

**1ST U.S. VOLUNTEER CAVALRY REGIMENT, ROUGH RIDERS, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership applications are accepted ONLY during MAY 1st through JULY 31st of each year. Applications submitted at any other time will be rejected without consideration and must be resubmitted at the appropriate time.

DUES WILL BE DUE AGAIN ON JUNE 1ST REGARDLESS OF THE ADMISSION DATE.

Please complete and sign EACH PAGE in BLACK ink

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment "Rough Riders, Inc." was formed for the purpose of creating and perpetuating a living memorial to the unique accomplishments of President Theodore Roosevelt and the members of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as the "Rough Riders." The Rough Riders are a charitable, educational, and historical organization, with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation. Events are held for both our members and the public and many events also serve as fundraisers to fulfill our mission. The Rough Riders sponsor golf, fishing, and clay-shooting tournaments, as well host social events, a Military Ball and more. We can be seen throughout the community adding color and participating in all types of events. The Rough Riders believe in giving back to the community. Members contribute time, money, and effort to several local and national charities. Whether assisting with the Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, the Joshua House, The Spring, and others, it's common to see uniformed Rough Riders lending a hand. The Rough Riders rebuilt the Gazebo in Port Tampa and the Rough Riders Cavalry Regiment are always ready to "come to the rescue" for a worthy cause. We are best known for our own Teddy Bear runs where members hop on the Teddy Bear Express bus to deliver teddy bears to children in hospitals. With 600 members, the Rough Riders are one of the largest groups that actively participate in the Gasparilla, Chasco Fiesta, Veterans, Sant' Yago Knight Parade, and other parades from Tallahassee to Key West. We also sponsor the St. Patrick's Parade in Ybor City.

The Rough Riders take pride in our country and our community and in the rich history of Teddy Roosevelt and the original Rough Riders. Tampa was the embarkation point for the Rough Riders as they left to fight in Cuba during the Spanish American War in 1898. Whether preserving local historical sites or participating in national events, we are committed to keeping the memory and the spirit of the Rough Riders alive for coming generations. We welcome your interest in the Rough Riders.

THE BASE MEMBERSHIP CAP OF OUR ORGANIZATION IS 600 Full Time Members

(Note: Applicants may be on a waiting list for a year or more)

Applicant initials ____

Sponsor initials ____

Sponsor initials ____

Membership applications are accepted ONLY during MAY 1st through JULY 31st of each year.

The Applicant and *both* sponsors are required to read and sign and initial this Application as indicated. All questions are to be answered fully and truthfully and all spaces are to be completed or designated as N/A. Applications which are not properly completed may be delayed and may not be processed. Applicants will be subjected to a background check and personal interviews.

Due to a long tradition of service to the community and in consideration of the membership cap, the Rough Riders, through the Membership Committee, strive to bring in only the best candidates for membership. Applicants must be of good moral character and have the desire to fulfill the mission and goals of the Rough Riders without bringing discredit to the organization. Two Sponsors are required for membership. At least one Sponsor must personally know the applicant for at least three (3) years and both Sponsors must personally vouch for the conduct of the applicant, if admitted into the Rough Riders. New members must satisfactorily serve a *one-year probationary period and may be discharged without recourse* from the Rough Riders for failing to meet the standards for membership, including committee work, participation, conduct, and uniform requirements. (See: Standing Rule #9 Participation Requirements for New Recruits, on page 7 of this application),

Accordingly, the Membership Committee has established written guidelines for screening applicants to the Rough Riders. All members must maintain these standards through the membership in the Rough Riders.

The following criteria are not absolute but are major considerations for the Membership Committee and admission into the Rough Riders. Applicants may not be considered favorably and may be denied admission to Rough Rider membership under the following circumstances:

1. Conviction on any felony, where civil rights have not been restored;
2. Any felony arrest, any criminal charges, or criminal history;
3. Any criminal charges, Notices to Appear as a defendant in any criminal proceeding, Indictment, Information, arrest, or conviction within three (3) years of a pending application;
4. Any charge, arrest or civil action for Child Abuse or Domestic Violence, Battery, or moral turpitude;
5. Charges, arrests, or convictions for multiple DUI, alcohol abuse, or drug usage issues;
6. Providing false or misleading information on the application form, or during the

Applicant initials _____

Sponsor initials _____

Sponsor initials _____

- application, or screening process; Failing to disclose all arrest or criminal history information, regardless of outcome;
7. The failure to disclose all arrest information, criminal history, any notice to appear as a defendant, including juvenile or adult, in any Domestic Violence or child abuse matter, regardless of outcome, **even if sealed or expunged**, may result in a denial of admittance;
 8. Chronic abuse or misuse of alcohol, medications or illegal substances;
 9. Other factors evidencing a lack of good moral character or an unfitness to be a Rough Rider;
 10. If any of the above-described events occur during membership, then the member must notify the Membership Committee within a reasonable time after the incident, but no later than 10 days after the incident. Members may be temporarily suspended from participation in Rough Riders events and activities until the incident has been resolved. Further disciplinary action may result.

Members will be expected to remain in good standing throughout their membership and must notify the Membership Committee after the initiation of any incident as stated (#1-10) above which may affect their continued membership and good standing in the Rough Riders. Members must sign a Membership Declaration and certify good standing and eligibility for continued membership each year upon the renewal of membership.

The Membership Committee will consider the disposition of any arrest and whether the applicant has successfully completed any probation, community service or any other requirements or other any remedial measures imposed by the court .

At least one Sponsor must *personally* know the applicant for a period of **THREE (3) YEARS** and be familiar with the Applicant's personal history and lifestyle. Both sponsors are to review the application and any criminal history *before* signing the application. During the one-year probationary period, both Sponsors must *personally* vouch for the conduct and integrity of any applicant accepted into membership and Sponsors also may be subject to censure if the applicant fails to conform to the rules and regulations of the Rough Riders. In addition, Sponsors who do not meet these requirements may be subject to censure and/or may not be allowed to sponsor future applicants. **SPONSORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE APPLICANT AND AGREE TO MENTOR AND TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE APPLICANT DURING THE APPLICANT'S PROBATIONARY PERIOD (USUALLY ONE YEAR).**

Each applicant or Rough Rider, by applying for and accepting membership, by renewing his or her membership or by participating in Rough Rider events, shall be deemed to

Applicant initials ____
 Sponsor initials ____
 Sponsor initials ____

confirm his or her obligation *at all times* to abide by and conform to all provisions of these Bylaws, all Standing Rules, and all directives, policies, and procedures as set forth by the Board of Directors and President from time to time. No member of the Rough Riders, regardless of rank or position, shall conduct himself or herself in any manner unbecoming a Rough Rider and/or that could reasonably bring discredit, shame, embarrassment or public ridicule upon the Rough Riders. Members of the Rough Riders shall also be responsible and shall be subject to sanctions for the conduct of their respective invited guests at Rough Rider events, in the event that a Rough Rider's invited guest acts in a manner would/could bring discredit, shame, embarrassment, or public ridicule upon the Rough Riders. Violations of parade conduct and uniform violations are also subject to Disciplinary procedures. Members of the Executive Board and Board of Directors who witness violations or become aware of violations shall be obligated to report these violations to the Disciplinary Board.

IMPORTANT: READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY

I hereby make application for membership in the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. and I affirm that I am at least 21 years of age and that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that I must remit with my application, a check (or approved credit card charge) in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1500.00)** (Legacy Applications are **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1000.00)**), which is the **full initiation fee**, and includes the first year's dues, and cost of my basic Rough Rider Uniform. I understand that dues will again be payable in full at the next renewal period without proration. I also understand that annual dues are subject to periodic increases and that special assessments may be made from time-to-time.

I understand and agree that all ownership and all rights to the uniform are retained by the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. and uniforms and insignia (including Quartermaster sale items) are only for use by individual members in good standing during active membership. (Uniforms must be returned upon leaving the Rough Riders.)

I, as an Applicant, hereby consent to the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. obtaining any and all information from any law enforcement agency (including, but not limited to: local police departments, Sheriff's Offices, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation) regarding any and all criminal arrests and information, in which I may have been involved. I also hereby consent to the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. obtaining any information from any source regarding my personal background including, but not limited to, credit reporting agencies, public records, and personal references. I specifically

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

allow the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. to discuss my application with my Sponsors and personal references and to make any inquiries and disclosures which are reasonable and necessary to the application process.

I hereby release and absolve the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. from any and all liability arising from the disclosure of information by any aforementioned law enforcement agencies or other entities/agencies to the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc., to or from any persons or entities deemed necessary by the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc., including but not limited to personal references and Sponsors.

MEMBERSHIP DECLARATION

Pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Bylaws and Standing Rules, (or as may be amended) by accepting or renewing membership in the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc., I confirm my obligation to abide by and conform to all provisions of the Bylaws, all Standing Rules and all directives, policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Directors and the President from time to time.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION

Rough Rider members may participate in business, social, civic, charitable, recreational, entertainment and parade activities so long as they agree to the following assumption of risk and exculpatory clause. By participating in events and activities organized for them, members represent that they agree to the following declaration, which is written in the first person to reflect each member's personal agreement.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

IN CONSIDERATION for membership and by accepting or renewing my membership, I am indicating my desire to participate in the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Rough Riders"). In addition to business meetings of the Rough Riders, I also may participate in, if I so choose, one or more voluntary, social, civic, charitable, recreational, entertainment and parade activities offered for my recreation and enjoyment. If I do so choose to participate in any or all activities, I understand that I know that such activities involve risks. These risks include, but are not limited to: acts of God; terrorism; use of roads, vehicles, boats, parade floats or other means of conveyance that may not be operated or maintained to customary standards; accident or illness without ability to rapidly evacuate or receive medical supplies; inadequate medical attention; physical exertion for which I may not be prepared; consumption of alcohol; personal injury and/or death, including personal injury or death due to others' acts or omissions and/or defective equipment, as well as any

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

injuries or damages incurred or caused by me as a result of my own negligence. The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc., other service and event providers and their respective officers, directors, members, management, employees, partners, agents and other various parties make no representations, express or implied, concerning the safety of any such activities or the condition, quality or capabilities of either the equipment or the quality or capabilities of providers of any such activities. I acknowledge that such risks may exceed those I accept generally, yet I choose to participate because they may contribute to my enjoyment and excitement and are a reason I choose to participate. I agree to **ACCEPT ALL RISKS** and agree that the Rough Riders shall not be held responsible for any consequences of such risks, including without limitation injury or death from the Rough Riders' negligence. I agree that if any part of this agreement is not enforceable, the remaining parts remain in full force and effect.

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION

IN CONSIDERATION for being permitted to participate in the activities and for Rough Rider membership and other valuable consideration, I hereby fully and forever release and forever discharge the Rough Riders, their sponsors, their respective officers, directors, members, management, employees, partners, agents and others assisting or otherwise affiliated with the activities from any liability claims, damages, demands and suits of every kind, nature or description whatsoever arising from my participation in any event, including, without limitation, any liability relating to my own or any of the above listed entities' negligence. I further agree to **INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** the Rough Riders against any liability, claims, damages, demands and suits of every kind, nature or description whatsoever arising from my own negligence, including but not limited to the consumption of alcohol.

I agree that participating in any such activity, that this release will not only bind me but also bind my guests and invitees and any minors under the age of 21 participating with me in any activity.

Excerpts from **STANDING RULES** and **BYLAWS** Participation Requirements for New Recruits (revised)

General - New members will be required to join two (2) committees and attend one (1) major parade and two (2) major events during their first year in the Rough Riders. New members must show evidence of participation to the Chairman of Membership/ Promotions/Awards Committee in the form of signature of the Committee Chairman or Parade OIC prior to being allowed to reenlist and be promoted from a probationary member to a full member and may include a promotion to the rank from Recruit to Trooper. Signed and completed new member cards should be forwarded to the Membership/ Promotions/Awards Committee

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

chairpersons at the end of the first year to be recommended for full membership status and to obtain a promotion in rank. Committees - Participation on the Float Committee and one (1) Special Events Committee is mandatory. Participation on other committees is encouraged and will be the choice of the new member.

Parades - The Gasparilla Parade, the Sant' Yago Knight Parade, and the St. Patrick's Parade are the major parades of the year. **Events** - The major events of the year are the Military Ball, Sporting Clays Tournament, Golf Tournament, and Fishing Tournament. Participation in the other parades, committees, or events during the year is strongly encouraged but not required. **Public Service** - The Rough Riders encourage new members and all members to promote the mission and spirit of the Rough Riders and to become involved in our numerous public service events, including Teddy Bear Runs and other community events.

