

ShepNaz Basketball 2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions

Shepherd Church of the Nazarene has hosted a winter youth basketball league for the past 35 years. Kids from all over our area between kindergarten and 12th grade come to play in our fun, safe leagues. This program offers skills training and competitive or non-competitive play (depending on grade).

Introducing the ShepNaz Basketball & Cheer staff for the 2026-27 season!



From left to right:

Mike Taylor---Heather Grope---Brain Nash---Susan Aleshire---JR Judy

Our partnership with **Upward Sports** will continue for the following leagues:

****Kindergarten, 1st/2nd grade girls, 1st grade boys, 2nd grade boys, 3rd/4th grade girls, 3rd grade boys****

Doing this will help us improve our teaching of solid fundamentals to our younger players. You can expect an improved experience for our younger league and the same great league experience for our older players.

We are excited to continue to offer cheerleading for the six Upward Leagues this year! Practice times may differ from past seasons but the game times will mirror the game times for the basketball league that they will be cheering.

For a quick reference for each league, please scroll to the bottom of this document!

1. How can I register?

- Online (starting September 1st): www.shepnazbasketball.org
- In-Person registration (by appointment only):
 - Email snbb@shepnaz.org to make an appointment after September 1st

2. How much is registration?

- Cheer (K-5th grade) is \$175
- Upward Basketball (Girls: K thru 3rd/4th Grade) & (Boys: K thru 3rd Grade) is \$175
- SNBB (Girls: 5th/6th Grade thru High School) & (Boys: 4th Grade Boys thru High School) is \$195
 - For SNBB—there is a \$10 discount for re-using a ShepNaz jersey that you already have—blue and yellow reversible)

3. When are practice and game times for my son/daughter?

- Practice for all leagues will start the week of November 30th
- Game Start January 7th, 8th and 9th
 - Basketball
 - Kindergarten
 - Practice: Mondays from 6:15pm-7:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 8:00am
 - 1st/2nd Grade Girls
 - Practice: Tuesdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 9:15am
 - 1st Grade Boys
 - Practice: Fridays from 6:15pm-7:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 10:30am
 - 2nd Grade Boys
 - Practice: Fridays from 7:15pm-8:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 11:45am
 - 3rd/4th Grade Girls
 - Practice: Mondays or Tuesdays from 7:15pm-8:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 1:00pm
 - 3rd Grade Boys
 - Practice: Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm or 7:15pm-8:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 2:15pm
 - 4th Grade Boys
 - Practice: Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm or 7:15pm-8:15pm (practices will then change to Saturday mornings from 8:30am-9:30am or 9:30am-10:30am once games start in January 2027)
 - Games: Thursdays at 6:15pm or 7:15pm ^{***}(see Game NOTE below)
 - 5th/6th Grade Girls
 - Practice: Mondays from 6:15pm-7:15pm or 7:15pm-8:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 11:00am or 12:00pm
 - 5th/6th Grade Boys
 - Practice: Tuesdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm or 7:15pm-8:15pm or 8:15-9:15pm (rotation) ^{****}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Fridays at 6:15pm, 7:15pm, or 8:15pm
 - 7th/8th Grade
 - Practice: Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 8:15pm-9:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 4:00pm or 5:00pm, 6:00pm, or 7:00pm based on registration numbers
 - High School
 - Practice: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays from 9:15pm-10:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 1:00pm, 2:00pm, or 3:00pm, maybe 4:00pm based on registration numbers

Cheerleading

- Kindergarten squad (Power)
 - Practices: Mondays from 6:15pm-7:15pm
 - Games: Saturdays at 8:00am
 - Cheers for Kindergarten basketball
- 1st & 2nd Grade squad (Mighty)
 - Practice: Tuesdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 9:15am
 - Cheers for 1st and 2nd Girls basketball
- 1st & 2nd Grade squad (Courage)
 - Practice: Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturday at 10:30am
 - Cheers for 1st Grade Boys basketball
- 1st & 2nd Grade squad (Brave)
 - Practice: Tuesdays from 7:15pm-8:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 11:45am
 - Cheers for 2nd Grade Boys basketball
- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade squad (Light)
 - Practice: Mondays from 7:15pm-8:15pm
 - Games: Saturday at 1:00pm
 - Cheers for 3rd and 4th Grade Girls basketball
- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade squad (Strength)
 - Practice: Thursdays from 7:15pm-8:15pm ^{***}(see Practice NOTE below)
 - Games: Saturdays at 2:15pm
 - Cheers for 3rd Grade Boys basketball

PRACTICE NOTES!

