

# APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF 2023-2024 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY MASKED RIDER

(Keep this page for your reference.)

## INFORMATION SESSION

4:00 pm on February 9, 2023  
Masked Rider Room  
Student Union Building

## PRELIMINARY APPLICATION CHECKLIST

***Due by 4:00 pm on February 16, 2023***

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
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 10, 2023, 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed and dated Authorization for Criminal Background Check (this will be sent to you online)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed and dated Driver's Approval Form (this will be sent to you online)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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**  
**2023-2024 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 (806-742-2804, office in the Livestock Arena) or Stephanie Rhode in the Spirit Program Office (806-834-3332) 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.

**2023 Selection Process Schedule**

<b>Applications available</b> Online Application: <a href="http://www.spiritsquads.ttu.edu">www.spiritsquads.ttu.edu</a>	February 2	9:00 am
<b>Information Session</b> Masked Rider Room Student Union Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	February 9	4:00 pm
<b>Written Equestrian Exam &amp; Preliminary Application Due</b> Spirit Program Office, Student Union Building East Basement Room 025	February 16	4:00 pm
<b>Written Exam Scores</b> Emailed	February 23	9:00 am
<b>Final Application &amp; References Due</b> Online or in Spirit Program Office Student Union East Basement Room 025	March 10	5:00 pm
<b>Riding Practice</b> <b>Set times with Caroline Hobbs</b> Livestock Arena	March 15-18	Times Assigned
<b>Equestrian Tryouts &amp; Driving Simulation</b> Livestock Arena	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Times Assigned
<b>Interviews</b> <b>Masked Rider Room</b> Student Union Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	March 23	1:00 – 3:00 pm Times Assigned
<b>Transfer of Reins</b> McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center	April 21st	2:00 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. Candidates who pass the written exam with a score of 80 or above will be notified by email no later than February 25, 2022
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 numbers will be drawn by Stephanie Rhode, Spirit Program Director for their Equestrian Tryouts order and time of riding. 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 14-18, 2022. In addition, judges may ask questions of each candidate during their equestrian tryout on March 21.
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 driving simulation. Stephanie Rhode will notify 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. Dr. Sam Jackson will 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 driving simulation portion of tryouts will be interviewed by the Masked Rider Advisory Committee. Interview times will be scheduled immediately following the simulation. Candidates will keep the same order in interviews.
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 806-834-3332.
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 2022-2023 Masked Rider.

Candidates may view their equestrian results after April 8, 2023 by contacting Dr. Sam Jackson, 806-742-2804.

Information on Appeals Concerning Selection:

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

**AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a candidate for the position of 2023-2024 Masked Rider. I understand that I have the opportunity to participate in the equestrian tryouts and driving simulation on March 21, 2023, if I have received a passing grade on the written exam given February 16, 2023. 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

## 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 INDEMNIFY 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)

## **2023-2024 MASKED RIDER WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

**TURN IN ANSWERS WITH FINAL APPLICATION**

**March 10, 2023 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 2023-2024 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 10, 2023**:

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

Below average	Acceptable ability with horses	Exceptional ability with horses	Have not observed
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Evaluator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Additional comments: