Henley-Putnam University Mascot Contest Finalists

1: The Mongoose

Go ‘Goose!

Mongooses have earned their spot in the ranks of unassuming champions. Everyone knows the tale of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, the fearless mongoose who slays a treacherous pair of cobras in defense of his adoptive family. The narrative is allegorical of the talents and guts of the wily carnivores. In many ways the fierce creatures mirror the savvy and ingenuity of the students who represent H-PU.

They travel singularly or in groups depending on species; like independent field agents or veterans in an impermeable corps. When accompanied, the mongoose tribe will assign a sentry to keep watch from the greatest vantage point. In the event danger is sensed, the guard goose will signal to his pack whether the threat is inbound from the air or the ground. With their capacity to survive in the treetops, on land, or even in the water, and their unique alarm system, these unique animals are very defensively adept.

As mentioned in the first lines, however, the most remarkable trait of the slight animals is not their family dynamic, their clever dining strategies, or their adaptive nature. The valorous inclinations of the mongoose against its infamous archenemy are analogous to the students of Henley-Putnam and their quest to rid the world of a venomous peril. Though the critters are carnivorous, they do not demonstrate a particular appetite for cobra; however, they are nonetheless proficient in dispatching their nemeses. Moreover, mongooses assert themselves on their larger, lethal adversaries. Battles between the two usually end when the mongoose cracks the skull of his foe between his powerful jaws. Equally as agile, undaunted by a weaponry imbalance, and tactically superior to more powerful forces, the mongoose adequately reflects the wits, bravery, and cunning of the extraordinary student body of H-PU.

2) The Hawk

I believe the best thing about this mascot is that it just “fits” Henley-Putnam. We want a mascot that is both fitting and memorable. I believe this selection accomplishes both. I chose this animal for its strength, agility, eye sight and beauty. The strength represents the schools dedication to private protection, while the agility represents Henley-Putnam’s dedication to counter-terrorism and the fact that it is continually evolving, so one must be agile and be able to adapt. This animal is known for its keen eyesight as well, which goes to represent our commitment to intelligence. Our intelligence people are always watching, always observant. It is also found in just about every part of the world.
3) The Knight

The primary description would be of a knight where the face is covered, body armored (what parts are visible), with sword raised/striking, and shield placed in a protective position. The cloak would be H-PU red, with the shield having the crest of the school on it.

The knight would be a perfect mascot as it is representative of the 3 degree paths provided at the school. The Shield is a good representation of the Protection degree paths, the Armor: Intelligence, and the Sword: Counterterrorism. All 3 icons can be shifted interchangeably, however, as needed to fit all 3 degree paths. The usage of the knight also conjures up the image that the student will be armed/protected much like the knight upon completion of their degree. The knight also has become synonymous with battle, victory, and nobility in today's society.

3) The German Shepherd

Much like our students at Henley-Putnam University, a shepherd is an attendant, caretaker, escort, guard, guide, herder, herdsman, leader, minister, pastor, pastoralist, pilot, protector, shepherdess, teacher, tender, watch, watcher. They administer, protect, escort, manage, oversee, save, influence, urge, direct, and lead. They are trained to adapt and overcome, and employ great intelligence and strength. Their job is to watch over their heard. A dog as a shepherd protects its flock from the wolves, just as a soldier or member of service protects their fellow citizens from the enemy. They are loyal and devoted to their jobs, just like our students. They are loving and capable of aiding those in need. A shepherd is the perfect WORD to represent Henley-Putnam University, and what not better to be the mascot than the creature that services humanity in so many ways. There are a variety of shepherd dogs, but no other is more well known than the German Shepherd. This is why I am nominating this animal as our mascot and the name Shepherd.

Fun fact:
At the age of 22, Israel Putnam tracked and killed every wolf in Connecticut that had been hunting down the town's flocks. He dared to lead where others dare to follow. Just like a shepherd tending to his flock, Putnam saved his from the wolves, just as any shepherd would- no matter their species.
4) The Meerkat

The Meerkat stands for vigilance and they function based on an information sharing system which enables a level of force protection amongst their group. In so many ways this symbolizes the role of the Intelligence and Security professional as trained by HPU. We perform the role of the Meerkat for our client group. Remaining vigilant, staying aware of the threat and acting as the tripwire for force protection.

The Meerkat also doesn't have any strange perks to detract from its value as a role model, like writing inappropriate email or compromising the group for money. Just saying...

5) The Eagle

My contribution to this request is that the Henley-Putnam mascot should be an American Eagle.

Why did I choose the American Eagle to be the school's mascot?

The eagle represents spiritual protection and brings strength, healing, courage, wisdom, illumination of spirit and healing.

The eagle represents great power and balance, dignity with grace, a connection with higher truths, intuition and a creative spirit grace achieved through knowledge and hard work.

These are all traits carried over in the Henley-Putnam mission statement.

6) The Snow Owl

The snow owl is considered the wisest and most elusive of all owls. It is one of the most skilled predatory birds that skillfully defends its territory (area of operations) from all threats.
7) The Fox

**Description:**
A cunning fox with the 3 HPU's flames in the tail.

**Why the Fox?**

In many cultures, the fox symbolizes the victory of intelligence over both malevolence and brute strength.

Other symbolic qualities traditionally linked to the fox are: Cleverness, cunningness, observational skills, intelligence, stealth, camouflage, courage, shape shifting, invisibility, ability to observe unseen, persistence, gentleness, swiftness, diplomacy, wildness, adaptation, slyness, wisdom, protection, provider, etc...

Those qualities and skills are relevant to all the intelligence, counterterrorism, and protection, studies imparted, consequently making the fox a very adequate mascot for Henley-Putnam University.

To know more see: Foxes in popular culture at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foxes_in_popular_culture

8) Will-ee the dog

He exemplifies the fact that Henley-Putnam University has never lost a football game.