



# Junior Trojans



## Football & Cheering

[www.sacojrtrojans.com](http://www.sacojrtrojans.com)

### 2018 Season

The Saco Junior Trojan football and cheering program is open to any child entering grades 2-8 in the fall and is either a resident of Saco, Dayton or Arundel or is attending Thornton Academy Middle School.

Children of all abilities and experiences are welcome. All registrants will participate.

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**HOW TO REGISTER:**

Register online at [www.sacojrtrojans.com](http://www.sacojrtrojans.com).

**REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE:**

If you would like assistance with the new online registration process please join us at our sign up night on 21 March from 5:30-7p in the Thornton Academy Gym lobby.

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

Football	Elementary School Level	Grades 2-6	\$ 80
Football	Middle School Level	Grades 7 & 8	\$ 95
Cheering	Elementary School Level	Grades 2-6	\$ 55
Cheering	Middle School Level	Grades 7 & 8	\$ 60

After April 15<sup>th</sup> all registrations will increase by \$10.\*

If you decide to withdraw from the program once the season has started and you are eligible for a refund, your registration fees refund will be \$10 less than the original amount paid.

Scholarships and Financial aid are available.

If you have any questions regarding the football program, please contact **Darrell Whitney at 229-8624**, [darrellwhitney@gmail.com](mailto:darrellwhitney@gmail.com) or **Kevin Kezal at 602-8668**. For cheering questions please contact **Monica Tracy at 423-6055**, [mwtracy8@yahoo.com](mailto:mwtracy8@yahoo.com) or **Heather Lessard at 205-4681**.

\* **We cannot guarantee a roster spot for late sign-ups (After April 15<sup>th</sup>)**. It is early to be thinking about football but the league schedule is set in the spring and the number of teams the Junior Trojans can enter into the league has to be submitted in May. It is important to determine the number of players now, so the appropriate number of teams can be entered into the league with small enough rosters to insure all players adequate playing time. Adding player's later will only increase roster size and result in less playing time for everyone. We don't have the flexibility to add teams later.

## Saco Junior Trojans Age Divisions

**Football - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:** A fun and instructional introduction to tackle football. Teams play in the Maine Sportsmanship League (MSL). There are seven regular season games. The games are played on Saturday mornings and early afternoons. Home games are at Thornton Academy. Travel to away games is limited and rides are available. Other teams in the league include Biddeford, Scarborough, Windham, Portland, South Portland, Freeport and Greely. The season extends from late August to the end of October.

**Football - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Teams play in the Maine Sportsmanship League (MSL). The League has a Varsity division (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders) and a JV division (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders). This format allows for safer two-year age divisions. Fourth graders never play with sixth graders. There are seven regular season games. The games are played on Saturday mornings. Home games are at Thornton Academy. Travel to away games is limited and rides are available. Other teams in the league include Biddeford, Scarborough, OOB, Cape Elizabeth, Windham, Portland, South Portland, Freeport and Greely. The season extends from late August to the end of October.

**Football - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Teams play in the Southern Maine Youth Football League (SMYFL). There is a Varsity division (8<sup>th</sup> graders) and a JV division (7<sup>th</sup> graders). There are eight regular season games plus playoff games. The games are played on, Saturday afternoons, Saturday nights (with teams that have lights) or Sunday afternoons. Home games are at TA's Hill Stadium. Other teams in the league include Biddeford, Sanford, Massabesic, Scarborough, Bonny Eagle, Noble, Windham, Portland and South Portland. The season extends from early August to early November.

**Cheerleading- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** The Junior Trojan cheerleading program is a positive, fun and enthusiastic approach to the world of cheerleading. The sport is taught at a progressive level according to grade. The age divisions coincide with the football age divisions.

## Thornton Academy Connection

**TA head football coach Kevin Kezal developed this program and is actively involved in its operation.** Coach Kezal and his coaching staff work closely with the Junior Trojan coaching staff. They have created a Saco Junior Trojan teaching progression handbook and provide many hours of instruction to the Saco Junior Trojan coaches to insure all our players learn good sound fundamental football skills, as well as the Thornton Academy offense, defense, plays, formations, terminology and even practice drills.

*“When I became head coach fifteen years ago, my primary goal was to build a sense of continuity, consistency, and pride throughout the entire community football program. I did not want a collection of teams working independently of each other. If we were going to be consistently successful, every level of the football community (Youth, Middle school, and Thornton Academy) had to be on the same page.*

*This was the reason for starting the Saco junior Trojans Fifteen years ago. We wanted to ensure that all our players were exposed to proper fundamental skills, techniques, and terminology used throughout the scheme of football played in the community. We also wanted to create a youth program that offered smaller, safer two year age divisions and allowed children to develop their skills competing at, or closer to, their own age and ability. We wanted a program at the youth level that allowed us to enter as many teams into the league as necessary to guarantee every child significant, meaningful playing time. Finally, we wanted a program where the parents had a strong voice and were involved in the selection of coaches.*

*In addition, I am very enthusiastic about the success our 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade division and our middle school division has had over the last twelve years. We now have a football program that provides consistency and continuity from grades 2 - 12.”*

**Kevin Kezal**  
Head Football Coach  
Thornton Academy

