

Table of Contents

Section 1: General Participation Guidelines

Section 2: Student Code of Conduct

Section 3: Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs at UC Sanctioned Events

Section 4: Campus Walking Group – No Vehicle

Section 5: Campus Driving Group – Vehicle (No Float)

Section 6: Campus Driving Group – Constructed Float

Section 7: Entry Reviews – Float Sketches

Section 8: Parade Information Sessions

Section 9: Float Construction

Section 10: Float Vehicles

Section 11: Fire Prevention

Section 12: Parade Check-In

Section 13: Criteria for Judging Constructed Floats

Section 1: General Participation Guidelines

- The 2025 Homecoming Parade will be held on Saturday, October 25. The Homecoming Parade will start four hours prior to kickoff which is typically announced 6-10 days before the event. Parade lineup begins five hours prior to kickoff.
- All groups must have completed the online application and paid the appropriate application fee by **Friday, September 26, 2025**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- All registered UC student organizations participating in the Homecoming Parade must be in good standing with the Center for Student Involvement (CSI).
- **The Homecoming Parade welcomes two types of campus groups:**
 - **Student Organizations:** One of the 600+ officially registered student clubs and groups recognized by the Center for Student Involvement (CSI).
 - **Campus Partners:** Official academic, administrative and campus life units represented by faculty and staff.
- At least one member of each participating group in the parade must attend an in-person or virtual Parade Information Session. See Information Session dates in **Section 12 – Parade Information Sessions**.
- All parade participants' signs, banners and float decor should only feature the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. **See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy.**
- Political campaigning by any individual or organization as a part of the Homecoming Parade is prohibited.
- Articles, promotional items, favors, and candy may not be tossed out or thrown, but they may be handed out by walking participants. Violators will first be issued a verbal warning from a UC Alumni Association staff member.

After that, if items continue to be thrown, the group may be removed from the parade by security personnel.

- The Homecoming Parade is a family-friendly event. All music should be appropriate for the setting.
- **Careless and reckless driving will not be tolerated.** No excessive speed, donuts, wheelies, etc. The UC Alumni Association staff will notify you of this violation and may ask you to cease participation in the parade. Police personnel can remove a vehicle from the parade at their discretion.
- The UC Alumni Association (UCAA) reserves the right to disqualify any participant(s) or group(s) who have violated any rule. Any participant(s) or group(s) who are removed from the parade will be banned from participating in future Homecoming parades for a minimum of one year. Further, UCAA will resolve any disputes, conflicting claims or ambiguities concerning the rules and UCAA's decision concerning such disputes shall be final. All decisions will be made by UCAA and are final. UCAA may waive or modify any of these rules in its sole discretion.

Section 2: Student Code of Conduct

All participants must follow the UC Student Code of Conduct during lineup and for the entirety of the parade. Failure to do so will result in removal from the Homecoming Parade. The full Student Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

Section 3: Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs at University of Cincinnati Sanctioned Student Events

It is the goal of the University of Cincinnati to maintain an on-campus environment that is conducive to intellectual, emotional, and social growth of all members of its community. The University of Cincinnati has established the following policy governing the possession, sale, and consumption of alcohol on its campuses. It is the university's intention through these policies to be clear about university

consequences attributed to irresponsible or illegal usage of alcohol on campus. The university shall implement and enforce the laws of the state of Ohio as stated in the [**Ohio Revised Code**](#).

It is the responsibility of each student, staff, and faculty member to be familiar with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and the provisions of this policy and to conduct themselves accordingly. Participants in the UC Homecoming Parade, including students, faculty, and/or staff are not permitted to possess and/or consume beer or intoxicating liquor before and/or during the parade in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4: Campus Walking Group – No Vehicle

Groups of UC students, faculty and/or staff who represent a registered student organization, college or department who are walking with no vehicle.

- All registered UC student organizations participating in the Homecoming Parade must be in good standing with CSI.
- **A maximum of 25 people** is allowed in a walking group with no vehicle.
- Each official parade entry is permitted to create and carry signs or banners featuring only the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. [**See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy**](#).
- At least one member of each group participating in the parade must attend an in-person or virtual Parade Information Session. See Information Session dates in **Section 12 – Parade Information Sessions**.

Section 5: Campus Driving Group – Vehicle (No Float)

Group of UC students, faculty and/or staff who represent a registered student organization, college or department who will have individuals walking with and riding in a vehicle.