Due to previously scheduled events, there are a couple dates/times that practices for these squads/leagues that are on a different day/time

There are NO PRACTICES the week of December 21st.

There are NO PRACTICES the week of December 28th.

This means that there will be 4 practices for each team (except 4th Grade Boys) before the first game.

GAME NOTES:

Due to previously scheduled events, there are two dates that games for this leagues are on a different day/time

4. How are basketball teams made?

- For Upward Basketball Teams:
 - Girls: Kindergarten thru 3rd/4th Grade
 - Boys: Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade
 - As we continue our partnership with Upward Sports, their system allows us to run the players through an evaluation process and enter each player's evaluation score into a database that will divide the teams equally, based on skills, to provide healthy competition.
- For SNBB Teams:
 - 4th Grade Boys, 5th/6th Grade Girls, 5th/6th Grade Boys, 7th/8th Grade and High School
 - All registered players run through an assessment with all the coaches in attendance.
 - After the assessment, the players are dismissed, and the coaches enter "The Draft Room" and draft their teams.
 - All registered players that did not attend the assessment will be assessed by the coaches/ShepNaz Basketball personnel and ranked based on athleticism/skill level.
 - After the drafting of the players that attended the assessment is complete, the list of ranked registered players will be used in completing the draft.
 - Lastly, any player that coaches/ShepNaz Basketball personnel do not know, their names will be put "in a hat" and blindly drawn and assigned to the team with the next pick.
 - Coaches (both Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches) kids are automatically placed on that coach's team starting with the 3rd round pick...this process MAY change.

5. When should I be doing what?

- For Upward Cheer (K thru 5th Grade)
 - If you would like to confirm your cheerleaders cheer top and skort size, please come to the Shepherd Church either Saturday, November 14th from 11:00am-3:00pm or Monday, November 16th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. You can skip the line and go directly to the sizing table to confirm or change your cheerleaders cheer top and/or skort size.
- For Upward Basketball
 - Girls: Kindergarten thru 3rd/4th Grade
 - Boys: Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade
 - Register your player and encourage others to do so as well!
 - Mark your calendar!
 - **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND ONE OF THE SESSIONS LISTED BELOW**
 - November 14th (11:00am-3:00pm)
 - (Last names A-L from 11a-1:00p and Last names M-Z from 1:00p-3:00p) or
 - November 16th (6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - (Last names A-L from 6p-7p and Last names M-Z from 7p-8p)
 - Bring your player to Shepherd Church anytime between the hours listed above to have them run through the evaluation process. We are estimating that once in the gym it should take between 15-20 minutes for a player to complete the evaluation but be prepared that it may take longer. This will also be a time to size your player for a jersey.
 - 4th Grade Boys, 5th/6th Grade Girls, 5th/6th Grade Boys, 7th/8th Grade and High School
 - Register your player and encourage others to do so as well!
 - Mark your calendar to attend the assessment!
 - November 21st
 - 4th Grade Boys—8:00am at Shepherd Church
 - 5th/6th Grade Girls—8:00am at Shepherd Church
 - 5th/6th Grade Boys—10:00am at Shepherd Church
 - 7th/8th Grade—10:00am at Shepherd Church
 - High School—12:00pm at Shepherd Church
 - These times are the starting times of the assessment, please arrive 15-20 minutes early to get checked in for your assessment. This is not a registration time!

6. When should I hear from a coach?

- If you have not heard from your coach by Sunday, November 29th, please be sure to contact me ASAP!

mtaylor@shepnaz.org
614-471-3368 ext 531

QUICK REFERENCE

(All practices start the week of November 30th
(There are no practices the weeks of December 21st or December 28th)
(All games start Thursday, Friday or Saturday; January 7th, 8th or 9th)

BASKETBALL

Kindergarten Basketball (co-ed)

Practice: Mondays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 8:00am
Ball Size: 27.5
Hoop Height: 7' 6"

1st/2nd Grade Girls Basketball

Practice: Tuesdays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 9:15am
Ball Size: 27.5
Hoop Height: 8' 6"

1st Grade Boys Basketball

Practice: Fridays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 10:30am
Ball Size: 27.5"
Hoop Height: 8' 6"

2nd Grade Boys Basketball

Practice: Fridays @ 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 11:45am
Ball Size: 27.5"
Hoop Height: 8' 6"

3rd/4th Grade Girls Basketball

Practice: Mondays or Tuesdays @ 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 1:00pm
Ball Size: 27.5
Hoop Height: 9'

3rd Grade Boys Basketball

Practice: Thursdays @ 6:15pm or 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 2:15pm
Ball Size: 27.5"
Hoop Height: 9'

CHEER

**Grade of Cheerleader: Kindergarten
Power squad**

Cheering for Kindergarten Basketball
Practice: Mondays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 8:00am

**Grade of Cheerleader: 1st or 2nd Grade
Mighty squad**

Cheering for 1st/2nd Grade Girls Basketball
Practice: Tuesdays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 9:15am

**Grade of Cheerleader: 1st or 2nd Grade
Courage squad**

Cheering for 1st Grade Boys Basketball
Practice: Thursdays @ 6:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 10:30am

**Grade of Cheerleader: 1st or 2nd Grade
Brave squad**

Cheering for 2nd Grade Boys Basketball
Practice: Tuesdays @ 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 11:45am

**Grade of Cheerleader: 3rd, 4th or 5th Grade
Light squad**

Cheering for 3rd/4th Grade Girls Basketball
Practice: Mondays @ 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 1:00pm

**Grade of Cheerleader: 3rd, 4th or 5th Grade
Strength squad**

Cheering for 3rd Grade Boys Basketball
Practice: Thursdays @ 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 2:15pm

4th Grade Boys Basketball

Practice: Thursdays @ 6:15pm or 7:15pm
(once games start in January, practices will
move to Saturdays @ 8:30am or 9:30am)
Games: Thursdays @ 6:15pm or 7:15pm
Ball Size: 28.5"
Hoop Height: 10'

5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball

Practice: Mondays @ 6:15pm or 7:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 11:00am or 12:00pm
Ball Size: 28.5"
Hoop Height: 10'

5th/6th Grade Boys Basketball

Practice: Tuesdays @ 6:15pm, 7:15pm or
8:15pm
Games: Fridays @ 6:15pm, 7:15pm or
8:15pm
Ball Size: 28.5"
Hoop Height: 10'

7th/8th Basketball

Practice: Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays
@ 8:15pm
Games: Saturdays @ 5:00pm, 6:00pm or
7:00pm
Ball Size: 28.5"
Hoop Height: 10'

High School Basketball

Practice: Mondays, Tuesdays, possibly
Wednesdays, Thursdays and possibly
Fridays @ 9:15pm
(practice days based on registration numbers)
Games: Saturdays
@ 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm or 4:00pm
Ball Size: 29.5"
Hoop Height: 10'

Notes

Upward Leagues: Both basketball and cheerleading:

- All practices and games are led by coaches
- No score is kept; no fouls are recorded
- There is a running clock; 6 periods of 5 minutes each with a short half-time
- During practices, a short devotion will be given by a Shepherd Church volunteer
- All activities start in the Central Complex Gym
- Teams are put together using the Upward assessment/evaluation as a guide
- We do not grant ride requests or for players to be placed on a specific coach or player's team
- The last game is on February 27th

SNBB Leagues:

- All practices are led by coaches; All games are officiated by referees
- Score is kept; Fouls are recorded
- There is a running clock; 6 periods of 6 minutes each with a short half-time; the clock is stopped the last 10 seconds of each period and the last minute of the last two periods.
- Practices and games are in the Family Life Center (FLC)
- Teams are put together using the assessment/draft process
- We do not grant ride requests or for players to be placed on a specific coach or player's team
- There is a post-season tournament, times and dates TBD