Sponsoring New Members - The sponsor should be sure the recruit understands the participation requirements during the 1st year of membership and should counsel recruits on conducting themselves in a dignified and professional manner when representing the Rough Riders.

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

APPLICANT'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell phone _____ Email address _____

Name/Address of Employer _____

Occupation _____

Work Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Driver's License No. _____ State _____

Soc. Sec. No. _____

Marital Status (Circle S, M, or D) If Married, Spouse's Name _____

Children Name (s) and ages _____

Special Skills/Hobbies _____

Other Krewes or Clubs: _____

Are you related to a Rough Rider through marriage or blood? If so, please give

name(s) of Rough Rider(s) & relationship: _____

Are you a former or returning member? What were your dates of active

membership? _____

What were your circumstances for leaving the Rough Riders? Explain in detail:

(attach additional pages as necessary) **BE SURE TO DISCLOSE ALL ARREST AND CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION** (If you fail to do so, then your application will be **DENIED**.)

Please print the names of two (2) Rough Riders who personally know you, **one of whom has personally known you for at least three (3) years** (except in cases of public figures, whose backgrounds may be researched) and who may be present at the Board of Director's Meeting to sponsor and to recommend you as a new member: Applicants and Sponsors may be contacted by the Screening Committee.

I also have attached a current photograph of myself.

SPONSORS:

(1) _____
(Print name, member number and rank)
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

(2) _____
(Print name, member number and rank)
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I AGREE TO BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN WELFARE AND ACTIONS, AND ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS, UNANTICIPATED EVENTS, AND ILLNESS, INJURY, TRAUMA OR DEATH. _____ Initials of Applicant

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE SCREENING CRITERIA AND I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I FAIL TO FULLY DISCLOSE ALL ARREST OR CRIMINAL HISTORY OR INCIDENTS RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE, THEN I WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP.
_____ Initials of Applicant

I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CONDUCT AND FOR THE CONDUCT OF MY GUESTS AND I SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS FOR MY CONDUCT AND THE ACTIONS OF MY INVITED GUESTS AT ANY ROUGH RIDER ACTIVITY, IN THE EVENT THAT I OR MY GUEST ACT IN A MANNER THAT WOULD OR COULD BRING DISCREDIT, SHAME, EMBARRASSMENT, OR PUBLIC RIDICULE UPON THE ROUGH RIDERS. _____ Initials of Applicant

Applicant initials _____
Sponsor initials _____
Sponsor initials _____

I UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST CONTINUE TO MEET ADMISSION STANDARDS THROUGHOUT MY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE ROUGH RIDERS. _____ Initials of Applicant

I WILL BE REQUIRED TO REAFFIRM THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP UPON PAYMENT OF EACH YEAR'S DUES AND ASSESSMENTS. _____ Initials of Applicant

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT FULL MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE DUE AGAIN ON JUNE 1ST REGARDLESS OF MY ADMISSION DATE. _____ Initials of Applicant

I understand that if my membership into the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Rough Riders, Inc. is not accepted for any reason, or should I decide to withdraw my application, my deposit of **\$1500.00** (or \$1000.00 for Legacy Member applications) (less a \$75.00 processing fee for a background check) will be returned to me. _____ (Initials of Applicant)

I AGREE TO MAINTAIN A CORRECT US MAIL ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS WITH CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION ON FILE.

I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE APPLICATION AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Please complete and sign in BLACK ink.

Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Printed Name and Date

SPONSORS:

(1) _____
(Print name, member number and rank)
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

(2) _____
(Print name, member number and rank)
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

CERTIFICATION OF SPONSORS:

Applicant initials _____
Sponsor initials _____
Sponsor initials _____

I, the undersigned sponsor, am a member in good standing with the Rough Riders and have been with the Rough Riders *for at least one year*, I have read and reviewed this entire application and I have reviewed the applicant's personal information, including any criminal history information *before* signing the application. I have read and understand this application and the application process.