- All registered UC student organizations participating in the Homecoming Parade must be in good standing with CSI.
- At least one member of each group participating in the parade must attend an in-person or virtual Parade Information Session. See Information Session dates in **Section 8 – Parade Information Sessions**.
- Each official parade entry is permitted to create and carry signs or banners featuring only the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. [See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy](#).
- The number of passengers in a vehicle must not exceed its safe occupancy limit.
- **A maximum of 10 people** is allowed to walk alongside the vehicle but must stay clear of the vehicle's path.
- Once you have started the parade procession, please keep moving approximately 20 feet behind the entry in front of you and keep your speed at or below 5 mph.

Section 6: Campus Driving Group – Constructed Float:

Group of UC students, faculty and/or staff who represent a registered student organization, college or department who will have individuals walking with and riding on a constructed float. A float is defined as a decorated platform, usually built on a vehicle or towed behind one, which is used to carry people or elaborate displays. Any vehicle towing another unit is considered a constructed float and must comply with all float regulations.

- All registered UC student organizations participating in the Homecoming Parade must be in good standing with CSI.
- At least one member of each group participating in the parade must attend an in-person or virtual Parade Information Session. See Information Session dates in **Section 8 – Parade Information Sessions**.

- Each official parade entry is permitted to create and carry signs or banners featuring only the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. [See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy.](#)
- Construction and design for floats submitted by student organizations should be done solely by UC students. All float decor should feature only the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. [See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy.](#)
- Floats must not exceed safe occupancy limits, and all riders must be securely positioned in accordance with safety protocols to ensure clear visibility for the driver at all times.
- **A maximum of 10 people** is allowed to walk alongside the float but must stay clear of the vehicle's path.
- Once you have started the parade procession, please keep moving approximately 20 feet behind the entry in front of you and keep your speed at or below 5 mph.
- Must follow all guidelines stated in **Section 9 – Float Construction.**
- Must follow all guidelines stated in **Section 10 – Float Vehicles.**
- Any float being constructed must pass the Cincinnati Fire Prevention Code (CFPC) regulations pertaining to the floats. This rule is explained thoroughly in **Section 11 – Fire Prevention.**
- All Banner and Float sketches or photos must be submitted for approval by **Friday, September 26, 2025**, to be considered for participation in the Homecoming Parade. See **Section 11 – Entry Reviews** for more details.

Section 7 Entry Reviews – Float Sketches

- All groups applying to participate as a Campus Driving Group – Constructed Float - must complete the Parade Participant Review Form by **Friday, September 26, 2025.**

- Sketches and/or photos must be submitted in a PDF file and show a reasonable representation of the constructed float with precise dimensions for height, length, and width clearly noted.
- The form must include a list of the names, email addresses and phone numbers of group contacts. If two organizations are co-sponsoring a constructed float, both organizations must submit a contact person.
- Floats may only represent the Homecoming theme, general UC taglines or spirit phrases, and/or group name. **See UC Name, Brand and Logo Policy.**
- All submissions will be reviewed on **Monday, September 29** by the committee. If a revised design is needed, the group will be **notified via email on Tuesday, Sept. 30 and have until Thursday, Oct. 2 (48 hours) to submit an updated design.**
- The committee will **review any resubmitted designs on Friday, Oct. 3** and make a final decision on approving or declining the group's participation.
- If a group is declined, they may not change their registration type to a different category. They will not be able to participate in the parade, and the registration fee will be refunded.

Section 8: Parade Information Sessions

All Parade Information Sessions will be held October 6-7, 2025. A representative from each registered group must attend the information session. If a group does not attend an information session, they will not be able to participate in the parade, and the registration fee will be refunded.

2025 Information Session Offerings – All sessions will be hosted on Microsoft Teams

Session Dates & Times:

- Monday, Oct. 6 – Noon-1 p.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Noon-1 p.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Section 9: Float Construction

- All floats must be pulled by a towing vehicle.
- Hand holds, side rails, or other adequate support shall be constructed and/or provided whenever float personnel are required to ride in standing position or when they are stationed within two (2) feet of the edge of the parade float.
- If a float is not built to satisfactory conditions according to the parade committee, it will not be pulled in the parade.
- A float can be no longer than forty (40) feet in length.
- For the combination of vehicles which are coupled together (such as pulling and a float), the total float unit can be no longer than sixty-five (65) feet in length.
- For all floats, the maximum width is nine (9) feet and the maximum height is thirteen (13) feet.
- The ground clearance of a float bed shall not be higher than four (4) feet or less than two (2) feet.
- The pulling vehicle can be no wider than eight (8) feet and no taller than thirteen (13) feet.
- Any decorative float skirt must have a ground clearance of at least two (2) inches above the surface of the street.

