



Galveston College

MASCOT GUIDELINES



Galveston College Mascot Guidelines

Official Policies for “Rip Tide” the GC Whitecaps Mascot

1. Program Overview

As the official mascot of Galveston College, Rip Tide serves as an energetic ambassador, spreading Whitecaps pride and good beach vibes to students, faculty, alumni and the community.

Mascot representatives are part of the GC Student Ambassador Program and will receive payment for their service in alignment with ambassador program policies.

2. Eligibility Requirements for Mascot Representatives

- Must be enrolled at Galveston College and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Must be between 5’6”-5’10” tall to properly fit and maneuver in the mascot suit.
- Must demonstrate:
 - High energy, enthusiasm, and creativity.
 - Confidence and performance skills, including dancing and animated gestures.
- Must always display responsibility and professionalism.
- Attendance at all scheduled practices, events and performances is mandatory.
- Must arrive on time and prepared for each appearance.

3. Mascot Selection

The mascot is selected at the discretion of the Galveston College Marketing & Communication Department through a tryout process.

Final selection is based on performance ability, personality, enthusiasm and suitability for representing the College.

The selected mascot will be onboarded into the GC Ambassador Program and must meet all [ambassador standards throughout the academic year](#).

4. Event Request & Scheduling

Request Process:

- All appearance requests must be submitted through the official Mascot Request Form on Dynamic Forms.
- Requests should be submitted at least 4 weeks (30 days) prior to the event.
- Submission of a Mascot Request Form does not guarantee or imply approval or availability of a mascot appearance at an event.
- Requests must include complete event details (date, time, location, audience, purpose).
- GC Marketing requires a minimum of 5–7 business days to review and respond to the request.

Availability:

- The mascot is available for appearances during:
 - September, October, November and early December
 - January, February, March and April
- No summer availability is guaranteed.
- The mascot will always appear at major GC events, including:
 - Graduation
 - Island Fest
 - Fall Fest

Publicity & Approval:

- All event publicity mentioning Rip Tide must be created or approved by the GC Marketing Department.
- GC may refuse an appearance request if the college is closed or an event or location is deemed unsuitable for the mascot.

5. Event Guidelines & Requirements

Appearance Duration:

- Standard appearance time: 30–90 minutes.
- A break every 30 minutes is required for an indoor event, and bottled water must be provided for breaks.
- A break every 10-15 minutes is required for an outdoor event, and bottled water must be provided for breaks.
- Appearance time may be reduced if the event is outdoors and/or warm/hot weather.
- Breaks will be more frequent if the event is outdoors.

Event Logistics:

The event organizer must provide:

- A private, secure space for the mascot to dress and rest.
- A secure area for storing personal clothing and belongings.
- Parking spaces close to the event location (if needed).

Mascot Guide Requirement:

- A Mascot Guide (handler) must accompany Rip Tide at all appearances.
- The guide may be a fellow Student Ambassador or a GC staff member.
- The guide is responsible for ensuring safety, crowd control and communication throughout the event.

6. Confirmation & Cancellations

- Due to scheduling constraints, appearances are not officially confirmed until 10 business days or less prior to the event.
- If illness, emergency, academic conflict, or severe weather prevents attendance, GC will attempt to provide a replacement.
- If no replacement is available, the event organizer/requestor will be notified of the cancellation as soon as possible.

7. Mascot Do's and Don'ts

To protect the brand, character, spirit, and professionalism of Rip Tide, the following guidelines must always be observed during appearances:

✔Do's

- Stay in character at all times while in costume.
- Offer high-fives, handshakes, and hugs to students, children and fans when appropriate.
- Use big, animated gestures (waving, clapping, dancing) to engage the crowd.
- Take breaks every 30 minutes (indoor events) or 10-15 minutes (outdoor events) for water and rest as scheduled.
- Work with your Mascot Guide for crowd control and safety awareness.
- Be approachable and fun, spreading Whitecaps pride and positivity.
- Report any issues immediately to the Mascot Coordinator or Program Coordinators.

✗Don'ts

- Never remove the headpiece or parts of the costume in public. The mascot's identity must remain confidential at all times.
- Do not verbally speak while in costume — communication should only be through gestures, body language, or signals to the Mascot Guide.
- Never discuss or disclose your role as Rip Tide with other students, staff, or the public.
- Do not engage in unsafe stunts or rough physical activity.
- Avoid inappropriate gestures, dancing, or interactions that could misrepresent Galveston College.
- Do not appear at unscheduled events or in costume without prior approval from the Marketing Department.
- Do not take pictures/selfies of the mascot in partial costume, and/or post to social media.