

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line

Audition Packet Outline of the Contract

I. Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line

The Pom Pom Line serves as the official spirit hostesses for Northwestern State University. The purpose of the Pom Line is to promote school spirit and entertainment while providing athletic opportunities. Team unity develops friendships and support outside of the classroom. Leadership opportunities and team building are taught to enforce working in diverse groups and environments. Members will become role models for their appropriate behavior and respect towards college facilities and policies.

During the fall semester the Pom Pom Line performs at all home pep rallies, football games, and selected away games. Pom Pom Line specializes in precision Pom style dance routines, hip hop dance routines, and cheers and chants during football games. Pep rally routines consist of pom style and hip-hop choreography. At football games, the team cheers on the NSU Demons and provides performances at half-time. During the spring semester, the Pom Pom Line provides the spirit for the home basketball games. The squad also performs at many functions in the community and other NSU events as needed.

II. Membership Selection Process

Tryouts are held during the spring semester to assess the skills and ability of interested candidates. For this reason, a five-phase tryout will be conducted. Phases include a short interview, a technical skill evaluation, a cheer section, a Pom style choreography phase, and a hip hop phase. There may be a cut after any round if determined necessary by the Director and judges.

Actual attendance at the audition is mandatory. Submission of videos is not allowed. If you are unable to attend tryouts in person for a valid reason, you must schedule a one on one, in person audition that must be coordinated with the Director. If a separate audition must be scheduled, the choreography will NOT be the same. All material will be taught during tryouts.

Auditions are closed to the public, including parents. Only candidates and judges will be allowed in the audition room; however, parents are welcome to sit in on the learning process if they choose.

Minimum Qualifications for Tryouts

Candidates who wish to try out for the Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. All candidates must plan to enroll at NSU and participate in both the fall and spring semesters.

2. If the candidate is an incoming freshmen or transfer student, the candidate must complete the regular admissions application process including having an official transcript sent to NSU by high school/University.
3. All candidates must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average to be eligible for auditions and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (current) in all academic work while enrolled at NSU.
4. All candidates must have a high level of physical fitness, endurance, strength, and skills to perform the requirements set below.
5. There is NO minimum weight requirement, however, the first round will be determined on overall collegiate image (appearance) as well as technique. Members will be required to maintain their audition appearance throughout the season.

Selection Criteria

Members chosen for the Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line will be based on the following criteria:

Mastery of the following criteria:

- Ability to blend the elements of precision pom and hip-hop choreography
- Ability to learn and perfect choreography quickly and efficiently
- Proficient technical dance ability
- Ability to manage time and make 6:00am – 7:30am practices 5 days a week
- Collegiate appearance
- Strong leadership qualities
- Charismatic presence/personality
- Confidence, Enthusiasm, Motivation, and Dedication
- Cooperative and positive attitude
- Strong Discipline

III. Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a tryout fee?

- Yes, the fee is \$25 paid the morning of auditions once you arrive. Payment can be in the form of cash, Venmo or check made out to NSU Pom Line.

What should I wear to auditions?

- Candidates are required to wear black hot shorts, black sports bra, and flesh-colored tights for tryouts. No warm-ups, t-shirts, shorts, or cover-ups of any kind will be allowed during evaluations. Jazz shoes, half-soles and/or tennis shoes are highly recommended. Your make-up and hair style should be worn in a style which accents and flatters your facial characteristics as well as balance the overall appearance of the Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line.

What time should I show up for the tryout session?

- We recommend that everyone attending the tryout session show up 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for stretching. Refer to the tryout schedule for check-in times.

What are tryouts like?

- During each performance phase (cheer, pom, and hip hop), prospective candidates will learn material in a 30-to-45-minute period, which they will then perform in front of the judges.
- Tryouts will include five phases with cuts beginning after the technique phase (as necessary). Refer to the tryout schedule to see a tentative schedule for tryouts.
- Once the new team is announced, we will have a short meeting with the new team to discuss details of joining the Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line.

Do you offer a scholarship?

- Fall and spring scholarships of \$700/semester are awarded to members plus out-of-state fee waivers for all out of state students that are selected. These awards can be combined with other scholarship awards. Second year members that make the team will be awarded \$800/semester, third year members will be awarded \$900/semester, and fourth year members will be awarded \$1000/semester.

Am I allowed to have piercings, jewelry, or tattoos?

- Members of the Purple Pizzazz Pom Pom Line are NOT allowed to have piercings (including belly button rings and body piercings, facial piercings (including eyebrows, cheek, lips, nose rings), etc.) during practices, performances, or tryouts. The only jewelry allowed is small stud earrings. Do NOT cover any visible tattoos for tryouts, but you will be asked to cover them during the season if selected to be on the team. For any questions concerning this matter, please contact the director.

Who can I contact for information?

- For more information you can email:
Pom Line Director, Raegan Washington at washingtonra@nsula.edu.