

Texas State Strutters



2010

Tryout Packet

March 27th * April 24th * August 2nd

Visit our website for more information

www.txstrutters.com

(512) 245-2600

Texas State University

Strutters

Strahan Coliseum #128
San Marcos, Texas 78666
(512) 245-2600

SA10@txstate.edu / www.txstrutters.com

Dear Prospective Strutter,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a **Texas State Strutter!**

The Strutters organization has a long, proud and strong tradition of excellence. Strutters are known around the world for the showmanship and “pizzazz” of their performances. For 50-years, Strutters have fascinated audiences with their performances at football games, parades, movies, and international performances. The Strutters of Texas State University have long been associated with the pageantry and tradition of Texas State intercollegiate athletics. First established in 1960, the Strutters boast alumni of thousands, who have helped to make the organization what they are today.

As a member of the Strutters organization, you will be sharing in a tradition of excellence that is unrivaled by other Universities. The Strutters are recognized as having a high level of technical excellence in the choreography that they present. Great vigor, enthusiasm, and professionalism are all synonymous with the Strutters style of dance and performance. To become a Texas State Strutter, you must have skill ability along with a commitment to “give 100%”! Our standards are set high and we expect nothing but the best from each Strutter.

The mission of the Texas State Strutters is to provide the very best in halftime performances all while maintaining the standards and core values that make up the Strutters organization. They are dedicated to presenting choreography that is wholesome and entertaining, all while maintaining outstanding performance standards. Aside from excellence in dance, the organization takes pleasure in helping young women develop communication skills, strength in character, and confidence.

We invite you to experience why America loves the Strutters. See you at tryouts!

Sincerely,

Susan Angell-Gonzalez
Director/Choreographer of Strutters
Texas State University-San Marcos
Department of Athletics

PROCEDURE TO BECOME A STRUTTER

The Texas State Strutters are a non-coed performance group. This organization takes great pride in being exemplary role models to thousands of young dancers around the world. They are involved in providing service through performances, as University Ambassadors, or other varied activities where they can devote their time and energy. Strutters have a long standing tradition of excellence in dance and performance that is unrivaled by other Universities. They are recognized as having a high level of technical excellence within the choreography that they present. Every Strutter must be in peak physical form and possess a wholesome appearance with an extraordinary sense of showmanship. Great vigor, enthusiasm, and professionalism are all synonymous with the Strutters style of dance and performance. Each girl must have the proper attitude to learn the qualities that are essential for a young lady. Being poised, well groomed, charming and attractive are qualities that are essential for Strutters to possess. These qualities make up the “core values” that are Strutters and will be evident in every Strutter at all times. The mission of the Texas State Strutters is to provide the very best in halftime performances all while maintaining the standards and core values that make up the Strutters organization. The Strutters organization is dedicated to presenting choreography that is wholesome and entertaining, all while maintaining outstanding performance standards. Aside from excellence in dance, the organization takes pleasure in helping young women develop communication skills, strength in character, and confidence. While hosting annual camps and competitions, Strutters will continue to serve as exemplary role models to thousands of young dancers around the world.

General Requirements

- ✓ You must apply to Texas State University-San Marcos and be accepted. Strutters are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- ✓ Take all the necessary tests for admission into Texas State. TASP testing is required before course registration is allowed. Students with high SAT, ACT or TAAS scores may be exempt from taking the TASP test. For information call the admissions office at (512) 245-2364 or Website: <http://www.txstate.edu>
- ✓ You must want to become a Strutter and do whatever it takes to become the best. Should you make the team, you will be expected to honor your commitment to the organization.
- ✓ Being cooperative and learning to perform as a precision unit is expected of each individual trying out. TEAM WORK is our motto.
- ✓ You must demonstrate good rhythm, skill ability, flexibility and coordination. (The Strutters are recognized as having a high level of technical excellence within the choreography that they present.)
- ✓ Individuals must demonstrate/execute strong dance & kick technique, showmanship and projection on an above average level. It is advisable for individuals to participate in outside dance classes prior to tryouts. Being in shape is an essential and important part of tryouts.
- ✓ You must demonstrate proper kick technique and height. Individuals must realize that you cannot achieve this overnight and should therefore begin kick workout early! Being in shape prior to tryouts will prevent soreness and injury. Strengthen muscles, knees and ankles prior to your tryout. Additionally, it is equally important to build cardio-vascular endurance and stamina. (Strutters workout in various conditions.) Should you have a current injury, we advise that you consult with a physician or trainer for the best training and healing methods.
- ✓ Judges will assess your technique and skill abilities. You must be able to execute a variety of leaps and turns (at least a double pirouette). The tryout routine will be primarily a skill routine that will incorporate some stylistic jazz movement followed by a high kick combination.

