

## **Section 1: Student Walking Group and Campus Float Group Rules**

Registered UC student organizations in good standing with the office of Student Activities and Leadership Development (SALD) are eligible to participate in the Homecoming Parade provided the following requirements are met:

- All registered UC student organizations participating in the Homecoming Parade must be in good standing with SALD. Since the floats are representative of student work, all construction and design should be done by UC students. This eliminates all outside help. Any float that uses prohibited accessories detailed in the "Float Vehicle" section will be disqualified.
- All organizations must have completed the online registration form and paid the appropriate registration fee by **Friday, September 27, 2024**.
- If applicable, a detailed drawing and description of the float or decorated vehicle is to be submitted to the **Homecoming Parade Chair Jacob Schulte via email ([schul2jt@mail.uc.edu](mailto:schul2jt@mail.uc.edu)) by Monday, Sept. 30, 2024**. More details on entries are found in the "Entries: Float Sketches and Theme" and "Construction" sections.
- All parade participants' signs, banners and floats should only feature the Homecoming theme, general UC spirit phrases, and/or organization name.
- Political campaigning by any individual or organization as a part of the Homecoming Parade is prohibited.
- At least one member of each organization participating in the parade must attend the in-person or virtual Parade Information Session.
- Each float must pass the following Cincinnati Fire Prevention Code (CFPS) regulations pertaining to the floats. This rule is explained thoroughly in the "Fire Prevention" section below.

## **Section 2: 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 a fire extinguisher at no charge by the UC Alumni Association. A driver's license will be required as a deposit. Groups failing to return the fire extinguisher *will* be charged the cost of a replacement. 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 19, 2024**.
- 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).

- See attached copy of the standard from Volume 7, 1990 edition of the NFPA Fire Safety Codes.
- **Bring the package of pomps used and bottles of smoke machine fluids used to the parade for the Fire Marshal to inspect.**

### **Section 3: Float Construction**

- **ALL FLOATS MUST BE PULLED BY A TOWING VEHICLE.**
- All music, horns, loudspeakers and extraneous noise is prohibited.
- 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 a satisfactory condition 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 no taller than 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.
- The decorative float skirt must have a ground clearance of at least two (2) inches above the surface of the street.

### **Section 4: Float Vehicles**

- Floats must be pulled by a towing vehicle in satisfactory condition, which will be determined by the parade committee.
- The float must be built on some sort of flat bed or cart.
- 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.
- Due to the number of entries, the pace of the parade must keep moving. All dances/performances may start *after* turning onto Clifton Avenue, not on Calhoun Street.
- Careless and reckless driving will not be tolerated. No excessive speed, donuts, wheelies, etc. The UC Alumni Association staff may notify you of this violation and may ask you to cease participation in the parade. Police personnel can remove the

- vehicle from the parade and the organization will be banned from participating in future Homecoming parades for a minimum of one year.
- 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.
  - The float will be disqualified if it uses furniture, musical equipment, and/or motors.
  - All parade floats should only feature the Homecoming theme, general UC spirit phrases, and/or organization name.
  - 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 5: Float Personnel

- A maximum of 10 people are allowed to accompany the float and vehicle.  
Divided as follows:
  - Four riding on the vehicle and float (this includes driver)
  - Six in front of or on the side of the vehicle and float.

### Section 6: Community Participants

- Community Participants (entries representing entities outside of the UC ecosystem) taking part in the Homecoming Parade can do so on an invitation-only basis by the UC Alumni Association.
- Only the company logo or name is permitted on the float or vehicle. Promotional information/advertising elements are not permitted on any part of the float or vehicle.
- All parade floats should only feature the Homecoming theme, general UC spirit phrases, and/or community organization name.
- Political campaigning by any individual or community organization as a part of the Homecoming Parade is prohibited.
- Advertising may be displayed on a banner that can be carried in front of the float by two (2) people. The banner is to be 9'X3'.
- **Articles/promotional items may not be tossed out or thrown from a vehicle, but they may be handed out by walking participants.**

### Section 7: Float Sketches and Theme

Emails of floats/vehicle description will only be accepted if they meet the following criteria:

- Sketches must be submitted in a PDF file and show a reasonable representation of the float with precise dimensions for height, length, and width clearly noted.

