



# ONCE UPON A HOMECOMING

**Missouri State University Homecoming 2025**

*Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>*

*Updated: July 28, 2025*

# Welcome To Homecoming 2025!

Missouri State University Community,

This year's Homecoming Committee is extremely excited to get Missouri State University's 2025 Homecoming underway! The 2025 Homecoming committee has spent the past few months thoughtfully preparing this packet and is committed to delivering an unforgettable Homecoming week. Inside, you'll find everything you need to know before and during the week's events. With Missouri State's recent move to Conference USA, the committee felt it was the perfect time to introduce fresh ideas and changes. As we have made significant changes, we ask you to **CAREFULLY READ** all sections of the packet to ensure smooth planning and preparation for every event. Keep in mind that Homecoming Committee and the Office of Student Engagement reserve the right to reapprove or alter anything throughout the week if deemed necessary.

This year, we have a theme that will excite the whole bear community! We wanted to select something that will embrace a different experience and truly challenge participants' creativity. Our 2025 Homecoming theme is **“Once Upon a Homecoming”**. This theme embodies the magic of fairytales and the wonder of storytelling, drawing inspiration from imagination and beloved childhood tales. Homecoming committee is excited to see how participants will bring storybook moments to life.

The goal of every Homecoming is to create an environment where all students feel supported, heard, and included. With this year's theme, the Homecoming committee invites you to showcase your creativity, celebrate your Missouri State pride, and demonstrate cultural competence, community engagement, and ethical leadership throughout the week. Homecoming is more than just a tradition; it is a time to connect with others, show what it means to be a bear, and create lasting memories at Missouri State!

Please utilize this packet as your primary source of all information pertaining to Homecoming week. We will be posting regularly about events and deadlines to our Instagram page (@MoStateHoco), so be sure to follow for any last-minute changes or updates. The following pages are an overview of the week of Homecoming, deadlines, and committee contact information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience.

**Best wishes and Happy Homecoming,**

Bekah Gunter  
*2025 Homecoming Chair*

Adam Comer  
*2025 Homecoming Advisor*

McKayla Ragle  
*2025 Homecoming GA*

# Committee Contact Information

Name	Position	Email
Adam Comer	Advisor	AdamComer@missouristate.edu
McKayla Ragle	Graduate Assistant	TraditionsCouncilGA@missouristate.edu
Bekah Gunter	Homecoming Chair	Homecoming@missouristate.edu
Sindhiya Ramakrishnan	Royalty Coordinator	HocoRoyalty@missouristate.edu
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Grayce Knisell	Kickoff Co-Coordinator	HocoKickoff@missouristate.edu
Luci Siler	Kickoff Co-Coordinator	HocoKickoff@missouristate.edu
Max Miller	Kickoff Co-Coordinator	HocoKickoff@missouristate.edu
Jared Novak	Rockstar Co-Coordinator	HocoRockstar@missouristate.edu
Krista Marks	Rockstar Co-Coordinator	HocoRockstar@missouristate.edu
Kaile Harper	MO State Live Co-Coordinator	HocoSpirit@missouristate.edu
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Kobe Hendrix	Parade Co-Coordinator	HocoParade@missouristate.edu
Walter Reyes	Philanthropy Coordinator	HocoPhilanthropy@missouristate.edu
Macy Godfrey	Traditions Council Representative	TcSpiritEvents@missouristate.edu
Emalee Granville	Traditions Council Representative	TcSpiritEvents@missouristate.edu
AC Baumann	Student Alumni Association Representative	Ab654s@missouristate.edu



**This Year's Opponent:**



**University of Texas at El Paso**

**El Paso, Texas**

# **Homecoming Forms & Deadlines**

**\*\*\*ALL AVAILABLE ON BEARLINK\*\*\***

## **Friday, August 1, 2025- 12 PM**

- Homecoming Packet Released

## **Monday, August 18, 2025- 8 AM**

- Homecoming Contact & Event Entry Form Available
- Homecoming Royalty Packet Released (See Royalty Packet for Deadlines)

