

Cartersville Parks and Recreation Gymnastics Program

The mission of the Twisters is to provide competitive gymnasts with opportunity for social and physical development in an atmosphere of sportsmanship, through a well-managed program that is professionally staffed by the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department and parent-supported through the Twisters Booster Club.

The Cartersville Twisters gymnastics team is entering the 26th year of competition. In a year-round sport, our Cartersville Twisters have made great strides in developing strong competitive teams. We compete within the following athletic associations: USA Gymnastics (USAG), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and United States Association of Independent Gymnastics Clubs (USAIGC).

Our competitive facility (located directly behind the Civic Center at the corner of Cherokee Ave. and Lee St.) is among the best in the state. The Cartersville Gymnastics Center was the pre-Olympic training site for the 1996 Men's Olympic Gymnastics Team from Belarus. Our facility benefited from a grant from the Governor's office in preparation for the Olympic games. The Booster Club funded a trip for the optional girls to compete in Munich, Germany and train both in Germany and at Switzerland's Olympic Training Centers.

Our boys and girls continue the tradition of success in the competitive arena. This past season 100% of the Cartersville Twisters Gymnastics Team qualified to compete in the Georgia State Gymnastics Championships. We had State Champions in twenty-four events and three All-Around State Champions. In addition, we had two state teams. Nine boys and girls advanced to Regional Competitions. Three competed in USA Gymnastics Men's Nationals in Tennessee, two competed in USA Gymnastics Women's Nationals in Texas. We currently have two young women on gymnastics scholarships: Mariel Box at the University of Georgia and Melanie Root at the University of Oklahoma. In previous years, we have sent Lauren Johnson to the University of Georgia, Kristen O'Shields to the University of Kentucky, and Lindsay Bourdon to the University of Michigan.

How did this happen? With the full support of the City of Cartersville, the community sponsors of the Twister Booster Club, and under the guidance of a dedicated and knowledgeable coaching staff these devoted and determined gymnasts have been able to achieve these successful results and the ability to strive for even higher achievements in gymnastics and in other aspects of their lives to include a sense of community.

The Twisters Booster Club, supported by community sponsors and gymnasts' families, host four gymnastics competitions each year. Over 1100 boys and girls, from 8 states, compete in these meets. Events such as these bring economic support and awareness to the community as well as a strong sense of pride.

In order to give back to the community, The Twisters participate in community events and supports the Cartersville High School Gymnastics Team by offering the use of the Twisters gym and gymnastics equipment for high school practices. The Cartersville High School hosts three gymnastics competitions of its own each year in the Twisters facility.

Thanks to the support of the community sponsors of the Booster Club and the City Parks and Recreation Department, we can fulfill the Cartersville Twisters' mission and goals.

From the Gymnastics Coordinator, Andrei Kouznetsov:

"The work and effort expended by the parents provide top-line equipment used by all levels of our gymnasts. They provide opportunities that would be unavailable to some children due to the expense. Each family pays for the training. The Booster Club pays for their competitive experiences, which would be impossible without the support of the community. We appreciate any support you are willing to extend to this young group of athletes. On behalf of the Cartersville Gymnastics Program, I extend our thanks."