- The body of the email must contain a list of the names, emails, addresses and phone numbers of float contacts. If two organizations are co-sponsoring a float or decorated vehicle, both organizations must submit a contact person.
- The float must represent/incorporate the Homecoming theme “Eye of the Bearcat.”
- **A detailed drawing and description of the float or decorated vehicle is to be submitted to the Homecoming Parade Chair Jacob Schulte via email ([schul2jt@mail.uc.edu](mailto:schul2jt@mail.uc.edu)) by Monday, Sept. 30, 2024.** Revisions must be submitted to the Homecoming Parade Chair by **Monday, October 7, 2024.** Changes or revisions which are not submitted or approved by the parade committee will disqualify the organization from the award competition.

### **Section 8: Review of the Float Entries**

- The Student Alumni Council and UC Alumni Association will review all float entries submitted.
- If the committee decides that an entry would violate good taste, does not conform to the Homecoming theme, or duplicates another entry that was received previously, then the organization which submitted the entry will be contacted immediately through the designated representatives and will be directed to make changes.
- If the entry does not satisfy all requirements, it will be returned to the organization involved. Entries will be approved to participate in the parade only AFTER they have met all requirements.

### **Section 9: Before the Parade**

- **TIME:** The Homecoming Parade will start four hours before game time, which isn't announced until 6-10 days beforehand. The parade lineup begins **five hours prior to game time.** Any group failing to line up at the appropriate time **will be docked 10% of the total possible score. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- Any group failing to line up by **thirty minutes beforehand** will **be disqualified and will not participate in the parade. NO EXCEPTIONS. For example:**
  - If the game starts at noon, the parade will start at 8:00 a.m. Floats must arrive at 7:00 a.m.
  - If the game starts at 3:00 p.m., the parade will start at 11:00 a.m. Floats must arrive at 10:00 a.m.
  - If the game starts at 7:00 p.m., the parade will start at 3:00 p.m. Floats must arrive at 2:00 p.m.
  - The above examples do not include all possible game start times, just common ones. Once the time is announced, all participants will be contacted with the official start time and arrival time for the parade.
- **POSITION:** All participating organizations will be assigned a position in the parade lineup as they arrive that day.
- **ASSIGNED NUMBERS:** These will be given to each float or decorated vehicle for easy identification. The assigned number must be placed on the right side of the float before you will be allowed to proceed in the parade.
- **FORMATION:** The parade lineup will form along Calhoun Street. All participating organizations must enter Calhoun Street from Jefferson Avenue to be checked in at Parade Check In at The George Parking Lot (42 Calhoun Street). If the float or decorated vehicle is not checked in, it will be considered late.
- **PARADE ROUTE:** Lineup takes place on Calhoun Street and the parade route is along Clifton Avenue.
- **RESULTS:** The results of the float judging will be announced during the halftime of the football game at Historic Nippert Stadium.

### Section 10: Criteria for Judging

- Float judging will be based on the following criteria:
  - Overall visual appearance and effect on first impression
  - Originality, imagination and cleverness relative to theme
  - Adherence to the theme
  - Incorporation of the Homecoming football game opponent
  - Mechanics
  - Most creative use of colors
  - Neatness and craftsmanship
  - Resemblance to entry sketch
- 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 twice; first while parked in parade position and finally from the viewing stand at Clifton Court Patio.

- **FLOATS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE PARADE IF THEY ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL OF THE HOMECOMING PARADE FLOAT RULES AND THE CFPC SAFETY RULES.**
- **THE DRIVER MUST REMAIN WITH THE FLOAT AT ALL TIMES 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.**
- **CARELESS AND RECKLESS DRIVING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
- **UC REPRESENTATIVES, UC POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE FLOAT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PARADE/FLOAT WHO DEMONSTRATE INAPPROPRIATE AND UNRULY BEHAVIOR.**
- **ANY VIOLATIONS OF LAWS, RULES, AND REQUESTS MAY RESULT IN YOU BEING FORMALLY CHARGED AND/OR EJECTED FROM PARADE.**

### **Section 11: Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs at University of Cincinnati Sanction 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 12: 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 Contact can be found here: <https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/conduct/student-code-of-conduct.html>.

### **Section 13: Additional Information**

The UCAA reserves the right to disqualify any participant or winner and may refuse to award any prize to a person who is ineligible or has violated any rule, gained unfair

advantage in participating in the contest, or obtained winner status using fraudulent means. Further, the UCAA will resolve any disputes, conflicting claims or ambiguities concerning the rules and the UCAA's decision concerning such disputes shall be final. All decisions will be made by the UCAA and are final. The UCAA may waive any of these rules in its sole discretion.

**2024 Homecoming Parade Rules are subject to change at any time.** You will be notified of any changes that may occur.

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