## **Friday, September 5, 2025- 4:30 PM**

- Optional Information Meeting #1
  - PSU 313

## **Wednesday, September 10, 2025- 5 PM**

- Homecoming Contact & Entry Form Closes

## **Friday, September 12, 2025**

- Homecoming Team Pairings will be emailed out @ 9:00 AM
- Theme Form Available @ 12:00 PM

## **Friday, September 19, 2025- 11:59 PM**

- Theme Form Closes

## **Monday, September 22, 2025 –10 AM**

- Theme will be announced to teams via email
- Event Entry & Description Form Open

## **Friday, October 3, 2025**

- Rockstar Entry form due

## **Monday, October 6, 2025**

- Mandatory Information Meeting @ 5:30 PM
  - PSU 313
- Event Entry & Description Forms Close @ 11:59 PM

## **Friday, October 10, 2025 –5:00 PM**

- Rockstar costumes/props/set ideas are due to the Rockstar form found on BearLink (1 form)
- Rockstar Song submission form due (1 form)

## **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 –11:59 PM**

- Rockstar Audition Sign-Up Closes

## **Thursday, October 16, 2025**

- Rockstar song Dropbox due by 5:00 PM
- Rockstar Auditions; PSU Theater; 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

## **Friday, October 17, 2025-4:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

- Rockstar Auditions; PSU Theater

**Thursday, October 29, 2025- 5:00 PM**

- University-affiliated parade entry forms are to be completed

**Thursday, October 30, 2025- 5:00 PM**

- Rockstar Dress Rehearsal Sign-Up Closes

**Friday, October 31, 2025- 4PM**

- Spirit Banners Due
  - Office of Student Engagement

**Thursday, November 7, 2025- 5:00 PM**

- All community parade entry forms must be completed

**Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

- Mandatory Rockstar Dress Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 13, 2025- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

- Mandatory Mo State Live Skit Rehearsal
  - Time slot requested closer to date

# **Homecoming Calendar of Events**

## **Sunday, November 9, 2025**

- Chalk N' Rock & Window Painting
  - Chalk N' Rock: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM
  - Window Painting: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
  - Location: Plaster Student Union North Patio
- Kickoff Festivities
  - 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM
  - Location: Bear Head Plaza (by Football Stadium)

## **Monday, November 10, 2025**

- King & Queen Voting Available @ 12:01 AM on MyMissouriState.edu
- Donation Drive Begins @ 1:00 PM
  - Location: Bear Cave & Center for Community Engagement (PSU 1<sup>st</sup> Floor by Starbucks)
- Spirit Banner Judging
  - 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM
  - Location: Plaster Student Union

## **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

- Rockstar
  - Starts @ 7:00 PM
  - Location: Hammons Student Center

## **Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

- Field Day Presented by Traditions Council
  - Starts @ 4:00 PM
  - Location: McDonald Arena

## **Thursday, November 13, 2025**

- Mo State Live
  - Starts @ 7:30 PM
  - Location: Hammons Student Center

# **Homecoming Calendar of Events**



### **Friday, November 14, 2025**

- Donation Drive Ends @ 2:00 PM
  - Location: Bear Cave & Center for Community Engagement (PSU 1st Floor by Starbucks)
- King & Queen Voting Ends @ 5:00 PM
- Headphone Disco Presented by Student Activities Council
  - 7:00 PM- 10:00 PM
  - Location: PSU Grand Ballroom

### **Saturday, November 15, 2025**

- Band of Bears Homecoming Parade @ 9:00 AM
  - Location: John Q. Hammons Parkway
- Bear Fest Village Homecoming Tailgate @ 11:00 AM
  - Location: Bear Fest Village
- MSU Bears Football Game @ 2:00 PM
  - Homecoming Royalty Coronation
  - Location: Plaster Stadium

# **Updates with Homecoming Forms**

Based on feedback from the most recent Homecoming Survey, the 2025 Homecoming committee has decided to pre-determine team pairings within each category and assign one unique theme per team per category. For example, only one FSL team may select "Hansel & Gretel," but a student organization may also choose that theme separately. This approach is intended to promote creativity and ensure each team brings a fresh, original perspective to their Homecoming presentations.

- **Pre-Determined Teams:**

- To create fair and balanced teams, each organization is required to complete the Homecoming Contact & Event Entry Form. This form will collect essential details, including primary contact information, estimated group size, and which events your organization plans to participate in.
  - Homecoming Committee & The Office of Student Engagement reserve the right to match teams to their discretion. If your organization has concerns or conflicts with assigned pairings, please contact the committee promptly.

- **Team Theme Assignments:**

- After team pairings are announced, the theme form will be open for teams to submit their top five themes of their choosing. Teams may submit up to five theme options if they would like to provide additional backups. Themes will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis according to the time the form is submitted.
- Themes may be repeated across different categories (FSL, Student Organizations, and Residence Halls), but no theme may be used more than once within the same category. This process ensures a wide variety of creative ideas and fair opportunities for all participating teams.

With these changes in place, the standard event entry forms will open on **Monday, September 22, 2025**, following the announcement of team pairings and theme assignments. These forms will include questions similar to previous years, such as a description of your organization's plans for each event.

## **Optional Homecoming Informational Meeting**

Date: Friday, September 5, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: PSU 313 (Parli Room)

The Homecoming committee invites any student interested in learning about this year's Homecoming at our informational night. The purpose of this meeting is to provide more clarity with Homecoming, especially with the new changes this year. This meeting also allows participants with the opportunity to ask questions prior to submitting their forms.

We recommend individuals to bring a laptop or notebook to take notes. If your organization is participating in Homecoming for the first time, or the first time in a few years, we highly encourage you to consider attending this meeting.

## **Mandatory Homecoming Informational Meeting**

Date: Monday, October 6, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: LIB 101

Each participating organization must have **AT LEAST ONE** representative present at the meeting. This requirement applies even if the organization is part of a team with other organizations.

For example, if a team consists of three different organizations, there must be at least one representative from each of those three organizations present at the meeting.

Any participating organization that does not have a representative present will be **DISQUALIFIED** from participating in Homecoming 2025.

## **Attention Student Organization Leaders**

Please ensure you have completed the annual registration form to re-register your organization for the 2025-2026 school year. You can do this by following the instructions on this link: [Student Organization Registration](#)

Your organization will not be allowed to compete in Homecoming unless they have registered with the link above.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to the Office of Student Engagement ([StudentEngagement@MissouriState.edu](mailto:StudentEngagement@MissouriState.edu))!

# **Points Information**

Missouri State's student organizations will be divided into three separate divisions: Student Organizations, Residence Life, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. They will compete for points throughout the week of Homecoming to win their respective divisions.

Student Organizations, Residence Life, and Fraternity and Sorority Life will be allowed to team up with other organizations within their division. Meaning points/ranking will be done according to teams, not individual organizations.

Clarification for working in teams: If the team places first in an event, they will receive participation points and placing points as a team. There is not an option to enter separately into one event and as a team in another event, teams are scored and judged as a team for every event.

