APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF
2020-2021 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY MASKED RIDER

(Keep this page for your reference.)

INFORMATION SESSION

4:00 pm on February 5, 2020 in Masked Rider Room, Student Union 2nd Floor

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Due by 4:00 pm on February 12, 2020

May be turned in to TTU Spirit Office-East Basement SUB 025
or electronically to;
stephanie.rhode@ttu.edu

____ Completed all blanks on application and signed application

____ Signed and dated Hold Harmless Agreement

____ Signed and dated Student Activity Release Form

____ Signed and dated Authorization for Criminal Background Check

____ Signed and dated Driver's Approval Form

____ Copy of Current Driver's License (copy can be made at TTU Spirit Office-East Basement 025)

____ Copy of Current Medical & Auto Insurance (copy can be made at TTU Spirit Office-East Basement 025)

____ Copy of Social Security Card (copy can be made at TTU Spirit Office-East Basement 025)

FINAL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Due at on March 8, 2019 by 5:00 pm

May be turned in to TTU Spirit Office-East Basement SUB 025
or electronically to;
stephanie.rhode@ttu.edu

____ Answers to attached ten questions

____ Three References/Evaluations
Deliver evaluations forms to:

1. A full-time Texas Tech faculty member who has instructed you in the classroom
2. An individual familiar with your equine abilities
3. An individual of your choice

Texas Tech University
2020-2021 Masked Rider Selection Procedure

The Texas Tech Masked Rider and mascot is a university-administered program. Two campus areas have primary responsibility for the program's operation. Dr. Sam Jackson, Department of Animal Science, is responsible for areas related to the mascot. Stephanie Rhode, the Spirit Program Director, serves as the chairperson for the Masked Rider Advisory Committee, and is responsible for general program administration and areas not directly related to the mascot. Both individuals provide direction and support for the student serving as the Masked Rider. The Masked Rider Advisory Committee is responsible for selecting the Masked Rider on an annual basis. A potential candidate should feel free to contact either Dr. Jackson (742-2804, office in the Livestock Arena) or Stephanie Rhode in the Spirit Program Office (742-5433) with questions regarding Masked Rider responsibilities, support, and the tryout process.

General Information:
The selection process is closed to the general public. Only the candidates, judges, Masked Rider Advisory Committee members and any other tryout staff deemed necessary by Dr. Jackson or the Masked Rider Committee chairperson may be present during equestrian tryouts. The finalist(s) and Masked Rider Advisory Committee members shall be present during the interview process. The Masked Rider Committee supervises the entire tryout process.

All candidates must pass a written exam and complete a preliminary application before moving on to the actual tryout process. For a complete list of responsibilities please see Summary of Masked Rider Duties and Qualifications.

2020 Selection Process Schedule

Applications available Online Application: www.spiritsquads.ttu.edu	January 24	9:00 am
Information Session Masked Rider Room Student Union Building (2nd floor)	February 5	4:00 pm
Written Equestrian Exam & **Preliminary Application Due** Masked Rider Room Student Union Building (2nd floor)	February 12	4:00 pm
Written Exam Scores Posted Spirit Program Office Student Union East Basement Room 025	February 19	9:00 am
Final Application & References Due Spirit Program Office Student Union East Basement Room 025	March 6	5:00 pm
Riding Practice **Set times with Emily Brodbeck** Livestock Arena	March 9-13	Times Assigned
Equestrian Tryouts & **Driving Simulation** Livestock Arena	March 23-24	Times Assigned
Interviews Masked Rider Room Student Union Building	March 26	Noon – 3 pm Times Assigned
Transfer of Reins McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center	April 17	3:00 pm

Written Exam & Preliminary Screening

1. Candidates must pass a written exam and a preliminary screening in order to continue in the tryout process. A score of 80 percent or higher will be considered a passing grade on the written exam. The exam will cover information on equine science and horsemanship including topics such as health, disease, vaccinations, injuries, anatomy, physiology, equipment and safety. Candidates will also be screened for academic and employment eligibility.
2. An animal science department faculty member will score the exams.
3. Candidates must also pass a criminal background check and driver's approval screening. Driver's license, auto insurance, and social security card should be provided with preliminary application. Individuals not eligible for employment with the Center for Campus Life will not be eligible for selection as Masked Rider.
4. A list of candidates who pass the exam and are eligible for becoming the Masked Rider will be available in the Spirit Program Office, Student Union East Basement Room 025 at 9:00 a.m. on February 19th, 2020.
5. Candidates on the list will be eligible to participate in equestrian tryouts.
6. Candidates wishing to see or discuss their test scores should contact Dr. Sam Jackson in the animal science department, 742-2804.

Equestrian Tryout Information:

1. Candidates will draw numbers for their order and time at the Final Candidate Meeting and will participate one at a time. Candidates will wait in a room separated from the tryout process until their turn to participate. Each candidate should arrive 10 minutes before his/her assigned time.
2. Each candidate will be judged on a reining pattern, judges' questions and other related skills. Dr. Sam Jackson will design the pattern used and select the horse(s) to be ridden for the tryouts. Unless there are a large number of applicants, all applicants will ride the current mascot. Dr. Jackson will determine if the applicant number is too large and bring in additional horses if necessary.
3. Individuals knowledgeable in the equestrian field will judge the equestrian tryouts. There will be a minimum of three judges who are familiar with the Masked Rider program. If a majority of the judges fail a candidate (a score less than eighty percent), the candidate will not continue in the tryout process.
4. Candidates should wear professional riding attire. (Example: collared shirt, jeans, belt, boots, etc.)
5. Candidates will not be permitted to watch other candidate's tryout. Tryouts are closed to the public.
6. Candidates will be judged on saddling and riding preparation procedures, performing a prescribed pattern and executing basic riding maneuvers (circles, gait transitions, stops, back, turns, etc.) to demonstrate basic horsemanship skills. The pattern will be available at the Riding Practices on March 18-22. In addition, judges may ask questions of each candidate during their equestrian tryout on March 25-26.
7. Any candidate not demonstrating safe horsemanship knowledge or skill during any part of the equestrian tryout will be asked by Dr. Sam Jackson to dismount and their participation in the tryout process will be terminated. The decision by Dr. Jackson to terminate a candidate's participation is final and not subject to appeal.
8. Any questions concerning horsemanship tryouts or horsemanship judging should be directed to Dr. Sam Jackson, 742-2804.
9. Only those candidates that pass the equestrian portion will advance to the simulation. Dr. Jackson will meet with candidates following completion of the equestrian portion to announce those who will advance.
10. Candidates must achieve an overall score of 80% or better to advance in the process.

Simulation

1. Each person participating in the simulation will hitch the university's trailer, load the university mascot into the trailer and drive the truck and trailer through a series of maneuvers.
2. There will be 2-3 knowledgeable judges who shall evaluate each candidate on his/her ability to handle the truck and trailer.
3. The simulation will be judged on a simple pass or fail. A candidate who fails the simulation may not continue to the interview process.

Interview Information

1. Each candidate who passes the equestrian and simulation portion of tryouts will be interviewed by the Masked Rider Advisory Committee. Interview times will be scheduled immediately following the simulation.
2. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes and will cover such topics as your knowledge of public relations, horse care, Texas Tech, etc.
3. Any questions concerning the interview process should be directed to the Masked Rider Committee Chairperson, Stephanie Rhode, at 742-5433.
4. Candidates must achieve an interview score of 80% or better to be eligible for the position.

Final Selection

The Masked Rider Advisory Committee will use the candidate application, evaluations, equestrian results and interview in determining the 2019-2020 Masked Rider.

Candidates may view their equestrian results after April 8, 2019 by contacting Dr. Sam Jackson, 742-2804.

Information on Appeals Concerning Selection:

The Grievance Procedure for Masked Rider Tryouts is included in the application packet materials. Review and follow procedure discussed.

Student Activity Release Form

I, _____, understand and agree that University-Related Activities of Texas Tech University involve certain known risks, including but not limited to, transportation accidents, personal injuries, and loss or destruction of my property. I understand and agree that Texas Tech University cannot be expected to control all of said risks. In consideration of the benefits I will receive through my participation in the activities of Texas Tech University, I hereby expressly and knowingly RELEASE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION I MAY HAVE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH SUSTAINED BY ME ARISING OUT OF ANY TRAVEL OR ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY, OR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, WHETHER CAUSED BY MY OWN NEGLIGENCE OR THE NEGLIGENCE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, OR EMPLOYEES.

I hereby give my consent for any medical treatment that may be required during my participation with the understanding that the cost of any such treatment will be my responsibility.

Further, I voluntarily and knowingly agree to HOLD HARMLESS, PROTECT, AND INDEMNIGY Texas Tech University, its officers, agents, volunteers, and employees, against and from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action for property damage, personal injury or death, including defense costs and attorney's fees, arising out of my participation in the activities of Texas Tech University, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES, INJURY OR DEATH ARE CAUSED BY MY OWN NEGLIGENCE, OR BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, OR EMPLOYEES.

