

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

MOUNTAINEER MASCOT APPLICATION

2020-2021

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MOUNTAINEER MASCOT?

The below responsibilities are excerpted from the Mountaineer Advisory Committee Manual Regulations, which governs the Mountaineer Mascot.

- The Mountaineer is limited to serving as the mascot for one (1) year. If selected as the Mountaineer, you cannot apply for the position for a second year. However, if selected as the Alternate Mountaineer, you are not limited to the number of times you apply for the position
- The Mountaineer will attend ALL home football and men's and women's basketball contests, including any home contest during any WVU class breaks. The Mountaineer will attend any away contest determined by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- The Mountaineer is encouraged to attend all approved events such as:

Other Mountaineer Athletic Events	Alumni Events
Visit WVU Children's Hospital	Visit WV Schools
Other University Designated Events	Community Events
- As the Mountaineer, you are prohibited from engaging in conduct, as solely determined by the Mountaineer Advisory Committee (M.A.C.) or the University, which is clearly contrary to the character and responsibilities of a person occupying the position of the Mountaineer or which negatively or adversely affects the reputation of the University or M.A.C. in any way. If the Mountaineer Advisory Committee finds that the Mountaineer has not acted in an appropriate manner, then the Mountaineer will be replaced.
- The Mountaineer is responsible for the everyday care, cleaning, and handling of the rifle. Before being permitted to fire the rifle, if not already completed, you must complete a firearm safety course, subject to the advance approval of the M.A.C., to ensure firearm safety and provide documentation to the M.A.C.

- The Mountaineer is not, **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**, allowed to participate in an endorsement of any corporation or commercial product for profit. The Mountaineer can **ONLY** take part in media campaigns approved by WVU University Relations.
- The Mountaineer is prohibited from using any illegal drugs or other controlled substances at any time during your tenure as the Mountaineer and you are not permitted to consume alcohol while in uniform or in possession of the rifle, which includes prior to, during, or after any event that is sponsored by or associated with the University, i.e., athletic contests, Alumni Association events, or other activities.
- While out of the Mountaineer uniform and not in possession of the rifle, and if you are twenty-one or older, you may drink alcohol but should limit your consumption to a reasonable amount and act responsibly.
- While in uniform, the Mountaineer **WILL NOT** use any tobacco products. The Mountaineer **WILL NOT** use any tobacco products while traveling in any University vehicles, including University buses and vans.
- If the Mountaineer is caught using any illegal substances, he/she will be suspended on the spot. The Mountaineer is under supervision of the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and is subject to random drug testing.
- The Mountaineer and the Alternate Mountaineer are the **ONLY PERSONS** permitted to fire the Mountaineer rifle.
- The Mountaineer is **NOT ALLOWED** to accept money or gifts for appearances. They can accept reasonable reimbursement for travel expenses.
- Since being the Mountaineer requires a significant amount of physical activity, prior to beginning your duties, you will be required to obtain a general physical examination to ensure that you are physically capable of safely performing all of the Mountaineer duties and must provide verification of medical clearance from a physician. You must also provide proof of current health insurance.
- The Mountaineer **MUST** complete the West Virginia Hunter Safety program by the spring football game and **MUST** also complete the Black Powder Rifle Training.

- The Mountaineer is required to have adequate transportation due to the large quantity of events they must complete each year.
- A background check for the student chosen as the Mountaineer and Alternate Mountaineer must be completed.
- **Further responsibilities and guidelines may be added by the Mountaineer Advisory Committee as needed. The Mountaineer and Alternate Mountaineer must sign an agreement upon their selection outlining further requirements.**

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO BE THE MOUNTAINEER MASCOT?

To be eligible for initial consideration and continued participation as the West Virginia University Mountaineer, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The student must be enrolled as a **FULL-TIME** undergraduate or graduate student at West Virginia University and they must be a student on the Morgantown campus of West Virginia University.
- 2) The student must have and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

After each candidate turns in an application for the position, the Mountaineer Mascot selection committee, which consists of several WVU students, faculty, and staff members, review the applications. Depending on the number of applicants, the committee will select no more than ten candidates to participate in a half-hour interview.

After the interview process, the top four candidates based on a combination of their interview and application scores will participate in a mascot try-out during a WVU basketball game. During the mascot try-out, the top four candidates will get to wear buckskins and carry a rifle. Also, during the try-out, members of the selection committee will evaluate the candidate's performance and interaction with the crowd. The committee will then select the new Mountaineer Mascot with the highest score based on a combination of their application, interview, and try-out scores. The candidate with the second highest score will be selected as the Mountaineer Mascot Alternate.