Entry forms are due **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 11:59 PM via BearLink.**

Organizations are not allowed to participate as part of more than one team or join a team after they have sent in their entry forms. No changes or teams can be made after entry forms are submitted via BearLink. If there are any questions regarding entry forms, please contact the Team Competition Coordinator or Homecoming Chair before **Monday, October 6, 2025.**

# **Total Score Ties**

## **In the event of a tie at the end of Homecoming Week:**

In case of a tie at the end of Homecoming Week, the highest and lowest point values for the tied organizations/teams will be dropped, and the remaining points will be averaged. The organization/team with the highest average will win. For example:

	Banner	Window Painting	Chalk N Rock	Rockstar	Field Day	Mo State Live	New Average
Team A	<del>50</del>	150	250	<del>325</del>	0	275	$675/4=168.75$
Team B	100	250	150	225	<del>50</del>	275	$725/4=181.25$

In this example, Team B would take 1<sup>st</sup> place in their division

## **In the event of a tie within a specific event:**

While some Homecoming events have tiebreakers defined within their rules, some do not. In the event of a tie during any Homecoming event or competition, the final decision regarding the outcome of the tie shall be made at the discretion of the Homecoming Committee Chair and Advisors, alongside judges (when applicable). Once a decision has been reached, it will be communicated officially to all participants, it is final and not subject to appeal.

# Homecoming Points Breakdown

Event	Participation	Placing (Additional Points)
Kickoff	50	1st - 150 2nd - 100 3rd - 50
Banner Competition	50	1st - 150 2nd - 100 3rd - 50
Chalk N' Rock	150	1st - 150 2nd - 100 3rd - 50
PSU Window Painting	150	1st - 150 2nd - 100 3rd - 50
Donation Drive	100	1st - 200 2nd - 150 3rd - 100
Rockstar*	75 (Auditioning) 150 (Participating)	1st - 400 2nd - 300 3rd - 200  Bonus Points: 1st - 10 2nd - 5 3rd - 3
Field Day	50	1st - 200 2nd - 150 3rd - 100
Mo State Live	75 (Auditioning) 200 (Participating)	1st - 400 2nd - 300 3rd - 200
Parade – Walking Entry	150	1st - 300 2nd - 200 3rd - 100
Parade – Decorated Car	150	1st - 300 2nd - 200 3rd - 100
Parade – Float	400	1st - 500 2nd - 400 3rd - 300
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	1,750 (Including auditioning and participating, not including	2,910 (1st in each event)

	additional points earned from Donation Drive participation)	
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**\*Refer to Rockstar Section 4 II. A.**



# Overall Guidelines

Every Homecoming event has its own unique set of rules and regulations listed further in this packet. Please read the rules for each event carefully to avoid any point deductions or disqualifications. ***In addition to the rules outlined for each individual event, the following rules are applicable to ALL events sponsored and hosted by the MSU Homecoming Committee.***

1. To compete in any Homecoming event, the organization must complete an entry form and submit all relevant information. Entry forms are to be completed on the Homecoming BearLink page by **11:59 PM on Monday, October 6, 2025.**
  - All forms will be due on the designated BearLink form on the day and time listed in the packet. The forms can be found on BearLink under the Homecoming organization page underneath the forms tab. Feel free to reach out to the Homecoming Advisors or Homecoming Chair with questions.
2. If competing as a team, **only one** organization must complete the entry form **and** indicate the organizations they are competing with. Organizations in teams will compete as a team for **ALL** the Homecoming events.
3. All entries will be sensitive to all identities and groups. Any attempt to represent or mock a culture, ethnicity, race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or socio-economic class through appearance, actions, or language will not be tolerated. Entries that do not stay true to our three Public Affairs pillars and violate this rule may result in consequences ranging from point deductions to disqualification by the authority of the Homecoming Leadership Team.

4. To compete in Homecoming, an organization cannot be on probation with the Office of Student Conduct, Office of Student Engagement, or Fraternity and Sorority Life. If an organization competing as a part of a team is placed on probation, they will no longer be allowed to assist their team, and their name cannot appear on any Homecoming-related materials. For example, the name of the organization on probation cannot be listed in the PSU Window Painting design.
5. All participating organizations **must check in and check out** with the committee member(s) in charge of each event. Failure to do this will result in a five-point deduction.
6. Cancellation or postponement of an event due to weather or other circumstances is at the discretion of the Homecoming Leadership Team and/or the Office of Student Engagement. Notice of such cancellations or postponements will be made directly to each team contact individual (per information given on the contact form) via email and social media. If no notice is given, each team is to assume the event will still occur.
7. The chosen judges for all events will be the primary judges. All judge's decisions are final. If you have any questions about a rule or need further interpretation of a rule, please ask and contact the Homecoming Advisor.

# **Specific Guidelines for Art-Related Events**

The following rules are specific to **ALL** the events that are art-related:  
(Spirit Banner, Chalk-N-Rock, and PSU Window Painting)

1. The name of the organization(s) must be **clearly displayed and fully spelled out (not in Greek letters or acronyms)**. Organizations on probation cannot be included in the design. Displaying the names of these organizations will result in a five-point deduction.
2. No entry may suggest or include any profane language or action, vulgar or sexually suggestive material, or anything perceived as promoting alcohol or drug use. Additionally, no entry shall contain political, commercial, or controversial themes or slanderous statements.
3. Decorations and artwork will be displayed all week long; therefore, decorations must be done with good taste and incorporate the Homecoming theme of “Once Upon a Homecoming”.

## **Disclaimer**

*In the case of ambiguity or contradiction within the packet, ALL decisions are up to the discretion of the 2025 Missouri State University Homecoming Committee. In the case of clarification, information will be shared with the necessary parties.*

# **Chalk N' Rock**

Date: Sunday, November 9, 2025 | Location: Plaster Student Union (North Patio) |  
Time: 11:15- 12:15 PM

## **Kickoff Coordinators:**

Max Miller (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Luci Siler (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Grayce Knisell (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description:**

This year we are excited to continue the tradition of Chalk N' Rock! All teams will be assigned a sidewalk square the day of the event, and everyone will chalk at the same time. Teams should showcase the Homecoming theme, "Once Upon a Homecoming" within their chalk art.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. Organizations must check in and out in front of the Plaster Student Union, at the designated Homecoming Committee table. If an organization leaves without checking out or cleaning their area, there will be a five-point deduction.
  - 1.1. Check in will start at 10:45 am in front of the PSU
2. Sidewalk squares will be assigned randomly by the Homecoming Committee.
3. Time limit for chalking will be one hour, from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Any organization found chalking outside the designated time will be deducted five points.
4. Organizations must provide their own washable sidewalk chalk. **ALL chalk must remain in its original packaging.** NO paint chalk can be used. All chalk **MUST** be water soluble. If an organization uses non-water-soluble chalk, they will be disqualified from the event.
5. Your team can have up to four (4) participants working at your assigned station at a time.
6. NO stencils will be permitted for this event. Teams may use tape to outline and a sponge with water to help design. The use of stencils will result in disqualification from the event.

7. Organizations are limited to chalking within their assigned squares. If an organization chawks outside of their assigned square, they will be deducted 5 points.

## **Judging Criteria: Chalk N' Rock**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points. Each criterion will be ranked on a 1-10 point scale for a perfect score of 50 points.**

Originality/Creativity	Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative
Correlation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Overall Impression	They put forth the effort to create a high-quality decoration, their hard work is apparent
MSU Pride Shown	Showcased elements of the university; amount of pride felt
Utilization of Space	Resourceful with design and used area allotted creatively

# **PSU Window Painting**

Date: Sunday, November 9, 2025 | Location: Plaster Student Union (North Patio) |  
Time: 1:00- 2:00 PM

## **Kickoff Coordinators:**

Max Miller (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Luci Siler (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Grayce Knisell (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description:**

This year we are excited to continue the tradition of PSU Window Painting! All teams will be assigned a window panel the day of the event and everyone will paint at the same time.