- ✓ You must be in peak physical form and possess a wholesome appearance with an incredible sense of stage presence. Energy, excitement, and professionalism are all synonymous with the Strutter style of dance. We are looking for those individuals that show potential and “capture” the Strutter style of performing.
- ✓ You must demonstrate aptitude in learning and executing routines. This is an essential element when performing and participating in the line.
- ✓ You must demonstrate a “stylistic” approach in dancing. Projection and showmanship are important elements of the “Strutters style” of dance.
- ✓ Weight/Size: All Strutters are normal in weight for their size/bone structure. We will not perform anyone who does not fit into a uniform and belt. It is strongly recommended that you follow proper nutritional guidelines in order to look your best at auditions.
- ✓ We DO NOT have height requirements.
- ✓ Body-piercing is not allowed (other than earlobes in moderation). This also includes flesh colored tongue rings.
- ✓ **Tattoos:** If you have a pre-existing tattoo(s), they must be completely covered at all times (not by band-aids). They are strongly discouraged.
- ✓ Candidates must possess a positive attitude towards learning and accept criticism that is given to you.
- ✓ Individuals must be accepted into Texas State University-San Marcos prior to **August** camp. Should you make the team, you must register for Strutters prior to the start of fall semester (course number PFW 1149 / Physical Education Department). Strutters meet on MWF from 3:30-6:00 and during football season on Monday evenings (if needed). You may not sign up for a Monday evening class!

Tryout Procedures

- ✓ Please complete the application and return with **\$15.00 tryout fee** no later than: March 22nd (**March 27th tryouts**) / April 19th (**April 24th tryouts**) / July 28th (**August 2nd tryouts**).
Mail to: Strutters / Attn: Tryouts/ Strahan Coliseum #128 / San Marcos, Texas 78666 / Strutter Office #: (512) 245-2600
- ✓ Tryouts are scheduled for **March 27th / April 24th / August 2nd**. For the **March tryouts:** candidates are to meet in Jowers Center Gym 101, **April tryouts:** Jowers Gym 101 and **August tryouts:** candidates are to meet at Jowers Center in Gyms 221-222. Jowers Center is adjacent to Strahan Coliseum. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. with session beginning at 9:00.
- ✓ **What to wear for tryouts:** Any color form fitting top/leotard/long dance pants (that is most flattering to you!) No half tops, or bike shorts or Capri pants allowed. You **MAY NOT** wear cover-ups or wraps during workshop or tryouts. We strongly suggest that you wear a dance shoe for tryouts (we recommend Jazz shoes or Bloch dance sneakers). **NO RUNNING SHOES ALLOWED FOR DANCING! You must wear dance shoes.**
- ✓ Hair must be fixed and kept away from your face. It can be worn down if it does not get in the way of your performance. (We want you to “look your best!”)
- ✓ No jewelry worn at workshop or tryouts.
- ✓ You must wear makeup that flatters you. Field makeup is not required for tryouts; however, makeup application must be a little heavier than normal.
- ✓ You will learn a skill routine with stylized jazz movements followed by a kick combination in the morning session THEN tryout in the afternoon. Additionally, each candidate will introduce themselves to the judges. Tryouts will be from 12:30-3:00 and will be closed to the public.
- ✓ The director and a panel of Strutter Alumni select new Strutters.

- ✓ **Not selected:** You may request a written evaluation from the Director/Choreographer of Strutters: Susan Angell-Gonzalez / SA10@txstate.edu. All requests must be received via e-mail within two days following the audition.
- ✓ A mandatory tryout fee of **\$15.00** is required of each individual trying out. This fee must be paid upon registration and is nonrefundable. Should you make Strutters in August, you will be required to pay **\$200.00** in Strutter dues. Cost break down of your Strutter dues will be given to you if you make the team. Make checks payable to: **Strutter Club Account**.
- ✓ If you make Strutters in August, you will be required to stay for Strutter Camp for two weeks following the tryout. It is mandatory for all new Strutters to move into the “Strutter Camp Residence” (dorm) during camp, (no exceptions made!) The dorm is free of charge during our 2-week stay (meals not included). If you make the August tryout, you will check into the dorm following tryouts. You will need bed linens, towels, toiletries, etc., for your two-week stay. Again, meals are not included in the stay! You will need enough money for meals during the duration of camp. (Strutter boosters will sponsor approx. 2 meals during camp) FYI: Prior to the start of the Fall semester, Strutters will be allowed to move into their **fall residence** one day prior to campus check-in (you will beat the rush).
- ✓ **What to wear for August camp:** Any color form fitting tops / leotards / dance pants may be worn. No half tops allowed! You may not wear cover-ups or T-shirts while practicing. Dance shoes must be worn to include the Bloch dance sneaker and jazz shoes for studio combinations (both shoes are required for performances). **NO RUNNING SHOES ALLOWED FOR DANCING!** Hair must be pulled away from the face for practice. **All Strutters are required to have black and tan jazz shoes for performance along with all black Bloch dance sneakers for field performances.**
- ✓ At camp, you will learn most of your performance routines for football season and will learn the traditions and history of the Strutter organization.

