

Spring 2026

Emerson  
COLLEGE

GRIT



Your Guide to  
Emerson's Mascot

# All about Griff

Emerson College's mascot embodies our spirit: quirky, fun-loving, caring, and proud.

This guide outlines everything you need to know about Emerson College's mascot and what wearing this costume entails. Griff is a key part of Emerson's brand identity, and we're sure that you'll embrace Griff's exciting personality and bring them to life!

Griff is an extension of Emerson College's values: creativity, innovation, inclusion, curiosity, equity, expression, and collaboration.



What does it mean to be Griff? Because Griff is a lion, it would be easy to assume that they're fierce and independent. But Griff strives to help every Emersonian feel included and proud to be part of our College. They're vibrant and full of energy, showing up to support our Athletics teams, our newest Emersonians at Move In and Orientation, and our future Emersonians at Admissions events.

Like all mascots, Griff's purpose is to encourage positive spirit connected to Emerson College. So, being Griff carries responsibility. We hope that as you read this guide, you'll get to understand what it takes to be Griff: the lion, the Emersonian, the legend!

# Getting to Griff

Emerson's mascot is available for request! Here's the 'how to' on getting Griff for your event.

Hey! There's not any actual content here, because we're not entirely sure about the process yet. But if we can figure out something soon, Ren will write it!

If we can't then I guess someone else will. The rest of this is just latinate nonsense. Voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in

voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.



# Safety First

Being a mascot is more than just wearing the suit. Use this section to learn about physical preparation and character safety.

## The Griff costume

The official Griff costume (Jr. Lion Mascot Costume 43077 from maskus.com) comes in four parts:

- Suit: long sleeves and trousers, zip closure in back.
- Gloves: Designed to mimic paws, Griff's gloves have three fingers and one thumb.
- Feet: Worn over shoes, Griff's feet have longer toes than normal.
- Headpiece: The heaviest piece of the costume. While crucial for the character, Griff's head creates low-visibility and can make you feel warmer than usual.

## The role of the handler

It's crucial to have a support person, or handler, when you are wearing the Griff costume. This person is responsible for

guiding the person in the costume, for responding for them, and for making sure that they are safe.

You must not wear the Griff costume without a handler to support you. If you cannot find a handler, please talk to Student Affairs staff.

Make sure that your handler is someone you know and trust to keep you out of harms way. Handler's should:

- Read this guide so they know the expectations of the role
- Never be more than 4 feet from the person playing Griff while the person is in the suit
- Carry a water bottle for Griff
- Organize hand signals before a Griff performance so that the Griff can indicate urgent needs.

### **Wearing the costume**

The costume is an essential part of being Griff, but it can be physically taxing. If you are intending on performing as Griff, please follow these guidelines:

- Stretch and hydrate before and after a performance.
- Keep performances to fifteen minutes with at least a five minute break in between. This is dependent on the level of activity that you are undertaking, and the ambient heat of the environment.

### **Heat**

It gets very hot in the Griff suit! UCA/UDC guidelines<sup>1</sup> recommend that if you are wearing a mascot suit as part of regular performances, you should work on acclimatizing to the heat of the suit.

However, if you are not regularly performing as Griff, you must be cautious about overheating. If you experience any of the following, seek assistance immediately to find a safe place and remove the suit:

- Headache or dizziness

- Blurred vision or weakness
- Stomach aches or cramping.

If your symptoms persist, please seek medical attention immediately.

### **Other safety guidance:**

- Do not use springboards or mini-tramps. These are too dangerous when you're in the costume.
- If you feel unsafe, too hot, or otherwise at risk at any time, have your handler guide you to a quiet spot so that you can remove the costume and/or take a break. Your safety is important!

Never put yourself, your handler or your audience at risk at any time. This includes risk to Emerson College's reputation: Griff does not wear pins, clothing or carry items that may be inferred to be expressing an opinion of the College on any social or political matter.

---

<sup>1</sup> Universal Cheerleaders Association/Universal Dance Association. (2024). *College Mascot 2024 Manual*.  
[https://www.varsity.com/uca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/UCA\\_UDA-College-Mascot-Manual.pdf](https://www.varsity.com/uca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/UCA_UDA-College-Mascot-Manual.pdf)

# Being Griff

Griff embodies what it means to be part of Emerson College. This section outlines your responsibilities and some ways to bring Griff to life!

Taking on the role of Griff is an exciting privilege. Griff is a well-loved part of Emerson College's traditions, and we love seeing them appear at all sorts of special occasions. But it is a responsibility, because Griff is a big part of both Emerson College's brand and our identity. So when you're inside the suit, you're a very visible representative of all of Emerson's values: creativity, innovation, inclusion, curiosity, equity, expression and collaboration.

## **Positive vibes only**

When Griff appears, their purpose is to lift Emersonians up, and bring the fun! That means you should always display impeccable sportsmanship and fair play. Don't mock calls by a referee, don't fight with other mascots, and always strive for positive interactions with other schools

players and representatives.

## **Community minded**

Work within Emerson's Community Standards policies and practices. Griff and their handler should never engage in any behaviors or activities that violate our Community Standards. If you are concerned get in touch with us at [communitystandards@emerson.com](mailto:communitystandards@emerson.com).

If you are interacting with community members from outside Emerson College, be respectful. This is especially true if you are interacting with children. Don't chase or otherwise pursue spectators of any age, be kind, and use the presence of your handler to remove you if the situation calls for it.

## Stay in character

It's important that Griff is a presence all of their own. Some important notes:

- Griff is confident in themselves! They don't shuffle when they walk (this has the added bonus of preventing you tripping over in the feet!).
- Griff doesn't speak. Use exaggerated motion to convey your emotions instead. If necessary, your handler should speak for you - work with them to figure out hand gestures to get what you need.
- Griff is creative, but not offensive. We want everyone to have a good time, and that doesn't happen when people are excluded or offended. Keep your gestures, dances, skits and costumes within the boundaries of good taste.
- Only the mascot and the handler should see your transition from 'you' to 'Griff'. Don't change into or out of the costume anywhere you might be seen by your audience. This helps to maintain the illusion!

## Caring for Griff

The Griff costume needs to be cleaned fairly regularly. If you are a department that has lent the Student Affairs costume, we will inspect the costume on its return. If it is soiled, we will bill you for the dry-cleaning.

