

Ministry Minute

Westwood Spirit Squad

“Rallying Behind the Next Generation: Join the Squad”



Get out your pompoms! We're building a Westwood cheer squad!

What do we want? Connection!

When do we want it? Now!

Who will we cheer? Westwood's young athletes, mathletes, scientists, musicians, artists, actors, engineers and motorheads.



Who can help? Adults who like to follow and support the activities of Westwood youth in grades 6-12.

We promise: No splits, no body pyramids, no cartwheels or flips required.

Organizers of a Westwood cheering squad hope to create a group willing to turn out at school, college, or community events to show support and connection for Westwood youth.

“We're gathering (activity) schedules, talking to parent groups, and gathering volunteers,” said Amy Briggs, who has been designated captain of the squad after helping form the idea. “We're trying to figure out how it will look. For instance, will there be buttons or t-shirts or whatever?”

Amy, 52, who joined Westwood in 2016, said she believes it's important to support youth and that important connections can happen that way.

“The purpose of the Spirit Squad is so youth can know that somebody in our faith community cares about them and is taking time out of their lives to watch and cheer them on,” Amy said. “I always thought it was cool when somebody showed up (to my activities) that was not my mom and dad. When my youth director showed up, that was special.”

She believes adults modeling a connection between faith and community for youth is key.

“[Kids need this support] especially now, post COVID,” Amy said, “because they spent so much of their earlier years doing school online and felt disconnected.”

Organizers aim to keep it simple, voluntary, and about all kinds of activities, not just athletic events.

If a person (or people) from the cheer squad likes school or community theater, they can focus on that activity. People who prefer sports, academic challenges, or music can be on hand for Westwood students in those areas.



Westwood member Luanne Bachman is a model for recognition and encouragement of Westwood youth within and outside of Westwood. She has written notes of encouragement to Westwood students after seeing a concert or performance they were in.

“I wanted to encourage these kids in things that expand their lives,” Luanne said. “Hopefully, it increases their good feelings about themselves to know they are recognized by other people.”

For now, Westwood Spirit Squad organizers are working on ways to identify Westwood youth and the activities they're involved in. They need volunteers to join them in shaping the squad.

“We want it to be fun,” Amy said. “There's a mountain biking team at one of the schools. I heard they ring cow bells to cheer on the riders.”

To become part of the team, contact [Amy Briggs](#) or [Dannica Olsen](#).