

## Texas Tech University 2018-2019 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.

### 2018 Selection Process Schedule

<b>Applications available</b> Online Application: <a href="http://www.spiritsquads.ttu.edu">www.spiritsquads.ttu.edu</a>	January 22	9:00 am
<b>Information Session</b> Masked Rider Room Student Union Building (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)	February 8	4:00 pm
<b>Written Equestrian Exam &amp; Preliminary Application Due</b> Masked Rider Room Student Union Building (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)	February 13	4:00 pm
<b>Written Exam Scores Posted</b> Spirit Program Office Student Union East Basement Room 025	February 23	9:00 am
<b>Final Application &amp; References Due</b> Spirit Program Office Student Union East Basement Room 025	March 9	5:00 pm
<b>Riding Practice</b> <b>Set times with Laurie Tolboom</b> Livestock Arena	March 19-23	Times Assigned
<b>Equestrian Tryouts &amp; Driving Simulation</b> Livestock Arena	March 26-27	Times Assigned
<b>Interviews</b> Masked Rider Room Student Union Building	March 29	11 am – 3 pm Times Assigned
<b>Transfer of Reins</b> McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center	April 20	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 employment will be available in the Center for Campus Life, Student Union East Basement Room 025 at 9:00 a.m. on February 23rd, 2018.
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 19-23. In addition, judges may ask questions of each candidate during their equestrian tryout on March 26-27.
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 2018-2019 Masked Rider.

Candidates may view their equestrian results after April 3, 2018 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.