

Hi all!

We are fast approaching our first tailgate of the 2008 football season. I just wanted to give you some basics of our CHEERS tailgate. I think the best place to start is the **“Where?”**. Our tailgates are held in the courtyard of the Georgia Center for Continuing Education at the corner of **Lumpkin and Carlton Streets (1197 South Lumpkin St.)**. As you face the main entrance of the Continuing Ed Center, there is an **arbored walkway to the left of the Center’s main entrance**. Follow the walkway to the courtyard. As you enter the courtyard, look immediately to your left. CHEERS has a reserved area where we will erect our six tents. Tailgate setup is at 7AM. Breakdown is 60-90 minutes after the game ends. Terri Cool will send a schedule for the host families for each week’s tailgate. You can temporarily park in the Georgia Center’s circular driveway to unload your tailgate material. **Parking in the driveway is tightly controlled and restricted to loading and unloading only! The Georgia Center is completely Handicap Accessible** and features restrooms, bars, cafes and restaurants, a gift shop, TVs, and two dozen vendor tables of UGA merchandise.

“What do you need to bring?” **FOOD!** The 43 Cheerleaders and mascots start their day very early and they burn a lot of calories. They will be HUNGRY! This is the perfect opportunity to show off your culinary skills. Even at these early hours, the kids want ‘real’ food. This is the perfect brunch time-everything from breakfast favorites to lunchtime heavies. Popular items at past tailgates have been bagels, muffins, sausage biscuits, chicken items (nuggets, tenders, wings, sandwiches), cold cut trays, sandwich trays, quiches, kebobs, pig-in-a-blanket, fruit, pasta, salads (mac., potato, 3-bean) and veggie trays. Feel free to bring a small propane grill or sterno fired warming pans (no charcoal grills, please). There are no electrical power outlets at the tailgate sight. Be sure to bring your folding canvas chairs and your camera.

“What does CHEERS furnish?” CHEERS `will furnish, in addition to the perfect tailgate spot, Six tents (Bob Cool, make sure to bring your tent!), folding tables, plastic table clothes, cups, ice, plastic knives, forks, spoons, serving utensils, sweet and unsweetened tea, cokes, diet coke, bottled water, and PowerAde. If you desire other beverages or soft drink types, bring them with you. We also have ample storage space in multiple coolers to store food, drinks, and leftovers.

‘When do the Cheerleaders come and how long can they stay?’ The Cheerleaders usually arrive at the Georgia Center **approximately two hours and forty-five minutes prior to kickoff**. They will do a short cheer routine in the atrium of the Georgia Center and then join us at the tailgate sight. They will be with us for about **30 minutes**, giving them time to relax a bit, eat, and enjoy being with you. Their schedule is very tight and **Coach O** has been very good about allowing them as much time as possible to enjoy the tailgate. However, Duty Calls! and they have to rush out to their next stop.

Finally, parking is always an issue in Athens on game day. Arrive early, even if you have a spot in one of the parking decks. Some parking is available along the side streets around the Georgia Center, as well as some private lots around the area churches. Drop your stuff off at the Georgia Center and then go park. Some walking may be involved, but there is ample parking close to the tailgate.

Hope to see you all Saturday! Go Dawgs!

Bill Sikes

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PS. PLEASE BRING ANY RAFFLE TICKETS YOU HAVE SOLD! We will have our first Big Dawg \$uper Raffle drawing at the tailgate.