What to Expect

- ✓ Being selected as a Strutter will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. You are provided opportunities that will help you grow and develop educationally, spiritually and physically. You will develop the qualities that are essential for a young lady to be charming, attractive, well groomed, and poised.
- ✓ Strutters are considered “model” students on campus. You will have time to practice, study, and participate in campus activities. You will be recognized as a Strutter throughout the campus and the community. Additionally, you will develop a sense of pride through your involvement in the Strutter organization.
- ✓ Strutters in no way will interfere with your classes or scholastic work if you organize your time well.
- ✓ The Strutter organization is a “sorority” all in one. You will be given opportunities to participate in Strutter social events (Fall & Spring) and participate in “Big/Little Sister parties. Strutters are given opportunities to meet and socialize with our Alumni.
- ✓ You will be given opportunities to travel the world and to sometimes perform on national television. In addition, you will participate in community events and promotions for Texas State.
- ✓ Strutters have been provided opportunities to perform in television commercials, movies and T.V. shows. If called upon, each Strutter will be expected to participate.
- ✓ You will be required to attend all scheduled performances for Texas State and special invitations extended to Strutters.

- ✓ The Strutters take great pride in being exemplary role models for young dancers and are also involved in providing service through performances, as University Ambassadors, or other varied activities where they can devote their time and energy.

Uniforms

- ✓ Each individual is responsible for purchasing required practice uniform, additional performance wear, boots, and practice dance shoes. The additional performance uniform consists of a maroon performance top, black dance pants, 1 warm-up suit, black & tan jazz shoes, and Bloch dance sneakers.
- ✓ You will be issued a Strutter field uniform which consists of: maroon skirt, maroon jacket, maroon scarf, white bodysuit, white leather gauntlets, white leather western belt, and white western hat. A practice hat will be issued to each Strutter.
- ✓ You will be expected to keep your uniform dry cleaned and in perfect condition.
- ✓ Your boots must be polished for each performance.

Scholarships/Financial Aid

Financial aid for those attending Texas State University-San Marcos is provided in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study programs and loans. Scholarships and grants are gifts; loans must be repaid with interest. Work-study programs enable students to work while attending college. If you are applying for financial aid, be sure to start early. You can obtain the correct form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), from your high school counselor beginning in January.

Strutter scholarships are awarded to a select few who have served at least 1 to 2-years in Strutters and have proven to be outstanding in all areas. These scholarships have specifications and are not awarded from application into the institution. The endowment scholarships provided for Strutters are:

Barbara Tidwell Endowment

O.C. Haley Endowments

Susan Angell Endowment (Must be a dance major and current Strutter)

**All Strutters must maintain a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for scholarships*

Texas State University Strutters

The Strutters of Texas State University have long been associated with pageantry and excellence in performance for Texas State intercollegiate athletics. Founded in 1960, the Strutters boast thousands of alumnae, who have helped to make the organization what it is today.

This organization is unique in that it was the FIRST precision dance team formed at a four-year university. For 50-years Strutters have served as ambassadors for Texas State University on state, national and international levels. The Strutters have proudly carried the name of Texas State with performances in 24 countries spanning 4 continents.

One of the most impressive honors was their selection as the first U.S. dance team to perform in the People's Republic of China. Other highlights include: two Presidential Inaugural Parades, numerous NFL & NBA halftime performances, the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade™, MTV's Total Request Live, a national television commercial for Coca-Cola, appearances in five movies, and recently, the Texas State Strutters represented Texas State University and the City of San Marcos in the NBC network television program, "America's Got Talent," out-performing hundreds of acts to reach the live semifinal round of competition.

Aside from excellence in dance, the organization takes pride in helping young women develop communication skills, character and confidence. While hosting annual camps and competitions, Strutters serve as exemplary role models to thousands of high school dance team members across Texas and in Hawaii.

Former Strutter Captain, Susan Angell-Gonzalez is in her thirteenth year as Director/Choreographer of the Texas State Strutters.

APPLICATION FOR TEXAS STATE STRUTTERS

Name _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Soc. Sec. # _____ Home Phone # () _____

Home Address _____ E-mail _____
(Print Clearly)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell #: () _____

High School Attended _____ City _____ State _____

Parent's Name _____
(Last) (First)

Age _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Size (S/M/L/XL) _____

Tryout Date (circle): March 27th April 24th August 2nd

Are you a current Texas State student? _____ Texas State Student ID #: _____

Have you been accepted to Texas State? _____ If not have you applied? _____

Were you on high school drill/dance team and if so did you hold an office? If not high school dance/drill team, please list anything related.

Are you a transfer student and if so were you on a college team? (*List Team*)

List your talents and dance experience (include formal dance training):

Why are you interested in becoming a Texas State Strutter:

► Include a written character recommendation: must be from someone who has taught you in dance or cheerleading. Please attach TWO recent photographs: one headshot and one full body shot in a form fitting leotard or costume. The photos do not have to be formal shots.

**Return to: Texas State Strutters
Strahan Coliseum #128
San Marcos, Texas 78666
(512) 245-2600**

**Return by: March 22nd (March 27th Tryouts) /
April 19th (April 24th Tryouts)/July 28th (August 2nd Tryouts)
\$15.00 tryout fee required with application**