Texas Tech University shall notify me promptly in writing of any claim or action brought against it in connection with my participation in these activities. Upon such notification, I or my representative shall promptly take over and defend any such claim or action.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS DOCUMENT, AND MY SIGNATURE EVIDENCES MY INTENT TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
(PARTICIPANT)

AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS

I, _____, am a candidate for the position of 2020-2021 Masked Rider. I understand that I have the opportunity to participate in the equestrian tryouts and driving simulation on March 23-24, 2020, if I have received a passing grade on the written exam given February 12, 2020. I do hereby affirm my participation in this competition and hereby release Texas Tech University, Dr. Sam Jackson, Masked Rider Committee Chairperson, members of the Masked Rider Committee, and their agents and employees for any injury that may occur while participating in this competition. I agree to indemnify Texas Tech University, Dr. Sam Jackson, Masked Rider Committee Chairperson, members of the Masked Rider Committee, and their agents and employees against all and any liability for personal injury, including injuries resulting in death, or damage to property, or both. I further agree to reimburse Texas Tech University for any damages it is compelled to pay, arising from any claim, demand, action or cause of action relating to my participation in this competition.

Date _____ Candidate's Signature_____

Proof of Current Personal Medical Insurance:

Name of Insurance Company: _____

Name on Policy Holder: _____

Policy Number: _____

Period Covered: _____

Driving Record: Have you been convicted or plead no contest for a violation of any law, including moving traffic violations?

_____ NO _____ YES

If yes, please explain. If violations are for speeding or moving traffic violations, how many and of what type over the last five years.

_____

_____

_____

I certify that the above information is true and correct and authorize the Chairperson of the Masked Rider Committee to check my academic and driving records to verify my eligibility. Furthermore, I have read the summary of Masked Rider duties provided in the application packet and agree to abide by all requirements if selected.

_____ _____

Date Signature

2019-2020 MASKED RIDER WRITTEN QUESTIONS

KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE
TURN IN ANSWERS WITH FINAL APPLICATION
***March 6, 2020 by 5:00 pm* at TTU Spirit Office, SUB East Basement 025**

On a separate sheet(s) of paper, please complete the following items in enough detail to provide the selection committee with a good understanding of your background and experiences.

1. Tell us about your experience in working with or riding horses.

2. Please explain your experience in care, grooming, and hauling horses.

3. What honors and awards have you won in connection with horsemanship?

4. Please list the organization you are involved with that would be relevant to you becoming Masked Rider.

5. Have you held officer or leadership positions in any organizations? What have you learned from these experiences that would prepare you to serve as the Texas Tech Masked Rider?

6. What are your future organizational involvement or employment plans?

7. Please describe your experiences in public relations and/or public speaking.

8. What do you think the position of Masked Rider is and what does it entail?

9. What do you hope to achieve as the Masked Rider, if selected?

10. How do you fit the position of the 2020-2021 Masked Rider and what makes you the best candidate?

Texas Tech University
Masked Rider Applicant Evaluation

The following is an evaluation for the following applicant. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. After you have filled the forms out, please return them to the following address **no later than March 6, 2020**:

Stephanie Rhode
Center for Campus Life
Box 45014
Lubbock, TX 79409-5014
Electronic: stephanie.rhode@ttu.edu

Name of Applicant _____

Name of Evaluator _____

Evaluator's title or occupation _____

Evaluator's phone number _____

Evaluator's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1. What do you consider the applicant's major strength(s)?

2. What do you consider the applicant's major weakness(es)?

3. Please rate this applicant's overall potential by circling the appropriate box.

Below average Lower 40%	Average Middle 20%	Above average Next 15%	Good Next highest 4%	Outstanding Next highest 4%	Truly exceptional Highest 2%

4. Applicant's ability to handle horses (circle one).

Below average	Acceptable ability with horses	Exceptional ability with horses	Have not observed

Evaluator's Signature _____ Date_____

Evaluator's Name _____

Applicant's Name _____

5. Please circle the characteristic in each category that best describes the applicant.

Initiative/Originality	Needs occasional prodding	Does assigned work of own accord	Completes suggested extra work	Original, independent, imaginative	Have not observed
Motivation (for becoming the Masked Rider)	Is uncertain of career goals	Simply wants to be a professional (of any type)	Dedicated worker	Is among the most motivated	Have not observed
Intellectual capacity	Below average	Average	Above average	Exceptional intellectual capacity	Have not observed
Personal and social maturity	Below average	Average maturity	Above average	Exceptionally mature	Have not observed
Dependability and reliability	Doubtful reliability	Usually reliable	Above average reliability	Unquestionable reliability	Have not observed
Emotional maturity	Very excited	Easily upset	Usually stable, poised	Stable, well-balanced	Have not observed
Leadership	Satisfied to follow	Occasionally a leader	Frequently a leader	Outstanding leader	Have not observed
Character and integrity	Untrustworthy	Occasionally compromises ethics for personal gain	No serious flaws in ethics or integrity	Absolutely trustworthy, observes high-quality ethics	Have not observed
Verbal skills	Below average	Moderately articulate	Above average	Articulate, clear, fluent	Have not observed
Acceptance of feedback and instruction	Resistant to constructive feedback	Sometimes resistant to feedback	Accepts feedback	Seeks out feedback	Have not observed
Punctuality	Chronically late	Sometimes late	Occasionally late	Always on time	Have not observed

Additional comments: