

**GUIDE TO  
CAMPAIGNING FOR A  
STUDENT OFFICER POSITION**

**WITH THE  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC.**



**PREPARED BY THE 2026 NHSRA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Congratulations on your decision to campaign for student office in the National High School Rodeo Association!*

We are pleased that you have decided to make your NHSRA experience more meaningful and that you want to play an active role in the rule and decision-making processes of the National High School Rodeo Association.

Being an NHSRA Student Officer is a fun experience; but, it is also a serious one. Officers represent over 14,000 members from 44 states, five Canadian provinces, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Guatemala which make up the NHSRA.

**When deciding to campaign for national office, you should ask yourself a few questions:**

1. Do I believe in the National High School Rodeo Association and its goal to improve and promote High School Rodeo among people?
2. Do I believe in the purposes and aims of the National High School Rodeo Association as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws?
3. Will I be able to commit the time and effort to serve as an officer and travel with the officer team to make appearances on behalf of the NHSRA?
4. Am I knowledgeable about the National High School Rodeo Association and its rulebook?
5. Am I willing to support, promote and represent the sponsors of the National High School Rodeo Association?

**To campaign for a NHSRA Student Officer Position:**

1. You must have at least one full year of eligibility left in the NHSRA.
2. NHSRA Student Officers can hold office for more than one year as long as they are eligible.
3. Be a member in good standing from the state or provincial High School Rodeo Association in which you reside and/or attend school.
4. You must be a competing member. You DO NOT have to compete at your state finals to run for office. You DO NOT have to be a contestant in the NHSFR in order to campaign for office.
5. You must notify the National Office of your intention to seek office no later than by the close of the Delegate Meeting prior to the first performance of the National High School Finals Rodeo by submitting the attached form.

Your intentions of running for national office should be to improve and help the NHSRA to the best of your ability. You will have the opportunity to meet new people and will be involved in public activities. This will require time away from home/school and can be a huge sacrifice. The student officers spend approximately one month worth of time representing the NHSRA and are expected to uphold the grade requirements of membership.

The offices available are: President, Vice President and Secretary. At all board of National Directors meetings, the Student Officers and National Queen shall each have a vote with a total of (4) four votes. The Student Officers also serve on the Contestant Entertainment Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Membership Development Committee as well as other committees as appointed by the Adult President.

The Student President will preside over the Student Delegate Meetings at the National High School Finals Rodeo. The Vice-President will serve in the capacity of the President, in the absence of the President. The Secretary may be responsible for taking minutes at the following meetings: Delegate Meetings, the Contestant Entertainment Committee meetings, Youth Advisory Committee meetings, and the Membership Development Committee.

The newly elected student officers will assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting at the 2026 NHSFR. It is **not** expected of the new officers to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting. They shall continue in office through the 2026 NHSFR and Annual Meeting. The student officers must attend the Mid-Winter board of directors meeting held in January. The student officers shall also take other trips and make appearances as the adult officers may direct. Travel expenses will be covered by the NHSRA for the student officer. Many times, the student officers will travel by themselves to the event where they will meet up with an NHSRA chaperone.

The student officers are to represent the student membership. Information that they receive from their constituents regarding changes of the National High School Rodeo Association and the National High School Finals Rodeo should be passed on to the National Board of Directors.

### **Your Arrival in Lincoln, NE**

If you are a contestant at the NHSFR, you should proceed through the contestant check-in. After you have taken care of your contestant responsibilities, you must check in with the Rodeo Office.

If you are not a contestant at this year's NHSFR, you still need to check in at contestant check-in and get your back number. You must still adhere to the final check-in deadline as well as all other rules for contestants. *You must be checked in by 7 A.M., Sunday, July 19, 2026.*

### **Campaigning**

If you have made your decision to run for office early in the year, you have the opportunity to have your picture and a short biographical profile published in the *NHSRA TIMES Magazine*, the official NHSRA publication which is mailed to all NHSRA members. In addition, your information will be posted on the association's website. Any photograph of the candidate that is submitted for publication on the website and in the *NHSRA TIMES Magazine*, must have the candidate in full western attire. Articles will only be published in the *NHSRA TIMES Magazine* once. The deadline for submitting to the *NHSRA TIMES* is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Articles can be emailed to: Chip Garofalo at [chip@garoproductionsltd.com](mailto:chip@garoproductionsltd.com) and [melissa@nhsra.org](mailto:melissa@nhsra.org).

Early candidates may have contact with each of the state's delegates and National Director. You can send out letters, brochures and other campaign literature. A letter of recommendation from your National Director is a good tool for campaigning. Include your ideas for high school rodeo and why you want to serve as an officer. The national office can supply you with the email addresses of the student delegates.

After checking in with the Rodeo Office, you will receive instructions about the designated campaign areas. Each candidate will be given a table to display their campaign message and distribute promotional items. Space is limited, so displays should be kept to a reasonable size.

#### **When campaigning remember:**

- ✓ CAMPAIGN GIVEAWAYS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE DISPLAY AREAS ONLY!
- ✓ No campaigning will be allowed in the arenas or work areas
- ✓ No campaign propaganda or gifts can be distributed at the student delegate meetings
- ✓ No campaign gifts are to be given to the voting delegates
- ✓ Posters are to be hung in designated areas – see the attached rules for this facility
- ✓ This facility does not allow stickers or glue-on items
- ✓ Flyers or notices cannot be placed on the windshields of vehicles
- ✓ Stickers placed on contestant's back numbers cannot cover any part of the numerals on the back number and must not be larger than 2 ½" in diameter/length/width
- ✓ Talk to the student delegates, they can be identified by a sticker on their back number, they cast the votes!

Past Student Officers will tell you that the quality of your campaign is what's important and not the quantity of giveaways. Try to keep in mind that your personal contact with the student delegates, contestants and membership is much more important than what materials offering you might have. And last but not least, be considerate and respectful of the host facilities property and their rules.

## Meetings at Nationals

Your first Student Delegate meeting with the current Student Officers and delegates will be on Sunday, July 19, at 9 AM in South Hall. At this meeting, all the member organizations of the NHSRA will have four student delegates in attendance. As a candidate for office, you will be asked to introduce yourself – name, state and what position you are running for (no speeches during the introductions). The election of student event directors will take place at this meeting.

Student officer candidates will be introduced at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting. This meeting is also on Sunday, July 19, at 11 AM at the Main Arena Grandstands.

The third meeting you will need to attend, as a candidate, will be held on Friday, July 24, 2 PM in South Hall. This will be for all student delegates, student officer candidates and current student officers. During this meeting, the youth campaigning for office will be asked to give a campaign speech relating their goals and reasons for seeking office. Speeches are to be done without props or videos, and approximately two minutes. The election of the 2026-2027 NHSRA Student Officers will take place at this time. The results of the election will be announced immediately following the tally of the votes.

The by-laws outlining the procedure for electing student officers, the student delegates and policies for student officers are outlined in Article V of the NHSRA Constitution and By-Laws. Please refer to a current NHSRA Rulebook for those procedures.

If you have been elected to an office of the NHSRA, you and your parents will meet with the Youth Advisory Committee Chairman and the NHSRA Executive Director immediately following the Student Delegate Meeting. At this time, some paperwork will need to be filled out and policies and procedures will be presented to the new officers, so they know what is expected of them over the next year. You and your parents will be required to sign an agreement outlining behavior policies and conduct expectations as well as possible disciplinary actions if any rules, policies and procedures are violated. A copy of this agreement is included so that you and your parents/guardians have time to review it prior to being elected. You will be required to sign a confidentiality non-disclosure agreement. All candidates need to understand that the integrity of the NHSRA rests with the National Student Officers.

The newly elected student officers will be introduced prior to the Grand Entry of the Friday Night Performance, July 24<sup>th</sup>.

As a NHSRA Student Officer your opportunities can be endless. Familiarize yourself with the Constitution and “Mission Statement” of the National High School Rodeo Association. Know that you can be part of the solution and make this the best youth organization in the world.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the current NHSRA Student Officers: Braedon Crain, President; Braxton Townsend, Vice-President and/or Aubrey Gist, Secretary. You can also contact Youth Advisory Co-Chairpersons: Holli Sapp, Georgia and/or John Mancini, New York. Their contact information can be found in the *NHSRA TIMES Magazine* or the NHSRA website.

# COMMIT TO BEING A STUDENT OFFICER

NHSRA is excited about your decision to run for a national office and congratulate you for your actions. We feel we need to let you know some of your responsibilities and requirements prior to taking this step.

- **TRAVEL:** Successful candidates will be expected to be in attendance on the following trips. Travel arrangements will be made by and paid by NHSRA for student officers. You will be met at the event by a NHSRA chaperone.

**December 3 – 12, 2026** – NFR Cowboy Christmas – Las Vegas, NV  
(sell Weatherby Rifle/Bloomer Trailer raffle tickets in sponsor shared booth)

**January (Tuesday thru Saturday) 2027**– NHSRA Mid-Winter Meeting – Billings, MT  
(normally the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of January – dates and location will be determined following Annual Meeting at NHSFR)  
(serve an active role in decision making on full board and selected committees)

**Late March / Early April 2027** – The American Rodeo OR Sponsor Visits  
(Promote NHSRA / Sponsor Engagement & Events)

**July 18 – 24, 2027** – NHSFR & Annual Meeting – Lincoln, NE  
(duties not limited to presiding over delegate meetings, present flags horseback in the arena at each performance)

- **SPONSOR OBLIGATIONS:**

Successful candidates will be expected and required to be in NHSRA **Sponsor apparel** when representing NHSRA at any event.

**Cinch Jeans & Shirts, Hyer Boots, and American Hat**

- **AGREEMENTS:**

Successful candidate and parents or guardian will be required to sign a **Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement.**

Successful candidate will be required to sign a

**Confidentiality Non-Disclosure Agreement.**

**YOU ARE THE KEY REPRESENTATIVES FOR YOUR PEERS, THE ASSOCIATION, AND OUR SPONSORS!!** There may be things not outlined in this guide that you will be asked to perform or do that fall within the responsibility of being a Student Officer.

# NHSRA Student Officer Candidate Campaign Filing Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Provincial High School Rodeo Association: \_\_\_\_\_

2025-2026 NHSRA Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Officer Position I am seeking: \_\_\_\_\_  
(President, Vice-President, Secretary)

I, hereby certify, that I am a member in good standing of the above-mentioned state/provincial high school rodeo association during the 2025-2026 high school rodeo year and that I have a minimum of one year of eligibility left in the NHSRA and hereby am eligible to campaign for a national student officer position with the NHSRA. I fully understand that holding an NHSRA National Officer position is a big responsibility and that I will be a role model for other youth and that my actions not only reflect upon myself; but, upon the entire membership of the National High School Rodeo Association, Inc. I am fully prepared to be held to a higher standard than most members and am accepting the responsibility of the office I am seeking.

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or guardian of the above named NHSRA member, I hereby give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of a National Student Officer and understand that the position comes with serious responsibilities.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to:

Melissa Wolf, NHSRA National Office  
12011 Tejon Street, Suite 900  
Denver, CO 80234  
Email: [melissa@nhsra.org](mailto:melissa@nhsra.org)

# Notice from Sandhills Global Event Center

Policy regarding campaign materials distributed at the NHSFR: No campaign propaganda, posters, signs or campaign gifts can be put up in or taken into the student delegate meeting room. You will not be allowed to give gifts to the delegates. Campaign giveaways are restricted to the display areas only.

**DO NOT hang posters or other campaign materials on any other areas of the Sandhills Global Event Center including:**

- Tradeshow Area – Currency Pavilion
- Four Competition Arenas & Stock Pens
- Official Posting Boards – where the official draw, results & notices are posted
- Restrooms or Restroom Hallways
- By the ATM's, water fountains or on doors
- Outdoor Stalling Area

**Posters must be hung with VELCO or BLUE PAINTERS TAPE!!**

**Yard signs are allowed.** Facility grounds crew reserves the right to move any signs for landscaping reasons. Yard signs **MUST** be placed two feet from the edge of the concrete to avoid water lines & sprinklers. Campgrounds and surrounding areas are gravel & concrete. It is advised to bring materials to accommodate for this or plan alternative signage while still adhering to these rules.

**Campaign posters can ONLY be hung in the following areas:**

- NHSRA Rodeo Office (outside Meeting Center east entrance from TractorHouse Pavilion)
- Cinch Town / Dance Area
- EquineMarket Pavilion (wall outside restrooms & on stall ends)
- Grandstands (in designated front & back entrance areas)
- Campgrounds (around food vendors in designated areas)
- South Hall (on east wall by entrance doors & by restrooms)

Respect the signs and/or campaign material of other candidates hung or placed in similar areas as yours! Be sure before you leave to go home, go back through the grounds and pick up all your campaigning yard signs & posters to help alleviate the work of the clean-up crew! This is much appreciated.

# NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC.

## CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR POLICY AGREEMENT

As a National Student Officer of the National High School Rodeo Association Inc. you will be a representative of the Association and symbolic of its reputation, principles and interests to other students and adults in your local community and the nation. Because of the importance of your position and what your appearance and behavior say to others about you and the Association, it is imperative you understand the expectations and responsibilities that accompany your position. You will be expected to comply with the dress code and other requirements of the Association and behave in accordance with the standards provided in the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.

The Rules, Bylaws and Constitution provide that acts of insubordination, misconduct, or acts, which are detrimental to the reputation, principles and interest of the Association, will subject a Member to discipline. Disciplinary action can include a variety of penalties – even removal of title or office, suspension, or expulsion.

Activities for which discipline has been and will be imposed include (but are not limited to) any association with or use of alcohol, drugs, smoking, use of vape products or immoral or lewd conduct. Regardless of the permissive laws of your state or the indulgence or permission of your parents or legal guardian, these activities will not be permitted while you are attending local or national Association events, meetings or functions or serving as a representative of the Association in any way. **BE AWARE THAT THESE BEHAVIORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY MEMBER FOUND OR REPORTED TO BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH MISCONDUCT OR DETRIMENTAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM ANY EVENT, MEETING OR FUNCTION, AND, SENT HOME AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS OR HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** There will be no questions asked and no opportunity to explain the conduct.

The Association will investigate all alleged offenses and the incident will be reported to the Member's parent or guardian. A hearing pursuant to the Disciplinary Action or Disqualification provisions of the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution will be scheduled at which the Member will have the opportunity to present a defense to the charges.

At the end of your term, or upon the imposition of Disciplinary Action requiring relinquishment of the position, or, suspension or expulsion from the Association, all property of the Association must be returned to the Association within 7 days at the Member's expense.

During your term in office, you will be required to adhere to all NHSRA policies and procedures for travel, making appearances, attending official functions, meetings, activities and any other national or local events. You will be expected to carry out all responsibilities of your office or position and meet all requirements and expectations that are outlined to you during the annual Student Officer Orientation or that are outlined to you at any other time throughout the year by the governing boards, individuals or committees of the NHSRA.

Student Officers should be aware that posting photographs, comments, or statements on any website such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Tik Tok, BeReal or any other website or internet page that associates them with the NHSRA is not allowed without the permission of the NHSRA. They should also be aware that any statements, comments or photographs posted that sheds a negative light on the NHSRA or is detrimental to the NHSRA, its mission or the sport of rodeo in any way could subject them to disciplinary action resulting in censure, probation, removal, suspension or expulsion.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

I have read and am familiar with the rules pertaining to dress code and conduct contained in the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution of the Association as well as the policies contained herein. I agree to the conditions of this Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement and assume responsibility for my actions.

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Member's Signature

Date

I accept full responsibility for the conduct of my child/ward and agree to action by the Association described above should he/she fail to meet the policies and conditions contained in this Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ACCEPTED BY:

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James Higginbotham, NHSRA Executive Director

Date