016 promises to be one of the busiest years the Spurs have ever had. It will be important to the success of the team that we stay on top of all the upcoming events so there are no surprises that could cause you or your daughter to miss an important drill team event.

Included in this packet is a copy of the planner that was provided during roundup to each Silver Spur. In addition to the basic information, we will be adding in other team or parent activities that you will want to be aware of and possible participate in.

- For May, there will be two more rookie practice on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 4:30-6. For the officers for both JV and Varsity, they will have a workshop with Ms. Shary on the 30th. May 22<sup>nd</sup> the team welcome party is an annual tradition and great fun for the girls. At the welcome party they will learn what squad they will be on, and begin coming together as a team. This year the party will be will not only be for the girls but we are including families. It will be held at Rose Park in Mansfield beginning at 6:30. We look forward to seeing all of the families there and joining in on the fun!

As a side note, you may at some point hear your daughter refer to "Scary Shary." She is a very talented, but strict choreographer who Mrs. Parlin hires to help the girls produce some truly terrific team dances. I promise, she is not really the fire breathing monster your daughter may describe.

- June - Officer Camp will be held beginning June 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> the officers will be going to the Crowd Pleasers Officer Camp at Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls. Bronco Dance Camp is held the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, and is not a mandatory activity for the team. However, girls that help at the camp will earn merit points, and they always have a great time. Lastly, each squad will have party unique to the squad itself. It could be a slumber party, pool party, BBQ or simply a dinner together. It is a tradition to help the girls get to know their squad mates as well as their officer a little better.

- July - Pre-camp practices are held July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, from 9-12 and the social officers will be attending their leadership training July 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:30-4:30.

The girls will have their traditional lock-in on July 24<sup>th</sup> at Connect church in Arlington and both teams will have a giant slumber party. This is a great opportunity to share what being a Spur means, and is great fun for all. Moms will be needed to chaperone. Team Camp at Martin HS in Arlington begins July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. It is a day camp, and where the team will learn many of the dances they will be performing during football season. The Friday of the camp there will be a parent seminar offered and all parents are encouraged to attend. On the last day of the camp there will be showcase for the parents. The girls will perform some of the routines that they have learned during camp. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend to show support for your Silver Spurs.

- August - The team will spend another week cleaning and perfecting the dances learned at team camp to be ready for the first football game. This will be held the week of Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. August 28<sup>h</sup> will be the first football game, and the Varsity Spurs will march on the field for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. This will be a very important event for your daughter, especially if this will be the first time she takes the field as a Silver Spur. You won't want to miss it! The girls love seeing you in the stands at all the football games. Many of the parents travel to all games whether it is a home or away game to show support for our Silver Spurs.

- September – Football season kicks into high gear. The team will also perform at pep-rallies.

- October - Football season continues, the team will dance at another pep-rally and the team Halloween Party will be held. It's a costume party, and great fun for all of them.

- November - Football continues, and if we are fortunate we could see some post-season action. In years past the team has danced at Cowboy's Stadium, and as parents, it is really cool seeing your daughter's smiling face up on the Jumbo-tron! For the seniors, there is a Senior Pep-Rally, followed by Senior Night presentations at the football game

- December - This is one of the busiest months for the girls. The team marches in the traditional "Santa dresses" in the Holiday parade. The girls participate in the elementary school holiday tour, when the team takes the Santa dresses on the road to perform at the elementary schools in the Legacy district. The dance classes and the team perform at the Winter Dance Recital (another Santa dress opportunity). The team also has a team party and big/little sis and squad gifts are exchanged.

- January - The girls begin learning competition dances, and both JV and Varsity dance at some of the basketball games.

- February - The teams perform at some basketball games. Parent meetings are held for team tryouts for 2016-2017. Girls perform for the incoming freshmen at 8<sup>th</sup> grade night. Pre competition clinics are held. Team will participate in the Crowd Pleasers competition.

