

Generation Spirit “Sparkle Effect” International Colleges Constitution

Article 1 - Name

Sparkle Cheerleading at Ohio State University

Article 2 - Mission

The mission of the Sparkle Effect is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for individuals with a disability to be a part of an inclusive spirit team. In this team, individuals with and without disabilities get to form meaningful friendships and cheer together as one. We do this at a college level by taking atypical and typical volunteers to attend low attendance events together as a cheer team to promote inclusiveness and awareness.

Goals:

1. Our main goal is to have a positive impact on the University and create a more inclusive environment overall. More recruitment numbers are a goal as more people become aware of this club/organization.
2. Another goal of ours is to get out into the community. Attending at least 5 events for this school year would be optimal. Gaining more connections this year, so next year we have more events on the books prior to recruitment period.

Article 3 - Membership

Membership in any Best Buddies chapter is open to all registered undergraduate students in good standing with the college/university without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. A student can apply to be a part of the cheer squad and cheer at events we attend as a team.

Students wishing to join Sparkle Cheer must attend all weekly practices with the exception of three excused absences. They must also attend all events we cheer at. Members must then complete an online application, attend an interview with a representative of the chapter, and be selected.

Article 4 - Officers/Advisors

1. **President:** An undergraduate student who organizes, leads and maintains a chartered chapter of Best Buddies for the duration of one academic year.
2. **Vice President:** Works closely with the President and the rest of the executive board to oversee all positions. The VP is in charge of sending out update emails at least twice a month, as well as reserving rooms for the events and executive board meetings. They are the acting President when the President is unable to be in attendance.
3. **Treasurer:** For one full academic year the Treasurer acts as chief financial officer of the chapter
4. **Social Media Director:** For one full academic year the Social Media Director creates graphics for events, updates social media, and makes sure we are active on social media. Buddy pair of the week. Run the linktree for Instagram and Buddy Pair of the Week.
5. **Event Director:** For one full academic year the Event Director works with the President to plan, direct, and supervise all chapter activities (group outings, events).
6. **Outreach & Inclusion Chair:** For one full academic year the Outreach Chair works to promote our club through presentations, Involvement Fairs, and other opportunities (businesses, the university, clubs, etc) as well as staying up to date with Best Buddies Ohio. Yearly goals for recruitment should be made.

Section 2

Faculty Advisor: The Faculty Advisor works as a liaison between the school administration and the chapter and provides ongoing leadership and guidance for at least one full academic year. The FA must be a member of the college faculty and/or full-time staff member

Article 5 - Meetings/Activities

1. **Info Meetings:** There are two recruitment meetings, mandatory for all students who wish to join Sparkle Cheer, held at the beginning of the academic year.
2. **Weekly practice:** This is a practice where the team meets once a week for an hour to go over materials learned, discuss upcoming events, and participate in team bonding.
3. **Meet and Greet:** This is an event that is required for new members of the club and for all other club members. This event is for members to make initial contact and meet the team.
4. **Game Events:** These are low attending sports events we attend and cheer at. They will be determined and scheduled at the beginning of each season.
5. **Friendship Walk:** A national Best Buddies event where we cheer as the Best Buddies walk, typically downtown Columbus, for inclusion and promotion of Best Buddies as a whole. Individuals sign up online and fundraise for Best Buddies Ohio.

Article 6 - Finances

Money is needed to run the chapter. Our chapter holds fundraisers and seeks available campus funding. In addition, Generation Spirit sends funding every three years as long as the club keeps within their requirements. We set up a bank account either through Ohio State University or at a local financial institution. The Faculty Advisor for the chapter should be the signatory on the account, and all records should be kept by the Treasurer. Periodic reports on the status of these accounts are required by Generation Spirit.

- **Bank Account: Checking Account (treasurer holds onto card with account info)**
- **Checks / Cash Deposits and Withdrawals: Treasurer makes monthly deposits/withdrawals as needed to either reimburse or collect funds from events.**
- **Fundraising: Fundraisers are held on an as needed basis and are set up by the elected Fundraising Chair. The fundraising chair has the responsibility of contacting managers at the fundraising site to plan the event and ensure that all money and/or checks are received after the event has taken place. Finally, the Fundraising Chair must deliver the checks to the Treasurer so that they can be deposited.**
- **Event Costs: We get funds through the university**
 - **Speaker**
 - **Food/Candy**
 - **Consumable Supplies**

Article 7 - Running the Executive Board

The executive board will be selected in the spring of each year, and it will run into the fall and spring semester of the following year. Members may apply for the executive board if they have been in the club for at least one semester. The current President selects the officers, working with the Vice President to pick the best candidates. The President must attend the annual required meetings/training with Generation Spirit. The President determines all other officer positions. The executive board will have an extended meeting twice during the Spring: once to revise the Constitution if needed and prepare transition documents, and once for the Transitional Meeting. The transition meeting should serve to give each executive board member the chance to help their replacement understand the position and an opportunity to see how the executive board functions. The new President and Vice President should meet at least once during the summer to plan a rough outline for the upcoming year. As much prep work as possible is helpful in order to be ready for the year. If possible, other exec members should meet with the President and VP as

well. There should be one executive board meeting per month, preferably in person but on Zoom if needed. These monthly meetings should be scheduled, as a group, at the first executive meeting of the year. Any additional exec meetings can be added to the calendar if necessary

Article 8 - Dismissal of Members

Officer Removal Process

Attendance policy allows for up to 3 excused absences per semester. Each officer is required to complete their share of responsibilities within the time they are due. If they fail to complete their responsibilities a total of 3 times in one academic calendar, they will be put on probation while the entirety of the executive board investigates the situation.

After this point, should the individual in question fail to meet the requirements of his/her commitment as an officer, the member will be taken off the roster and their uniform would be required to turn in. They would be required to go back through the interview process to rejoin and would be unable to hold a position on the exec board in the future.

Depending on what position this removed member is in and what stage of the academic calendar we are in, the executive board will determine if their role needs to be filled.

Squad Member Requirements (per semester)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attend all weekly practices● Attend all scheduled cheer events

Attendance policy allows for up to 3 excused absences per semester.

If a member does not fulfill the requirements of his/her commitment, the VP will investigate the situation before taking any action.

After gathering all necessary information, the VP will approach the individual in question to address the situation. If needed, the VP can speak to the president and can get involved. The last resort would be the president reaching out to the host site coordinators.

After this point, should the individual in question fail to meet the requirements of his/her commitment as a squad member, the member will be taken off the roster or their uniform would be required to turn in. They would be required to go back through the interview process to rejoin.

Article 8 - Non-discrimination Statement

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.