

“Boomer” and “Sooner” Mascot Policy

Purpose

Boomer and Sooner represent the Athletics Department and the University of Oklahoma as ambassadors and entertainers at sporting events and in the community. The mission of the mascot team is to promote crowd interaction and school spirit.

Being a Mascot is a major personal commitment of one’s non-academic time and must be treated as a top priority. Necessary arrangements with work, sororities, fraternities, etc., concerning required activities or expectations of one’s time must be made immediately following selection to the team.

Qualifications

- Enthusiasm
- Creativity
- Good physical condition
- Good interaction with children
- Responsibility
- Spontaneity
- Discipline

Eligibility

1. Must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 undergraduate credits or 10 graduate credits unless approved by the dean) at the University of Oklahoma and must maintain this status throughout membership on the team.
2. Must maintain a 2.0 GPA at all times; Spirit Coordinator will check progress at her discretion.
3. Must be in good physical condition as certified by a University of Oklahoma Athletic trainer.
4. If at any time a member does not meet these qualifications, their membership may be terminated at the discretion of the Spirit Coordinator. If a Mascot is removed from the team for disciplinary reasons or voluntarily quits he/she will be ineligible to participate in tryouts for the following year’s team. The Spirit Coordinator’s approval will be required to become eligible for tryouts after a one-year suspension.

Selection Process

1. Report to the **Field House on Friday, April 17th from 3:30PM – 5PM** for the **mandatory clinic**.
2. Attire: Please wear a t-shirt (females may wear a sports bra), athletic shorts, and athletic shoes under the costume for the performance. If your hair is long, it must be put up and secured.
3. Complete all paperwork.
4. The tryout is improvisational to game scenarios and music selections.

Program Structure

1. The Spirit Coordinator will oversee the Mascot program, with assistance from the Mascot Coach.
2. When the Mascot travels with the Spirit Squads, he/she will coordinate all travel plans through and report to the Spirit Coordinator or Cheer Coach.

Expectations

1. Athletic Functions
 - a. Members of the mascot team will be present for all home football games.
 - b. One mascot will travel to all away football games, including post-season championships and bowl games.
 - c. One or two mascots will be present for all men's and women's home basketball games.
 - d. One mascot will travel to post-season tournaments for both men's and women's basketball.
 - e. One mascot will be present at a designated number of other Olympic sport games, to include: volleyball, soccer, wrestling, gymnastics, baseball and softball.
 - f. Special events – Special appearances may be made by a Mascot at the Spring Game, Meet the Sooners, Baseline Bash, and other athletic events.

****NOTE:** Because of the last minute nature of playoffs and bowl games, Mascots may not make unchangeable plans during winter or spring breaks unless he/she finds a substitute for all games, appearances and other commitments.

2. Community and Campus Events
 - a. Paid appearances may be made by the Mascots, but all scheduling must be approved by the Spirit Coordinator. Members of the Mascot Team may NOT volunteer for events without prior written approval.
 - b. Charitable functions will be scheduled to enhance the image of the Mascots, but in strict moderation to avoid overwork.
3. Other Commitments
 - a. Mascots are required to attend a formal training session during the summer. This will be part of a larger Spirit Squad contingency and may require the student to pay a registration fee and/or clothing fee.
 - b. Practices – A schedule for practices with the mascot coach will be established. Practices and workouts are mandatory.

Uniform and Appearance

1. Because of the expense of the costumes, team members should treat the costumes with the utmost care at all times and properly clean the costumes. Specific rules of care will be provided to all mascots at the beginning of the season.
2. **Under absolutely no circumstance may the costumes (or pieces thereof) be used for personal or recreational use.** Violation could result in dismissal from the Mascot team.
3. If the costume is lost or damaged (beyond the normal wear-and-tear expected), the team member will be held responsible for the cost of the repairs and/or replacement.
4. The OU Athletics Department will be responsible for any costs associated with the upkeep and care of the Mascot costumes, Mascot uniforms, or props. These **expenses must first be approved by the Spirit Coordinator.**
5. You must be aware of the Boomer/Sooner schedule and make sure that there is always a clean costume left in time for the next scheduled appearance.

Attendance

1. Participation in all practice sessions, team meetings, team projects, pep rallies, games, and all other activities as designated by the Spirit Coordinator are required.
2. **Unexcused absences will result in a warning, and if continued, may lead to a dismissal from the team.**
3. If for any reason a Mascot is unable to attend a function to which they are committed, he/she is responsible for finding another team member to replace them; the trade must be approved by the Mascot Coach or Spirit Coordinator at least 24 hours prior to the event.

Conduct

1. Mascots serve as public relations ambassadors of the University of Oklahoma and must act accordingly. Any swearing, spitting, crude gesturing, fighting, or otherwise lewd and inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated and may be grounds for suspension or immediate dismissal from the team. Mascots must NEVER initiate any inappropriate behavior.
2. Mascots may NOT, under any circumstance, consume alcohol or illegal drugs while in costume or within 24 hours of a performance. Conversation about alcohol or drug use while in uniform or while representing the University at a game/event is strictly prohibited. Violation will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
3. All NCAA regulations regarding Mascots and game operations must be obeyed at all times.
4. The Mascot's identity should be kept a secret at all times.

Competition

1. Competition is approved at the discretion of the Spirit Coordinator.
2. To participate in UCA competition, the Mascot Team will need to raise the monies prior to December 1st of any given year.
 - a. These funds can be raised by paid appearances or by obtaining a sponsor to pay the expenses. (To obtain a sponsor, you **MUST** include a Marketing Department member in any sponsorship agreements.)
 - b. Individuals may also choose to pay their own way to the event, if funds have not been raised by the December 1st deadline.
 - c. If a paid invite is offered, then any funds not covered by the “paid invite” will also need to be raised by December 1st.
3. OU home events will always take priority over competitions. Those events **MUST** be covered before any Mascots travel to competition.

Liability

1. Members must carry personal medical and vehicle insurance coverage. Proof must be submitted to the Spirit Coordinator at the beginning of the season before the Mascot is declared eligible.
2. Members must sign an “Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability” form before participating as a Mascot.
3. Excessive or risky stunts, as well as all props, must be cleared by the Cheer Coach before an event.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE POLICIES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS SET FORTH.

_____ **Date** _____