- March - The team will host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Showtime Competition at Legacy. Many moms and dads will be needed to help make this a success.

- April - Tryout clinics are held for the team tryouts for the 2016-2017 teams. Team tryouts will take place, followed by the team Roundup. The Silver Spurs Spring Show will be held at the Mansfield PAC. Team Banquet - Banquet is an important night for the girls. They get to dress up, have fun, and be recognized for the hard work they put in all year long.

- May - Officer Tryouts- The officer tryouts are one of the most, if not the most, stressful time for many of the girls as well as the director. Social Officer Elections.

### Special Events

The Spurs normally have competitions one year, and a big trip the next. At this time I am not sure if we will be taking a trip or participating in competitions. More information will be coming in the future, so be on the lookout. The second event is the team will be hosting a Showtime drill team competition on March 12<sup>th</sup>, at Legacy. We will not be competing, but the team will host the event. This is a really important event for the team, as our participation is making it possible to compete at a Crowd Pleaser's competition for free. The team will be required to participate, and a number of drill team moms and dads will be needed to participate. Last year we held our first competition and it was such a success that the Showtime owners asked to host another one for this coming school year. This is a huge fundraiser for the Booster Club as well as Mrs. Parlin. Parent volunteers will be needed to insure the success of the competition.

### Mom Activities

There are numerous activities for Mom's (and Dads) to participate in throughout the year. None require any particular talent, but all require some of your time. Many of our activities require a large number of adults to be present. If you can't attend, but Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Older Siblings, Cousins, Neighbors, Friends etc. (you get the drift) can, we welcome all help. The only stipulation on some of these activities is that the helper must be 18. Please look over these activities, and come spend some time with other Moms. We have a great time, and you will be doing something your daughter will benefit from.

Spurs Moms help with:

- Homecoming-The homecoming activities for the Spurs are organized by the Spirit Committee, headed this year by Board Member Greta Lodrigues. Moms will make gifts that are presented to the girls throughout homecoming week. In addition, Moms meet the Saturday before homecoming and completely redecorate the locker room. The girls love this, and it is a really great tradition.
- Dancer of the Week-Ribbon sashes are presented to individual girls for their dedication and effort throughout the week. The Spur is chosen each week before the football games and presented to the Spur so she can wear it throughout the game. The girls treasure these because they are awarded by their team mates. The Spirit committee also makes the sashes.
- Drinks/Snacks-Throughout football season, moms/dads sign up to agree to buy drinks (water/Gatorade) and snacks for the girls to have in the stands. With such a large team, it is really getting expensive for one person to buy all of the drinks. We really need at least two parents to split each week to keep down costs. The snacks and drinks are paid for by the parents each week. We do this for every game, including any post-season play. The snacks must be taken to school to be placed on the girls bus to be taken to the games, A sign-up sheet will be coming out as soon as the football schedule is released.
- Bronco Dance Camp - It is helpful to Mrs. Parlin to have Moms available to help with the young children, registration, and odd jobs. In the past, Moms have helped with arts and craft activities, escorts on bathroom and lunch breaks, and runners to pick up food/drinks and whatever for the Dance Instructors.
- Lock-ins and Team Retreats - Moms help with chaperoning the sleep-overs. It is great fun to watch the girls coming together as a team. Moms don't have to stay overnight, but usually several will agree to stay up all night to help Mrs. Parlin keep the girls from getting too crazy.
- Team Camp - In the past, Moms have helped by taking team pictures throughout the camp experience, as well as assisting Mrs. Parlin in supervising the coming and going of the girls.