## **Rules and Regulations**

1. Organizations must check in and check out with the Kickoff Day Coordinator or their designee. Check in and out will be in front of the Plaster Student Union. If an organization leaves without checking out or cleaning their area, there will be a five-point (5) deduction.
  1. Check-in will begin at 12:30 pm.
2. Window panels will be assigned randomly by the Homecoming Committee. Each division will have their own section of window panels.
3. Time limit for window painting will be one hour.
4. Each team will be supplied with ten (10) bowls of paint. For each additional bowl of paint after the designated ten (10), teams will face a 5-point deduction.
5. Organizations may not bring their own paint, outside decorations, stencils, or glitter; only paint provided by the Homecoming Committee is permitted. NO markers of any kind are permitted. Use of these items not provided by the Homecoming Committee will result in disqualification from the event.
6. Organizations must supply paintbrushes and water. Organizations may also supply their own painter's tape, additional containers to hold and/or mix paint, and rulers/yardsticks.
7. A team can have up to four (4) participants working at your assigned station. Participants will be given a wristband upon check in.

8. Organizations are not to contact any PSU vendors to obtain supplies for Window Painting. This includes cups, plates, napkins, chairs, etc. If an organization contacts a PSU vendor, five (5) points will be deducted from the organization's score for Window Painting.
9. Organizations **CANNOT** use PSU bathrooms to wash out painting materials before, during, or after the event. If an organization violates this rule, they will be disqualified from the event.
10. Participants are not allowed to use water provided by the PSU for cleaning brushes, nor are they permitted to carry water from inside the PSU to use outside.
11. There can be no preparation on the windows before the official start time. This includes attaching any tape to the window. If an organization is found to have done any preparation on the window, they will be disqualified from the Homecoming event.
12. All paint, trash, and materials must be cleaned up following the event. If a team fails to clean up their assigned area, their entry will receive a **ten (10)-point deduction**.
13. Organizations are limited to painting one window panel and may not paint outside of these boundaries. Painting outside of the panel will result in a five-point deduction.

# **Judging Criteria: Window Painting**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points. Each criterion will be ranked on a 1-10 point scale for a perfect score of 50 points.**

Originality/Creativity	Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative
Correlation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme – "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Overall Impression	They put forth the effort to create a high-quality decoration, their hard work is apparent
MSU Pride Shown	Showcased elements of the university; amount of pride felt
Utilization of Space	Resourceful with design and used area allotted creatively



# **Kickoff Festivities**

Date: Sunday, November 9, 2025 | Location: Bear Head Plaza | Time: 1:00-4:00 PM

## **Kickoff Coordinators:**

Max Miller (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Luci Siler (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

Grayce Knisell (HocoKickoff@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description:**

This year, we are starting Homecoming week off with an exciting kickoff bash. This event will be open to the entire Springfield community to enjoy. This event will include many exciting activities such as inflatables, delicious catering, royalty introductions, and many more activities for all ages. Come explore many different clubs and local businesses that are tabling. There will be something for everyone! This will be a competitive Homecoming event for all participating teams. It will take place during window painting and continue afterward.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. Teams will need to check-in at their designated table in front of Bear Head Plaza. Check-in time starts at 1:00pm and ends at 2:30pm.
2. If teams attend the event but don't check-in at the check-in tables, their attendance will be marked as zero.
3. Teams are not expected to stay the whole time, but it is highly recommended that they do.
4. Scoring is based off the percentage of people that attend the event for your team. The team with the most attendance will score the highest number of points. For example, if 100 people are on team A and 75 of them attend the event, their attendance score would be 75%. If team B has 80 members but only 40 show up, their score would be 50%. Since team A has the higher attendance percentage, they would rank above team B and earn more points for this event.

