



Cowboy Joe Pony Handler Duties

Cowboy Joe is a long-time symbol of the University of Wyoming

Role of a UW Pony Handler

Mission: As a Cowboy Joe Handler, you represent the University of Wyoming at athletic events, major Wyoming shows such as Cheyenne Frontier Days and Wyoming State Fair, and other notable university activities such as Homecoming and Family Weekend. In addition to interacting with the public, handlers are responsible for escorting Joe to these events, training, and grooming Cowboy Joe.

Training: Each individual handler will be responsible for working with the lead handler and participation in a training program. Training session times/dates will vary throughout the semesters.

Home Football Game Days: Handlers are required to meet at the school farms prior to the game to prep and groom Joe. Handlers must be at Tailgate Park/Gateway Center for the Pep Rally Cowboy Walk with Joe three hours before kickoff time. After leading the band, cheerleaders and players to the locker rooms, handlers will escort Joe through Tailgate Park for “meet and greet” with Joe. Handlers will need to have Joe on the north end of the football field fifteen minutes before kickoff to be in place for running behind the team down the field. Handlers are required to remain with Joe on the field during the entire game and their presence is required on occasion for halftime festivities. During the game, handlers will run Joe across the south end-zone following a touchdown or field goal.

Parades: Handlers will be expected to participate in selected summer events such as Laramie Jubilee Days Parade (usually early July), Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade (usually mid-July) and the Wyoming State Fair (mid-August). During the school year, handlers will also participate in the UW Homecoming parade and other university-oriented activities.

Handler Code of Conduct: As representatives of the University of Wyoming, handlers will conduct themselves in a manner that will have a positive reflection on the handler program and the university. The requirement for professional conduct extends throughout the event and during travel to and from events. If selected, handlers are members until graduation or their fourth year of college attendance. Handlers must remain in good academic standing to remain as members of the handler team. In the event of a report of inappropriate actions or failure to remain in good academic standing, the Cowboy Joe Handler Selection Committee will review the information and take appropriate action. Those chosen to be handlers of Cowboy Joe will be asked to read, sign, and adhere to the handler code of conduct.

Handler Award: In appreciation for volunteering, each handler will receive a small annual performance award generously donated by members of the Cowboy Joe Club and alumni handlers.

Attire: Each handler is expected to dress professionally for every Cowboy Joe appearance. Each handler will need to provide clean, appropriate jeans, cowboy boots, and a straw hat. The rest of the uniform (e.g. long-sleeve shirts, T-shirts, jacket, and belt buckle) is provided and paid for with the Cowboy Joe Handler Fund. (Attire is subject to change).

Eligibility Requirements:

- Full time student
- In good academic standing with the University of Wyoming
- Planning to be in Laramie for the full 2019/2020 academic year

Submission of a completed Cowboy Joe Handler Application will indicate that the applicant has read and agrees to abide by the Handler Duties and Code of Conduct.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Head Handler, Jackie Johnston: (970) 817-1134, jjohn226@uwyo.edu