- Pep Rally - There is a section on the lower level of the gym near the student section where the Mom's sit. If you can make even one Pep Rally, it will be worth it I promise. If your daughter is a senior, plan on attending the Senior Pep Rally in November.
- Senior Night - The spirit committee decorates sashes for all of the seniors to wear during the game. Seniors are presented on the field with their parents at half time, so the team will dance pre-game instead. This is a VERY BIG DEAL to the seniors, so if you are the parent of a senior and you need help to do this, we will do what it takes-from taxi service to babysitting to get you on the field.
- Football Games - Drill team parents usually sit next to the girls, or in the rows directly behind them. Be aware however that because of the size of the band, the band parent chaperones usually sit next to the band, which depending on the stadium, sometimes puts them directly behind the girls. No seats are saved and we do not have an official section. If you come to the game and band parents are sitting behind the girls, be courteous and understand that we do not have the right to tell them to move. Come to the game in all your Spurs spirit wear, and be prepared to be loud and proud!
- Fall Show - The board member chairing the Parties committee is Lisa Hurd. It takes a lot of moms to make the holiday show a success. Moms decorate, sell tickets, collect tickets, monitor the silent auction, help collect and prepare the auction baskets, secure performers and in general ensure the show goes well. A volunteer committee will start working on the plans for the show weeks ahead of time.
- Basketball Games - The varsity Spurs and JV Spurs usually do not perform at the games on the same night. Moms try to show up and support the team regardless of whether it is the JV or the Varsity, even if our own daughters are not dancing. Wear your Spurs shirts and cheer loud!
- Competition - At competition, a limited number of Moms are allowed into the dressing room at one time. We try to be courteous of other Moms and not stay too long. Moms can help with fixing hair, hauling equipment, and running errands for Mrs. Parlin. When you are watching the competitions, please don't talk while other teams are performing. And when the Spurs dance, we cheer and go wild for every performance.
- Round-up - Moms are needed to man the different tables, collect order forms and generally help direct parents and answer questions.
- Spring Show – Selling of concessions
- Banquet - Parents are invited to the banquet, which is catered. This year the Social Officers and a committee of team members planned and decorated the event, under the supervision of the board chairperson, Lisa Hurd. In the past, Moms have planned, decorated and hosted the banquet, but the girls did such a good job this year that we think they should continue.

### Dad Activities

The Silver Spurs Dads have their own motto: "We don't dance - we finance." While that is certainly true, the Spurs Dads have a very important role to play. Spurs Dads (and big brothers, uncles, boyfriends, cousins and other assorted male folk) assist the team by:

- Planning, designing and building props
  - Transporting and storing props
  - Setting up props and backdrops for routines during football season as well as during competitions.
  - Participating in Daddy/Daughter dances
- Helping with fundraising activities including Pickle Parade Festival and other town activities involving the spurs.
- Videoing and photographing performances



Moms, help to spread the word-there are only a few dads that consistently help performing these tasks and we are truly in need of more Dad participation.

### **Drill Team Etiquette**

Moms, we are often the examples by which our daughters will conduct themselves. If we expect the girls to represent their team well whether they are in or out of uniform, we need to do the same. When you are at an event to watch your daughter perform, or you are accompanying the team on a trip or interacting with the team in any way, remember the girls are watching. Please remember to:

- Treat the everyone with respect
- Discourage your daughter if she mentions she wants to quit the team if she doesn't get the officer position she wanted or didn't get to dance in a specific dance. Comments like that spoken to other team mates are very detrimental to the unity of the team.
- Be encouraging to all of the girls. If you think a particular girl danced well or is improving or you even just like her attitude, don't be afraid to tell her so. The girls respond to positive reinforcement, and sometimes a nice comment coming from someone other than Mom can send their self - esteem soaring.
- Do not involve yourself in the dance room drama. Let your daughter vent, but don't encourage negativity with her team mates.
- Do not interfere in a disagreement between the girls. If you are concerned about the situation, speak with Mrs. Parlin. The girls will usually have it worked out by themselves within a day or two, and our involvement just prolongs the process and makes the situations worse.
- Cheer for other teams at football games and competitions. The girls on those teams have worked just as hard, and deserve the cheers just like our girls.
- If you have a problem, contact Mrs. Parlin and request to meet with her. Do not just show up at the dance room and expect her to drop everything to talk to you. She is teaching a class or doing any number of other tasks that she has to in running the team, and it might not be a good time to speak with her.
- Always speak respectfully to the Director. Show respect and support for her decisions. She is the director thus she is the expert when it comes to the team. She wants all girls to be successful.
- Do not correct the behavior of another girl, unless the child is in danger of being injured. Report any problems to Mrs. Parlin or the girls Mom.
- Respect Mrs. Parlin's time. She is not on call 24/7, so please don't bother her in the evenings or weekends with issues that can wait until Monday.
- HAVE FUN! If you let yourself, you will really enjoy being a Spurs Mom!

