



2025 North Shore Elite State Championship Weekend

Congratulations to ALL our athletes and coaches on qualifying for the 2025 ICA State Championship! This marks our 16th trip to State in as many seasons. Words cannot express how proud we are to be included among some of the best youth cheer athletes in the state. No matter the outcome, this is sure to be an amazing weekend!

Please keep in mind this is the biggest competition of the year, and it is imperative we have complete commitment from you. We do want everyone to have fun, but keep in mind this weekend is a **business trip** for our teams, so our main goal is to stay focused on them.

NSE State Championship Weekend Rules:

- **ABSOLUTELY NO SWIMMING FOR NSE CHEERLEADERS BEFORE COMPETING**
- **ATHLETES SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS AND REST**
- **EVERYONE MUST ADHERE TO NSE CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL TIMES**

During this weekend, schedules are tight there will be lots of things going on. We ask that you keep in mind the importance of being on time and present whenever required. You will receive a detailed itinerary for the entire weekend. This will indicate when and where your athlete is needed.

Competition Details

ICA 2025 State Championships

Thursday November 15th-16th, 22nd-23rd

NIU Convocation Center

Admission is **FREE**

Parking – in and out access

\$13 when purchasing online ahead of time

\$17 per car, per day when purchasing day of in parking lot

Parking tickets can be purchased at the ICA website: [NIU PARKING FOR ICA STATE](#)

REMINDER – Admission is FREE which means parking can be tight and full capacity could be reached. DO NOT WAIT to until performance time to arrive. Carpooling is strongly suggested.

****BE SURE TO REVIEW LAST PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINING THE NIU RULES ON BRINGING ITEMS INTO THE ARENA****



What is required of my athlete prior to State?

- They MUST BE PRESENT at all practices leading up to State. If they are absent, they can and will be removed from the routine.
- They should continue to be prepared, fully focused and participating in all practices and events leading up to State. If they are unable to do so, they can and will be removed from the routine.

What do I need to know to ensure my athlete, and our family survive State?

- Ensure sure your athlete is not experiencing any additional stress or unnecessary excitement. This will be a very emotional and exciting weekend, and we rely on you to help support them holistically. You MUST KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK!
- Rest when you get the opportunity! Stay hydrated! Eat when you are hungry!
- Remember – our biggest goal is for a great performance and a safe, clean routine. While a championship is the bonus goal, we are only in control of what we put out there on the mat. As a staff, we only ask that our athletes give it their absolute best and hold nothing back.

What are the logistics of Competition Day at State?

- We will follow the same procedures as our regular season. The NIU Convocation center is a large place but can get very congested, please be sure to follow all directions carefully and have your athlete in the proper place at the correct time.
- On the first weekend, you may leave after our teams have performed. Awards sessions will only announce the top 3 teams after that day's competition.
- On the second weekend, all athletes MUST REMAIN in the arena or area depending on timing of their performance and awards. Munchkins and Juniors will likely remain with their coaches between performance and awards. Seniors will have a large amount of time, we will communicate the time for them to return for awards.

What do we do in our down time?

- Take advantage of any downtime you may have. Just follow the provided itinerary and you'll know exactly what's going on at any given moment.

Are the adults allowed to enjoy themselves?

- Absolutely! This is a fun and exciting time that everyone should enjoy. While you and your guests are always required to adhere to the NSE Code of Conduct at the hotel and the Arena, we encourage you to continue making memories with one another. Please be responsible, and again, keep in mind, our main reason for being here is our athletes, this is business trip, not a vacation.



Logistics

Hotels

To help keep everyone informed, if you are asking that you provide the name and location of your hotel and the dates you will be staying to your momager. In the event of an emergency, this will help inform steps to take to get your athlete where they need to be.

Regardless of where you are staying, please keep in mind you are representing not only your family, but the NSE Cheer family as well. We expect all conduct agreements/requirements are always upheld during this weekend.

Weekend Schedule

Make sure your athlete is on time and present when they need to be. The current itinerary is in this document. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with it and remain in communication with your momager. This is very strict and none of it is a suggestion. If your athlete is not present at drop off time, and we have not been in communication with you, we will begin steps to adjust the routine without your athlete.

Gifts/Keepsakes

NSE Cheerleaders will be receiving a personalized State Championship keepsake at their last practices before State. As we have asked all season, please refrain from distributing any gifts at the arena.

If your athlete would like to give their Cheer Sister a State Gift, they are welcome to do so, just be sure that exchange takes place at a time outside of their performance window. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the NIU requirements for bags and outside food and drink items.

State Competition Format

The IRCA Championship is a 2-day head-to-head competitive format. We will continue to compete in groups based upon Division/Category/Size. Teams will compete twice with their cumulative score resulting in their final placement. The three (3) teams with highest point values awarded by the panel of judges will be considered the "podium" teams winning either gold, silver or bronze State medal. All other teams will receive a State qualifier medal.



DO NOT plan to cut your commute short. The ICA WILL NOT hold up competition because someone is late. If your child is late, they will not compete. This can result in the team be seriously impacted in score, please be on time.

Round 1 Saturday November 15/Sunday November 16, 2025

- *Teams will compete against their entire division. This will account for 25% of the team's total score. No one will receive a medal on this day.*
- *Awards will be streamed online at Watchspittv.com, coaches will communicate placement once scoresheets have been received.*

Round 2 Saturday November 22/Sunday November 23, 2025

- Teams will walk the red carpet and perform under the lights on this day!
- Teams will be earning the final 75% of their cumulative score for the weekend. The top 3 scores will be announced, crowning the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in the State. Teams will receive their medals at this time. This awards session includes a huge balloon and confetti drop!