Section 10: Float Vehicles

- All floats must be pulled by a towing vehicle.
- The float must be built on some sort of flat bed, cart or trailer.
- A parade float must be equipped with a tow-ring or cable attached to it.

- Once you have started the parade procession, please keep moving approximately 20 feet behind the entry in front of you and keep your speed at or below 5 mph.
- Auxiliary supplies of gasoline, oil, or other fuels shall NOT be carried on the parade float or the towing vehicle.
- The float will be disqualified from the awards competition if your vehicle does not start or if you do not have another vehicle there to move your float.
- Special Event Insurance will be purchased by the UC Alumni Association covering bodily injury and property damage, which is in place for parade spectators. There is no vehicle coverage as a part of this insurance policy.

Section 11: Fire Prevention

- Smoking and use of any open flame shall not be permitted on or near any float.
- Displays on floats shall not use any fireworks or explosives.
- The float will be provided with a fire extinguisher at no charge by the UC Alumni Association. It is required that this fire extinguisher be on the float or vehicle during the parade. Fire extinguishers will be handed out at parade check in and must be returned to the UC Alumni Association immediately after the parade on **Saturday, October 25, 2025**. Groups failing to return the fire extinguisher *will* be charged the cost of a replacement.
- All materials used in the construction of the float (tissue paper, paint, etc.) shall meet the "Field Test" Match Flame Test. These are described in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard #701 entitled "Fire Tests for Flame Resistant Textiles and Films," of date designated in the Section CFPC-1-09.05 (N).
- Bring the package of pomps used and/or bottles of smoke machine fluids used for the parade for the Fire Marshal to inspect.

Section 12: Parade Check In

Timing

- The Homecoming Parade will start four hours prior to kickoff, which is typically announced 6-10 days before the event. Parade lineup begins five hours prior to kickoff.
- All participants will be notified via email of the parade start time and lineup start time as soon as game time is announced.
- All groups will check in with members of the UC Alumni Association and Student Alumni Council at designated check-in location on Calhoun Street.

Constructed Floats

- A member of the UC Alumni Association will confirm that the design of the float matches the submitted design.
- A representative from the Cincinnati Fire Department will inspect the float construction to ensure it meets fire safety requirements.
- After passing inspection, the group will receive a float number magnet and a fire extinguisher. The assigned number must be placed on the right side of the float before the float will be allowed to proceed in the parade. **The magnet and fire extinguisher must be returned at the end of the parade route.**

Parade Lineup

- Once checked in, all groups will proceed down Calhoun Street to line up.
- Groups with vehicles or constructed floats will be placed on the left side of Calhoun Street when facing Hughes High School. All other groups (with walking groups, marching bands, or spirit squads) will be placed on the right side of Calhoun Street.

- The parade lineup will begin between Long Bar (251 Calhoun Street) and DiBella's Subs (265 Calhoun Street).
- Each participating organization will be assigned a position in the parade lineup as they arrive that day.

Section 13: Criteria for Judging Constructed Floats

- Float judging will be based on the following criteria:
 - Overall visual appearance and first impression
 - Adherence to the Homecoming theme
 - Incorporation of the football game/opponent
 - Mechanics /Innovative design
 - Creativity and execution of submitted design
 - Neatness and craftsmanship
- The following grading system will be used: 1-2 Poor, 3-4 Fair, 5-6 Average, 7-8 Good, 9-10 Excellent.
- Floats will be judged from the viewing stand at Clifton Court Patio. This will display the right side of vehicle or float to the panel of judges.
- Results: The results of the float judging will be announced during the halftime presentation of the Homecoming football game at Historic Nippert Stadium.
- Floats will be disqualified from the parade if they are not in compliance with all the homecoming parade float rules and the CFPC safety rules.
- The driver must always remain with the float, or the float will be disqualified.
- All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be alcohol free, or the entire float will be disqualified.

- Security personnel along the parade route have the right to remove float participants from the parade and/or float who demonstrate inappropriate and unruly behavior. This will result in the entire float being disqualified.
- Any violations of laws, rules, and requests may result in the offender being formally charged and/or ejected from the parade. This will result in the entire float being disqualified.

Questions about the 2025 Homecoming Parade? Contact the UC Alumni Association via email at homecoming@foundation.uc.edu.