## From the Director

I am doing this for the betterment of your daughter. It is not for the money, fame and great hours. I was raised in a family of teachers from grandmother to father and mother to aunts. I married into a family of teachers. It is what I was called to do. It is my heart's desire to see your daughter become exactly who God created her to be. That may be a professional dancer, an officer or a social officer. It may be the most reliable line member ever. It might be the girl who isn't a great dancer but works harder than everyone. They are all going to be different but they are ALL VALUABLE to me and to Silver Spurs. Please just let your daughter be her. That is perfect.

When I cut girls from dances, which is rare, it is not without careful consideration and giving your daughter at least 2 times to show me she has mastered the routine. It is more than just knowing the steps. She has to perform them with the style/flexibility required. I don't take this lightly. I was cut from 8 out of 10 field routines my first year in drill team. I wasn't flexible and they were all kicks except 2. My mom got crazy because she saw how hard I was working and wanted that to be enough. It wasn't. Her craziness only made me feel insecure and not good enough for her. As a mom now, I know she was trying to help, but it didn't. However, I never gave up, and I learned what it really meant to work HARD. I ended up making officer the next year as a junior, but even if I had not, I had more than a title. I had a work ethic. That is the work ethic I am trying to build in these girls. This is what allows me to juggle mom, wife and work. That is so much more important than standing in the front of the dance routines in high school.

You can help by praising progress, encouraging them to never give up, and to let them know it is ok to fail as long as they learn from it and try again. After 13 years as a drill team director, the one piece of advice I would give moms is to remain calm. When you get angry, they panic. Try to gather the facts from them when they come home all fired up, and help them see what they have control of and what they do not. Encourage them to work on what they can control, and do not compare them to others. Remember, they are all different and that is ok. This is supposed to be fun! They are in high school. Whether they make the kick routine or not is not a definition of who they are or their future. It is just a dance, two minutes of their lives.

I don't have favorites. I do not lie to you or rig things. I am an open book. I love every one of these girls with my entire heart. I am not perfect. I will give the wrong look or say the wrong thing. I will not catch misbehavior sometimes. Please remember I am just a person, just like you, and I am doing the best I can. Please respect my time outside of drill team. There isn't much of it, and I need that time to be a mom, a wife, and a person. Please don't text me and call me if you get my cell number (ha) because I will drop what I am doing to help YOU. I need to be helping my family.

I think you have the hardest job on the planet- mom of a teenage girl!! The fact that you are supporting your daughter in something she cares so much about means the world to her. I respect you so much for that! I am here to help you help your daughter reach her potential and find herself. I am your partner, not your enemy or competition. This is YOUR baby. I just want to give her a community to spread her wings within and challenge her to fly.

