The mission of Pop Warner Little Scholars is to enable young people to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment.

Through this active participation, Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives.

Pop Warner seeks to provide fun, athletic learning opportunities for children, while emphasizing the importance of academic success. Specifically, Pop Warner seeks to familiarize football players and spirit participants the fundamentals of football, cheerleading and dance.

Pop Warner strives to inspire youth, regardless of race, creed or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness as reflected in the life of the late Glenn Scobie “Pop” Warner.
Pop Warner remains the only youth sports organization to require academic proficiency as a prerequisite for participation. On the field or the performance floor, too, our commitment goes far beyond the quest for an award-winning routine.

**WE STRIVE TO:**
- Ensure a safe and positive environment for all participants.
- Instill life-long values of teamwork, dedication and a strong work ethic.

**IN SEEKING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, POP WARNER:**
- does not hold tryouts, keep statistics or allow cutting of rosters.
- provides coaching for youth participants.
- enforces stringent mandatory equipment requirements.
- employs a full-time executive staff that supports the local organizations and maintains sound, equitable policies.
- offers payment plans or reduced/waived fees for hardship requests in many locations.

**CHEER AND DANCE:**
Pop Warner Cheer & Dance teams have participated for several decades on the football sidelines, however, cheerleading was not officially introduced until the 1970’s. Today, thousands participate in Pop Warner Cheerleading and Dance teams around the United States.

The Cheer and Dance Program offers teams a wide range of opportunity for young athletes at all skill levels. Pop Warner has established one set of spirit rules along with JAMZ, the Pop Warner Education Development Partner and the original developer of Youth Cheer and Dance Alliance (YCADA). Together with YCADA, Pop Warner is able to provide online educational courses for its coaches, administrators and judges on team skill levels.

With continued education, the Pop Warner Coaching Staff provides basic instruction, training and conditioning for both football games and competition. Teams participate on the sidelines at football games for home and most away games. In addition to Game Day, teams participate in qualifying spirit events (League & Region) through to a Pop Warner National Championship. The Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Championships are held in December at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

**THE CHALLENGER PROGRAM:**
The mission of the Pop Warner Challenger Division is to bring the Pop Warner experience to those special needs individuals. Pop Warner’s overall goals are to enable young people to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment on the sidelines cheering on the local football team or performing as a team before a Pop Warner audience.

- The Challenger Division includes children ages 5 to 18 with physical or mental disabilities who are currently enrolled in school.
- The Challenger Division follows Pop Warner Cheer & Dance Rules with proper skill progression under direct coaching supervision.

**Pop Warner Facts:**
Founded in Philadelphia in 1929, the year of the Great Depression, Pop Warner began as a four-team football league to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble. Since that time, the organization has flourished in ways its originators could hardly have imagined.

Here are a few interesting facts about today’s Pop Warner Program:
- Each league is furnished with administrative manuals and official rule books to help operate the program.
- Competition in football, cheerleading and dance is governed by a uniform set of rules and regulations.
- Pop Warner provides low-cost, high-coverage insurance that includes medical and general liability plans.
- Post-Season Region and National Championships are offered in Tackle, Cheerleading and Dance.
- Use of the Pop Warner name, marks, logos and non-profit tax-exempt status is included.
- Grants are available to members for field refurbishment, equipment, uniforms, recruitment and general operations.
- Through it’s partners, Pop Warner provides scholarships to its participants.
- Pop Warner has 40,000+ coaches and one million volunteers, parents and fans that support the program each year.
- Pop Warner volunteers are trained every year to offer the best and safest programs for our participants.
- Additional online coaches training programs for Game Day through to Competitive Levels offered through YCADA.
- Pop Warner programs nationwide are required to annually conduct a background check of Coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers.

**Pop Warner Programs:**
Every season, local Pop Warner programs need help from the community to fill many volunteer positions to include Team Parents, Concession Helpers, Fundraisers and much more. For more volunteer information on a location nearest you, please email spirit@popwarner.com or visit www.popwarner.com.

**Building a Strong Foundation:**
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