

J. Denny and Jenny Beaver Mascot Application

Thank you for applying to be J. Denny or Jenny Beaver for the 2020-21 year. The selection process includes this written application, in-person interviews with the selection committee and possibly a final in-suit audition.

Please fill out the information below, sign at the bottom of the next page and respond to the questions that follow.

Return your completed application through campus mail in a sealed envelope addressed to Sara Kisseberth, box 60. Applications must be in campus mail no later than **Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020**. You will receive an email confirmation when your application is **received**.

Name: _____ **Email address:** _____
Cell phone: _____ **Height:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Class in 2020-21: *Sophomore* *Junior* *Senior* (circle one)
Major: _____ **Minor:** _____
Cum. GPA: _____

Applicants and performers must be full-time Bluffton University students, **possess and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average** and be in good disciplinary standing.

The Beavers attends **most home football, volleyball and men's and women's basketball games**. In addition, they attend **at least one home game of every other varsity sport** and travel to high-profile tournament games as necessary. J. Denny and Jenny appear as a Bluffton ambassadors at admissions, advancement and community events, and attend student activities as requested throughout the academic year. Performers will work with mascot advisors to fulfill additional requests during academic breaks.

Secrecy is a major part of performing as J. Denny and Jenny Beaver. Applicants should start practicing this immediately. Tell no one that you are applying!

Reliability is essential. Mascot performers must be able to manage their schedule independently and without close supervision. Failure to appear at a previously scheduled event is cause for removal of one's performing responsibilities. If for any reason a performer is unable to attend an event to which he/she was committed, the performer is responsible for finding another team member to serve. If others are unavailable, the responsibility falls upon the original performer.

J. Denny Beaver is entering his tenth year on campus and Jenny will be in her sixth. There is an alumni family that is 35 members strong and they love to support and lift up the Beavers. Here are some of the things we're looking for in potential performers, and some suggestions from our alumni performers:

Social energy – A good mascot performer doesn't necessarily need to be an extrovert. In fact, many introverts have been quite successful in the role, particularly when their true identity is kept secret. Success comes with the ability to transform yourself into a completely different person whenever you are in the suit. We're looking for evidence of that during the selection process.

Appearance in the suit – We’re fortunate to have suits that allow for some reasonable latitude in the range of performer body types and sizes, but the fabric and fur construction provides some challenges. In general, we take an open-minded “let’s try and see what happens” attitude into the selection process, but the overall look and appearance of performers as J. Denny and Jenny Beaver is a point of consideration. **It is possible to be too small or too big to be able to perform safely.** Performer safety is a priority. In general, the J. Denny suits fit persons no taller than 6'3". Jenny's suits are best for persons no taller than 5'6".

A twinkle in the eye – Part of the magic of J. Denny and Jenny Beaver is that they can create something out of nothing. It can be called improvisation if an impromptu halftime contest is made up on the spot, but it can also be called acting if the performer did some brainstorming and planning in advance for a particular skit. Regardless, successful performers should be aware of their surroundings, continually thinking of the next thing they’ll do, and have a playful/mischievous twinkle in their eye to indicate that they’re always up to something.

Physical endurance and wellness – Performing as J. Denny and Jenny Beaver **WILL BE EXHAUSTING**, both physically and emotionally. If you are chosen as a performer, you will need to pay for and have a physical done by a physician and the necessary forms on file with the head athletic trainer by July 1. Your information will be kept confidential. In the event you are injured or become ill while performing as the Beavers, the athletic trainers will then be able to assist you.

Mascots are expected to manage their well-being by finding balance between this high priority and other responsibilities on campus. There is a possibility mascots will be asked to give up commitments in order to perform to the best of their ability. In the event your GPA slips below the 2.5 requirement during your season as a performer, you may be asked to work with the Learning Resource Center staff. In a situation of great concern, you may be placed on performance probation until your academic success is back on track.

J. Denny and Jenny Beaver play an important role within the Bluffton University community. Performers are representatives of Bluffton University and its students, faculty, staff and alumni, and behavior both in and out of the suit must always uphold the spirit, tradition and values of Bluffton University. Violation of campus standards, either in or out of the suit, is cause for removal from one’s mascot responsibilities.

My signature below indicates that I have read and agree with the guidelines and expectations for performers at Bluffton University. I hereby authorize the selection committee to verify my enrollment status, grade point average and disciplinary standing with the registrar and student life office.

Signature:

Date:

(more below)

Please respond to the following questions. Use additional paper as necessary.

1. Please list all activities and jobs (both on and off campus) you expect to hold in 2019-20. How will you balance mascot responsibilities with these other activities/jobs?

2. Why do you want to be J. Denny or Jenny Beaver?

3. In your opinion, describe the role of the Beavers at Bluffton University events. Consider athletics, student life and community activities. Give at least one example of how you would fulfill those roles.

4. Give an example of how you would work to generate crowd enthusiasm at an athletics event.

5. Why did you choose to attend Bluffton University? What is your favorite place on campus? Why?

6. What type of mascot or other relevant experience or skills (e.g., dance, tumbling, leadership, improvisation) do you have that you feel would help you perform as J. Denny or Jenny Beaver?

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