The selected applicant will begin their term as the Mountaineer Mascot at the annual Blue and Gold football game in April. Between the time of selection and the Blue and Gold football game the incoming Mountaineer Mascot will work with the current Mountaineer Mascot using the current Mountaineer as a mentor to learn about the role of the Mountaineer and how to conduct themselves as the Mountaineer.

SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY:

"West Virginia University is committed to social justice. The Mountaineer Mascot selection committee concurs with that commitment and expects to maintain a positive application process based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. The Mountaineer Mascot selection committee and the Mountaineer Advisory Committee do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, gender, age, disability, veteran's status, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further foster such a positive and open environment in this selection process will be appreciated and given serious consideration."

- Mountaineer Mascot Selection Committee Social Justice Policy

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS?

- Applications will be available on **Monday, January 6th, 2020**
- The application, essays, and two letters of reference must be submitted during normal business hours (8:15am-4:45pm) to Room 225 in the Erickson Alumni Center front desk no later than by **Friday, January 24th, 2020 at 4PM.**
 - **At least one letter must be written by a current full-time faculty or staff member of WVU**
- All applicants must be available for an interview scheduled on **Saturday, February 15th, 2020** at the Erickson Alumni Center. These will be 30 minutes long and you will be assigned a timeslot. *If you are selected for an interview, you will be notified by Thursday, February 6th, 2020.*
- Finalists must be available for the cheer-off competition, to be held on **Saturday, February 29th at 4pm** during the WVU men's basketball game against Oklahoma.
- The announcement of the Mountaineer Mascot will be on **Saturday, March 7th at 1pm** during the WVU men's basketball game against Baylor. The finalists should all be in attendance.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST:

Double check these things!

- _____ Read the application thoroughly
- _____ Application is typed **NOT** written
- _____ Meet Eligibility Requirements
- _____ Personal Information
- _____ Five Essay Questions (**not** exceeding more than 1-page each)
- _____ Two Letters of Reference (at least 1 from a full-time WVU faculty/staff member)
- _____ Application completed and physically turned into Room 225 at the Erikson Alumni Center by **Friday, January 24th, 2020 at 4PM.**

- If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Mountaineer Selection Committee Chairperson, Rachel Daw at rmdaw@mix.wvu.edu
- **The application, essays, and two letters of reference must be submitted during normal business hours (8:15am-4:45pm) to Room 225 in the Erickson Alumni Center no later than Friday, January 24th, 2020 at 4PM.**

You should keep the application up to this point for your reference

Candidate ID number (for committee use, do not fill out): _____

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Birth Date: ____/____/____

Local Address: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Applicant Academic Information:

Major(s): _____

Minor(s): _____

Class Rank: _____

(I.e. Freshman, Sophomore, etc.)

Cumulative GPA: _____ Last semester GPA: _____

High School Attended: _____

(Name and City)

Candidate ID Number: _____

WVU and Community Involvement: [You may attach an additional sheet for this section if desired]

WVU Activities: (i.e. organizations, positions held, honors, awards, etc. --- Example: Golden Key International Honor Society President – 2018-2019)

Community Service:

Work Experience:

Candidate ID Number: _____

Mountaineer Mascot Essay Questions:

Please answer each of the following questions on a separate word document.

Each response MUST NOT exceed one double-spaced typed page with 1” margins.

1. What do you hope to contribute to the university and the state if selected for this position?
2. What does being a Mountaineer mean to you?
3. Why should you be selected as the Mountaineer Mascot?
4. What has made the greatest impact on your experience at West Virginia University thus far?
5. Which of the five Mountaineer values (curiosity, appreciation, respect, accountability, and service) do you most identify with and why?

Candidate ID Number: _____

Candidate's Reference Lists:

Each candidate must have two references. **At least one reference MUST be written by a current faculty or staff member of West Virginia University.** References cannot be written by students or family members. Please include your references in your submission. If we do not receive ***both*** of your references, it will harm your application score. The committee will contact each reference, please provide valid contact information.

Reference 1:

Name: _____

Position/ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Reference 2:

Name: _____

Position/ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

The application, essays, and two letters of reference must be submitted during normal business hours (8:15am-4:45pm) **IN PERSON** to Room 225 in the Erickson Alumni Center no later than **Friday, January 24th, 2020 at 4PM.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Mountaineer Selection Committee Chairperson, Rachel Daw, at rmdaw@mix.wvu.edu

Thank you for your application and good luck!