



## PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH

ENCOURAGE - SUPPORT - ACHIEVE

# CHAMPIONS CHATTER

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.  
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Early March, 2025

### **IT'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME - NO MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 3**

Due to the Strawberry Festival, we will **not** meet on March 3. We will have our dinner for the PCHS Cheer Team on March 10 (details below). Our next actual meeting is a **Steak Night on Monday, March 17, protein on the grill at 6:15 pm, meeting at 6:30 pm, at the Parks & Rec admin office, 1904 S Park Rd.** Topics to discuss include High School Graduate Scholarships (entries now open through April 1), Marie B. Ellis Park Family Fun Day event (March 22), Easter Egg Hunt (April 19), Soccer Skills Challenge (April 26), and Law Appreciation (May 5). The Club provides the hot coals, baked potatoes, salad, and tea - bring your own protein, also a new member candidate and treat them to dinner!

### **RECOGNIZING OUR PCHS CHEER TEAM STATE, NATIONAL, AND WORLD CHAMPIONS**

Congratulations to our Plant City High School Cheer Team for their outstanding accomplishment of winning not only their division's State Championship, but also a National Championship, and by performing so well, they won a World Championship. [See the Observer article here.](#) As is our tradition, we will treat our high school state champs to a steak dinner at Outback on Monday March 10, 5:30 pm. Following the dinner, the squad will receive a proclamation at the City Commission meeting that night at 7:30 pm. Great job, ladies!



### **MARIE B. ELLIS PARK FAMILY FUN DAY EVENT**

The **Marie B. Ellis Park Family Fun Day** is set: **Saturday, March 22!** This event is to support youths and families severely affected by Hurricane Milton flooding. We will need labor to help deliver bulky items we donated as well as cooks and servers, so mark the date and watch for more info! Info is attached to this email.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM SUBMISSION WINDOW IS OPEN!**

We now have four applications received from Plant City and Strawberry Crest for our [High School Graduate Scholarships](#) program! The application window is open through April 1. In an effort to obtain more vo-tech applications, separate on-line applications have been developed to make it more appealing to the vo-tech students. Awards ceremonies are on April 17 (Plant City) and April 23 (Strawberry Crest). Check the info on our web site at the scholarships link above!

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES AND APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED**

**Nineteen have joined so far!** Please direct yourself and prospective new members to our [Membership](#) page for a downloadable application! To be a Charter member, annual dues of \$100 collected now will cover your membership through the end of our next fiscal year on June 30, 2026. A logo shirt and cap are included with your membership and **no money goes to out-of-town organizations** - it all stays here to help us meet our hyper-local mission of supporting our own Plant City area youth! Come join us in serving our area youth!

### **LOOKING AHEAD... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ✓ **Monday, March 3:** Strawberry Festival Grand Parade - **no** meeting due to the Festival activities
- ✓ **Monday, March 10:** PCHS Cheer Team dinner at Outback, 5:30 - City Commission proclamation, 7:30
- ✓ **Monday, March 17:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 hot grill time, 6:30 meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio

#### **2024-2025 OFFICERS**

Robert Olszewski, President  
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer  
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



#### **2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS**

Pat Stottlemeyer - Jeff Arnold - David Kinghorn

## PCHS CHEER HAS ITS OWN SUPER BOWL, WINNING NATIONALS AND WORLDS

Photos by Doug Garrett



**DYLAN TICE**  
STAFF WRITER

The Plant City Raiders varsity cheer team performed to perfection this weekend at the ESPN Wide World Of Sports, where they became the 2025 Small NT D1 Champions, Small NT WSCC World Champions, and Grand World Champions. This special trifecta was not only the first time done in the history of Plant City High School, but it was also the first time any team in Hillsborough County completed it.

Dylan: Walk me through how you qualified for Nationals and Worlds in the first place.

Coach Skotti: We qualify for Nationals every year by attending a UCA Regional competition and receiving a certain placement or score. We won our division at the UCA Florida Regional back in December, which gave us a bid to UCA Nationals.

For Worlds, the top three teams in each division from Nationals the previous year qualify to compete the following year. Our third place finish at Nationals in 2024 allowed us to qualify to compete in the World School division this season.

Dylan: Was this the first time Plant City has won Nationals and Worlds?

Skotti: Yes!

Dylan: Can you explain the feeling of hearing Plant City announced for first place for Nationals?

Skotti: It was absolutely surreal. We have been so close to winning a National Title the past two seasons but had fallen just short of that goal due to our own

errors in the Finals. To finally accomplish what we have worked for and dreamt of for so long is indescribable. As a coach, I was just overwhelmed with happiness for my girls - they are so deserving.

Dylan: How did the girls score, and what was the maximum score they could have gotten?

Skotti: We scored a 91.6 at Worlds and a 92.2 raw score at Nationals, with a 1-point deduction that put us at a 91.2. Scoring is out of 100, and there are three separate scoresheet sections that you are judged on - cheer, building (stunting), and overall.

Dylan: After winning nationals, were there fewer nerves heading into worlds?

Skotti: Absolutely. We just wanted to go out on the floor and get one final hit as a team, for each other and for our seniors. It was the most calm we've ever felt going into a performance, and they put such a beautiful routine on the floor.

Dylan: After awards for Worlds, they announced the city girls with another accolade. What was it?

Skotti: Grand World Champions. Of all the World School teams in our session, which included other teams from the USA as well as teams from all over the world, we had the highest score. We didn't even know this award existed, so we were so excited to be recognized!

Dylan: Do you believe the team will have a different level of confidence heading into next season after such a successful winning weekend?

Skotti: Yes, but each team has to write their own story and experience their own journey. Next year's team will have to earn every single goal they set. We always say, nobody cares that you're Plant City Cheer, you have to earn what you want and prove you deserve to be the best.

Dylan: Do you want to thank the coaching staff and seniors?

Skotti: Yes!

I am so grateful for our coaching staff. My sister, Sara Kate, who is literally the other half of my brain and who I couldn't do this without. We are the perfect complement to one another when it comes to coaching. My mom, Karen Snapp, took over this program over 10 years ago and paved the way for us to start coaching and be in this position. Our amazing Cala Hogan who runs our JV program and also supports Varsity in every way; we are so grateful for her. We also have THE best athletic trainer, Jasmine Griffin, who takes such attentive care of our girls.

Our seven seniors, there are no words to describe them. They were the absolute best class to lead this team to these accomplishments. They were passionate, hardworking, so committed and dedicated, bought into our process, held themselves and the underclassmen to the high expectations and standards we set, and led with so much love. It has been an absolute privilege to coach them, and we are going to miss them so incredibly much. Their legacy will be cherished forever!





# High School Graduate **SCHOLARSHIP** **PROGRAM**

Open for all Durant, Plant City, Simmons, and Strawberry Crest  
graduating seniors that have participated in at least one  
Plant City Parks & Recreation or Plant City Champions for Youth program!

*Pick your Track:*

VO-TECH BOUND



COLLEGE BOUND



*Scholarships are \$1,000 each!*

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: APRIL 1, 2025**

More info: [www.PCChampionsForYouth.org](http://www.PCChampionsForYouth.org)





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME\*: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING CITY AND STATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\*: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH MONTH\*: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE\*: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME\*: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER TELEPHONE - MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT / FORMER OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS' MEMBER SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT PC CHAMPIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES: \_\_\_\_\_

AREAS OF INTEREST (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)\*:

- |                                                                                           |                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH PROGRAMS                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MARKETING                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> WEB SITE / SOCIAL MEDIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLUB LEADERSHIP (PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY/TREASURER) |                                                  |

\* = *REQUIRED*

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ APPROVAL OF APPLICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ⇒ \$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (JULY 1 TO JUNE 30)
- ⇒ VOTING RIGHTS AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN GOOD STANDING
- ⇒ MEETING ATTENDANCE IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED
- ⇒ FOCUS IS ON ASSISTANCE AT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS