



Unaccompanied Youth Application Instructions

Participants who are under 18 years of age as of January 1 in the year in which they are riding, are classified as Youth participants, and must be accompanied by adult rider(s) during the competition and Equine Distance Riding Association's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies must be followed.

However, Youth members between the ages of 14 and 17 are eligible to ride unaccompanied and are subsequently treated as Adult participants (with a Weight Class), if the following steps are taken and only after approval is officially granted by EDRA's Vice President:

- A completed application form and letters of recommendation from past sponsors are submitted by the parent/legal guardian to the EDRA Vice President 14 or more days in advance of the desired effective date. The application must reflect and indicate:
 - The Youth has completed 500 miles or more, at comparable distance competitions of at least 50 miles in distance. (Miles from distance competitions of 50 miles or longer at EDRA endorsed events, United States Equestrian Federation licensed events, American Endurance Ride Conference sanctioned events, and Equestrian Canada sanctioned events are recognized as helping to meet this mileage requirement. The parent/legal guardian may petition EDRA to accept miles from other sponsoring organizations through the submittal of this application, but those miles may not be accepted.)
 - The parent/legal guardian consents that the EDRA provision, requiring Youth be accompanied by an adult, need not be followed for their child and that the child will be exempt from EDRA's Minor Athlete Abuse Policies at the parent's/legal guardian's direction.
- The EDRA Vice President (VP) will review and verify the mileage information provided is accurate and is accepted as helping to meet the experience requirements.
- The VP will contact those individuals submitting letters of recommendation and/or other past sponsors to discuss the applicant's decision-making capabilities to help determine if the applicant is a viable candidate for riding solo.
- The VP will communicate approval or denial of the request to the parent/legal guardian. If approved, the VP issues an effective date that the child becomes eligible to ride unaccompanied and communicates the change in status to both the parent/legal guardian and affected EDRA volunteers.

Once granted, the child's status will be designated as Unaccompanied Youth. The child will be treated as a competitor in the Adult Division and must declare a Weight Class. The child will remain in the Adult Division and cannot revert back to the general Youth Rider category, except in the event of disciplinary action.

Miles, points, best-in-class awards and completions achieved prior to the approval of the Unaccompanied Youth designation will be categorized in the Youth Division and miles, points, best-in-class awards and completions achieved on or after the effective date of the Unaccompanied Youth approval will be categorized in the applicable Weight Class, in the Adult Division. **Please Note: applying for Unaccompanied Youth status during the course of the ride season, may cause the child to be listed in multiple award categories and may prevent the child from being recognized to fullest extent possible since points, miles, best-in-class awards, and completions may be split between the various competition divisions.**

As part of the disciplinary process, Unaccompanied Youth status may be revoked for future competitions if the behavior or actions of the Unaccompanied Youth reflect poor judgement in the care and well-being of their equine

or are in violation of other EDRA rules. Should the privilege of riding unaccompanied be revoked, the child's status will be communicated to both parent/legal guardian and affected EDRA volunteers.

Once approved, children in the Unaccompanied Youth category will be treated as Adult members for Distance Rides, Relays, Best-In-Class judging, and award calculation purposes. Membership fees and other EDRA benefits and programs (e.g., EDRA in Motion and eligibility for ride entry fee discounts through the Mary & Anna Memorial Youth Fund) remain intact and the child is treated as if s/he remained in the general Youth Rider division.

By submitting an application, the child and parent/legal guardian acknowledge their understanding of award recognition and other consequences the change in status brings.



Unaccompanied Youth Application

Parent/Legal Guardian Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Email _____
Cell Phone _____ Other Phone _____

LIABILITY RELEASE. I am the parent and/or legal guardian of _____
(name of youth).

Under Equine Distance Riding Association (EDRA) rules, minors are required to be accompanied by an adult sponsor at all times during EDRA sponsored events (Event), unless the minor child meets certain requirements, has been approved to ride as an Unaccompanied Youth and the parent/legal guardian consents to the minor child being allowed to do so. By applying for the Unaccompanied Youth designation, I am consenting that the minor child listed above (Minor Child) be allowed to participate in EDRA Events without an adult sponsor.

In exchange for the privilege of participating in EDRA Events, I, individually and on behalf of the Minor Child, as well as both our heirs, executors, and administrators will hold harmless and blameless EDRA, and all officers and directors thereof, all members of the ride management team, including but not limited to volunteers and ride personnel, and all property owners/tenants upon whose land the distance rides are held, from all liability for any injury or loss to myself, the Minor Child or the Minor Child's equine which occurs due to participation in the Event, or to anyone who accompanies me and/or the Minor Child the Events. Both I and the Minor Child are fully aware of ride rules and agree to abide by those rules set down by ride management and EDRA. Both I and the Minor Child fully understand the consequences of not following ride rules for both myself and the Minor Child.

I further understand and agree that distance riding on horseback is a hazardous activity. I understand and agree that I assume all the risk and full responsibility for the safety of the Minor Child, the equine ridden, and the safety of anyone who accompanies me or the Minor Child to the event. I warrant that I believe the Minor Child is capable of handling the various situations that may arise during a distance riding event, often held in remote areas with minimal communication options. These events can include, but are not limited to, trail markings that are vague or removed by other people, animals, or weather, an injured horse that is not capable of moving forward on the trail, extreme weather shifts, being separated from one's equine partner, darkness, other equines on the trail engaging in misbehavior and/or dangerous behavior, and being injured on the trail.

To the best of my ability, I will be vigilant in preventing injury to other persons or equines and will instruct the Minor Child to do the same. I authorize EDRA to take photographs of me, the Minor Child and the equine ridden and to use all such pictures on its website, Facebook page, or in any material published by EDRA.

This release is governed by the laws of the state of Washington and is intended to be interpreted as broadly as possible. I agree that exclusive jurisdiction and venue for any legal action against EDRA, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, or agents shall be in Spokane County Superior Court or federal court of the state of Washington, Eastern District. If any part of this agreement is determined to be unenforceable, all other parts shall remain in effect.

I fully agree to this release and I sign it on behalf of myself and the minor child.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____

PRINTED NAME OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____

DATE: _____