THIS ENTIRE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PLEASE REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH YOUR MOMAGERS AND STAY TUNED TO CROSSBAR, FACEBOOK, AND TEXT



**MUNCHKIN
SCHEDULE:
SATURDAY 11/15**

Arrive – 1:15 PM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 2:10 PM

On the Mat to Compete
Panel A – 3:12 PM

Awards – 5:45 PM-

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO
BE PRESENT FOR THIS
AWARDS SESSION

**MUNCHKIN
SCHEDULE:
SATURDAY 11/22**

Arrive – 3:30 PM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 4:45 PM

On the Mat to Compete
Panel A – 5:48 PM

Awards – 9:00 PM

**ALL ATHLETES ARE
REQUIRED TO STAY
FOR THIS AWARDS
CEREMONY.**

**JUNIOR SCHEDULE
SUNDAY 11/16**

Arrive – 9:15 AM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 10:15 AM

On the Mat to Compete
Panel A – 11:21 AM

Awards – 12:00 PM

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO
BE PRESENT FOR THIS
AWARDS SESSION

**JUNIOR SCHEDULE
SUNDAY 11/23**

Arrive – 9:45AM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 10:55 AM

On the Mat to Compete
Panel A – 11:52 AM

Awards – ~ 12:45 PM

**ALL ATHLETES ARE
REQUIRED TO STAY
FOR THIS AWARDS
CEREMONY.**

**SENIOR SCHEDULE
SUNDAY 11/16**

Arrive – 1:45 PM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 2:45 PM

On the Mat to Compete
Panel B – 3:51 PM

Awards – 6:45 PM

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO
BE PRESENT FOR THIS
AWARDS SESSION

**SENIOR SCHEDULE
SUNDAY 11/23**

Arrive – 3:45 PM
**THIS IS NOT A
SUGGESTION**

Drop off to coaches
– 4:45 PM

On the Mat to Compete –
Panel B 5:08 PM

Awards – 8:45 PM

**ALL ATHLETES ARE
REQUIRED TO STAY
FOR THIS AWARDS
CEREMONY.**



SECURITY UPDATE: BAG SEARCHES

To be compliant with Northern Illinois University "Safe Environment" guidelines, we ask that our spectators take note of the items that are Allowed or Banned from entrance into the facility.

PROHIBITED BAGS



APPROVED BAGS/PURSES



Bag Policy = Clear Bag

The Convocation Center performs bag and wand searches on all guests. These searches are intended to detect prohibited items including:

- Bags, backpacks, duffels (small purses okay)
- Laser pointers of any kind
- Coolers, bottles, cans, containers, or projectiles
- Weapons, flammables, or other potentially dangerous items
- Aerosol containers or any pressurized container
- Food or beverages
- Horns, noisemakers, whistles or banners
- Cameras, recording devices or video cameras
- Any illegal substances
- Posters, signs, or banners on sticks
- Helium balloons
- Umbrellas
- Mono-pods or tri-pods
- Selfie sticks
- Posters, signs or banners

Small purses are permitted on a case-by-case basis and are subject to search. Guests possessing prohibited items must return these items to their vehicles or dispose of them before entry is granted. Guests who refuse this inspection will not be admitted.

Strollers - Strollers are not permitted inside the facility. These items must be returned to your vehicle. No stroller check or storage area is available.

Banners, Flags and Signs

No banners, flags, signs, or the like are permitted inside the facility. Any of these items attempting to be brought into the facility will be asked if they can be returned to your vehicle or they will be confiscated.

Athletes that are performing are exempt from the bag size restriction, since they carry their gear in backpacks.

Our staff will be performing bag checks at both doors for guests and Athletes.

Prohibited items include outside food and beverages, including Starbucks and Dunkin' coffees.

Aerosol hairsprays are not allowed, but regular pump hairspray is permitted.

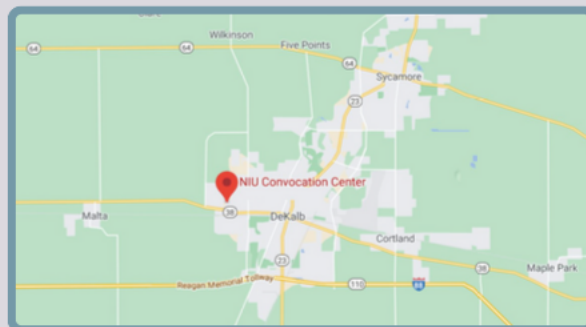
Athletes are always allowed to bring in 1 sealed 20 oz bottle of water per person.

Guests will be allowed re-entry to the facility but will need to have their clear bag / small bag checked each time.



DIRECTIONS TO NIU CONVOCATION CENTER

**NIU CONVOCATION CENTER
1525 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY
DEKALB, IL 60115-2854**



FROM THE WEST:

From I-88: Exit onto Annie Glidden Road. From Annie Glidden Road, turn left (west) onto Lincoln Highway (Route 38) to the Convocation Center entrance.

From the East:

From I-88: Exit onto Annie Glidden Road. From Annie Glidden Road, turn left (west) onto Lincoln Highway (Route 38) to the Convocation Center entrance.

From I-90: Exit onto Route 47 South. Take Route 38 West approximately 20 miles to the Convocation Center entrance.

From the South:

From I-39: Exit I-39 to Route 38 East. Travel Route 38 East to the Convocation Center Entrance.

From the North:

From I-39: Exit I-39 to Route 38 East. Travel Route 38 to the Convocation Center entrance.