I don't ever check my voicemail, so please email me. I want your help but most of the time I don't have time to ask you for it. Please volunteer to do what you can do! You are not intruding by offering your time or talent. Take pictures and videos. Come to the performances. Help fundraise. Lastly, if you don't believe everything your daughter tells you about me, I won't believe everything they say about you! Thank you for raising these beautiful, strong, compassionate girls that I get to go on the journey with for a while. - Brooke Parlin

## Contact Information

Silver Spurs Web Page: [www.legacysilver Spurs.com](http://www.legacysilver Spurs.com)

Brooke Parlin:

[brookeparlin@misdmail.org](mailto:brookeparlin@misdmail.org)

Booster Club Board Members

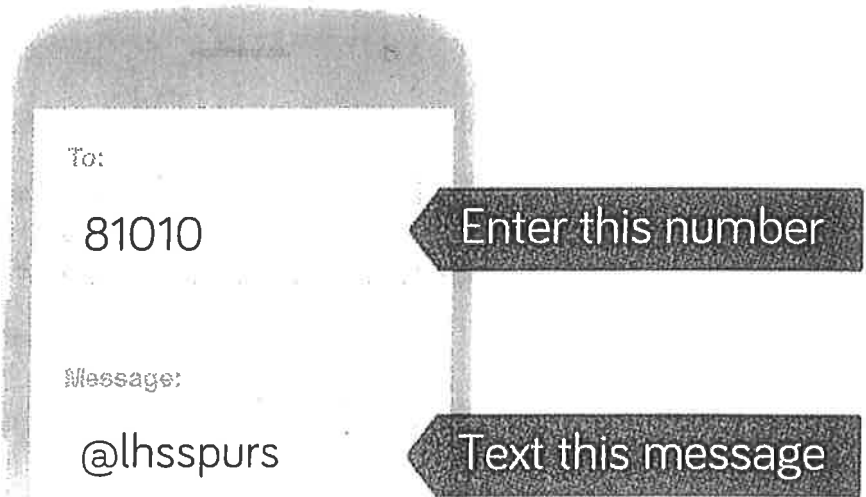
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# Spurs Booster Club would like you to join Silver Spurs Booster Club!



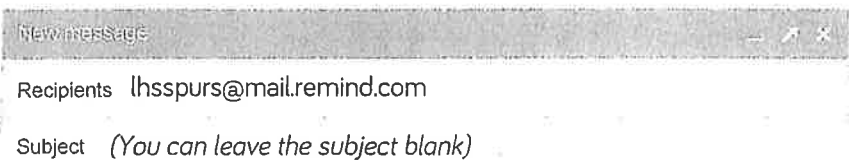
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## **Spring and Summer Calendar**

### ***Silver Spurs 2015-2016 Varsity and JV Drill Teams***

#### **April**

Team Audition Clinics-April 7-10, 4:45-6:45, JV gym @Legacy HS

Team Auditions-Saturday, April 11, 12:00 pm @ Mansfield HS

Round Up (Uniform Fittings)-Monday, April 13, 6:00 pm in JV gym for VARSITY, 7:30 pm for JV

(\$250 deposit due for camp and uniforms from both teams)

#### **May**

Dance Officer Audition-Team Voting-Monday, May 4, 3:15 pm **\*current LHS students only\***

Social Officer Voting; Thursday, May 14, 3:15 pm, dance room **\*current LHS students only\***

Rookie Training (for new members only)-May 19 & 21- 4:30-6:00 **\*PAYMENT #2 DUE, MAY 19TH**

Dance Officer Workshop-May 30, 8 am-8 pm @LHS

2015-2016 Team Welcome Party, Big Sis-Little Sis Reveal-Friday, May 22 Family Picnic @ Rose Park

#### **June**

Crowd Pleasers Dance Officer Camp-June 7-10, Marble Falls, TX

Bronco Dance Camp-**OPTIONAL**-June 15-18, 1 pm-4 pm **\*merit opportunity**

#### **July**

Social Officer Training-July 13-14, 1:30-4:30 @LHS

Pre-Camp Training- July 20-24 **\*BALANCE DUE JULY 21ST**

Team Lock-In-Friday, July 24, Connect Church, Arlington

Team Camp-July 27-July 31, Wednesday-Saturday, Arlington Martin HS-roughly 7 am-9 pm

#### **August**

Back to School Boot Camp-August 17-21, times TBA

#### **Officers only:**

Technique/Choreography class dates TBA