I, as a Sponsor, affirm that I personally have known the applicant for the length of time required, one Sponsor for at least three years (except in cases of public figures, whose backgrounds may be researched) and am familiar with the applicant's personal history and lifestyle. During the one-year probationary period, I agree to personally vouch for the conduct of this member if admitted into the Rough Riders and during the one-year probationary period, I agree to mentor and to participate with the Applicant, including new member activities during the probationary period (usually the first year) in the Rough Riders. I understand that I also may be subject to censure if the applicant fails to conform to the rules and regulations of the Rough Riders. In addition, I agree that as a sponsor, that if I have not met these admission requirements, then I may be subject to censure and/or may not be allowed to sponsor future applicants. I have reviewed this application and affirm that this Applicant is eligible for admission into the Rough Riders. I understand that I will be required to participate with the Applicant in work details, new member committee meetings and events, and other activities which are required of new members.

Please complete and sign in BLACK ink.

Sponsor Signature and Member Number

Sponsor Signature and Member Number

Sponsor Printed Name

Sponsor Printed Name

Date: _____

Date: _____

I have known the applicant for at least three (3) years ____ yes ____ no
AND I agree to personally vouch for the suitability and conduct of the Applicant and to participate with and to mentor the Applicant during the first year

I have known the applicant for at least three (3) years ____ yes ____ no
AND I agree to personally vouch for the suitability and conduct of the Applicant and to participate with and to mentor the Applicant during the first year

Emergency contact information: _____

Special Medical conditions: _____

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

(ATTACH 2x3 minimum SIZE PHOTO HERE) Below

Below For Rough Rider Regimental Use Only:

Date admitted _____

Notes:

Membership Committee
P.O. Box 75892
Tampa, FL 33675 (813) 248-1898
office@tamparoughriders.org

. Revised: 4/25/2023 wml/nap

Applicant initials ____
Sponsor initials ____
Sponsor initials ____

Dear Applicant,

If you are voted into the organization, you will be issued a Rough Rider Uniform. In order to get a head start on the process, please fill out the attached "Uniform Shirt Decision Form".

The most challenging part of getting your uniform prepared is getting your patches sewn on your uniform shirt. This is your individual responsibility, but we have a way to assist you with this if you desire.

We have a club member that is a seamstress. If you desire their services, they will work with Carol in our front office to obtain your shirt and patches in advance and have everything correctly sewn on for you by your first Orientation Session. I highly recommend that you use these services, but you can certainly take care of it yourself with your own folks.

If you choose to use the in-house services, you will see that the form has a base price and an add-on price. You are only required to have the standard issue which is covered by the base price. The additional is only for those folks that want to trade out the standard shirt buttons for shiny brass buttons. If you choose the shiny brass buttons, you will incur the price of the buttons, plus the \$10 seamstress fee.

Here is the size chart:

MEN'S SHIRT SIZES

SIZE	CHEST	NECK
S	34-36	14-14.5
M	38-40	15-15.5
L	42-44	16-16.5
XL	46-48	17-17.5
2XL	50-52	18-18.5
3XL	54-56	19-19.5
4XL	58-60	20-20.5
5XL	62-64	21-21.5
6XL	66-68	22-22.5
7XL	70-72	23-23.5

Please return this completed form with your application packet.

UNIFORM SHIRT DECISION FORM

(please complete all information and select your choices below)

For size and fit reference, our shirts are standard long sleeve Dickie work shirts. The size reference is (S,M,L,XL,etc.) WHAT IS YOUR SHIRT SIZE ? _____

Your name tape on your shirt is required to display your first and last name. How would you like your name to be displayed? _____

(example: if your name is legally "James Jones", would you prefer "Jim Jones")

How do you desire to have the required items sewn on your shirt? :

1. I would like to use my own sewing service to have my patches and name tapes sewn on my uniform shirt. YES or NO (circle one)
2. I would like to use the sewing services offered by our Rough Rider member for the fees listed below. YES or NO (circle one)

Select services below:

All mandatory patches and names tapes - \$30 YES or NO (circle one)

Optional shiny brass replacement buttons - \$10 YES or NO (circle one)

The charges listed above are for the sewing services only. The cost of all patches and name tapes are included in your application fee. If you elect the "optional shiny brass buttons", those are required to be purchased through our Quartermaster Store for an additional cost.

Payment for #2 services above will need to be made when the completed shirt is picked up at the clubhouse. You can also pay for your Shiny Buttons as this time.

I have read, understand, and made my elections above:

Please Print Name Legibly: _____

Signature: _____