# **Spirit Banner**

Date: Judging on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> | Location: Plaster Student Union |

Time: 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. Banners must be no larger than the size of a twin-size sheet. If the banner is larger than the specified size, it will not be judged or displayed.
2. The organization **MUST** punch holes at the top of the banner and reinforce the holes with grommets. If there are no holes, the banner will not be hung and judged.
3. Paint, markers, (SPRAY GLITTER ONLY), may be used to decorate the banners.
4. Banners must be submitted to the Office of Student Engagement by **4:00pm on Friday, October 31, 2025.** The banners must be dry and folded or rolled when submitted, or they will not be judged.
5. Banners must incorporate the Homecoming theme, “Once Upon a Homecoming.”
6. The name of the organization(s) must be clearly displayed on the banner and fully spelled out. If competing as a team, all organizations' names must be present.
7. No banner shall contain political, commercial, or controversial themes. If this rule is broken, the banner will be disqualified and not hung up.
8. No banner may depict alcohol/drug use, illegal acts, slanderous statements, and they **shall be sensitive to all identities and groups**. If this rule is broken, the banner will be disqualified and not hung up.
9. If banners are not picked up by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** they will be discarded. Banners will be available in the Office of Student Engagement (PSU 127) starting at **12:00 PM on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Judging Criteria: Spirit Banner**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points. Each criterion will be ranked on a 1-10 point scale for a perfect score of 50 points.**

Originality/Creativity	Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative
Correlation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme – "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Overall Impression	They put forth the effort to create a high-quality decoration, their hard work is apparent
MSU Pride Shown	Showcased elements of the university; amount of pride felt
Utilization of Space	Resourceful with design and used area allotted creatively

***First place prize for each division: \$50***

# Donation Drive

Dates: Monday, November 10- Friday, November 14

Location: Bear Cave & Center for Community Engagement (1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the PSU)

## Event Coordinator:

Walter Reyes (HocoPhilanthropy@missouristate.edu)

## Event Description:

The Philanthropic Donations Challenge will take place throughout the week of Homecoming, Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The drive will consist of one competition with five partnering organizations.

1. **Ozarks Food Harvest** provides food distribution and services to hunger-relief organizations in the Ozarks.
2. **The Bear Pantry** is a university-run resource that helps tackle food insecurity within the student body and helps break the stigma of food insecurity.
3. **The Salvation Army** is a nonprofit organization providing food, shelter, and support to those in need. Through disaster relief, rehabilitation programs, and community outreach, it uplifts vulnerable populations and strengthens communities with compassion, dignity, and practical resources.
4. **Harmony House** is a domestic violence shelter providing safe refuge, support services, and advocacy for survivors. Through emergency housing, counseling, legal assistance, and education, they empower individuals to rebuild their lives and promote a safer, healthier community for all.
5. **The Humane Society of Southwest Missouri** is a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter in Springfield. It rescues, rehabilitates, and rehomes pets, offering spay/neuter services and educational programs. Through community support, it enhances animal welfare and promotes responsible pet ownership.

From 1:00 pm on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> until 2:00 pm Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be bins outside the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and the Student Resource Center (Bear Cave), both located on the first floor of the PSU. Each team will have a labeled bin located in front of each of the two offices for

their donations. Participation in any philanthropy donation drive will result in 100 participation points being distributed to said teams.

The Homecoming Committee will count the donations each day of the drive and distribute points for the daily competition. At the end of the week, the calculations for each day will be added up to determine the overall cross-division winner of the entire week, with points being given out to first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) place.

Daily placements will be posted at the end of each day near the donation areas.

Weekly placements will be posted on Friday near donation areas as well.

**Three (3) members from each team** and other volunteers will help each day in organizing and transporting goods so they can be properly distributed to the beneficiaries.

Each day of the week will have bonus donations. These bonus donations are meant to help gather donations for a specific organization. Each bonus donation will be worth double the points. See the following list below for breakdown donation items for each day during Homecoming Week.

## **Breakdown of Bonus Donation Days & Donation Examples:**

### **Monday: Harmony House: Hygiene Drive**

- Donation examples:
  - Bath tissues
  - Tampons
  - Pads
  - Paper Towels
  - Hairspray
  - Disinfectant Wipes
  - Hand Soap with a pump

### **Tuesday: The Humane Society of Southwest Missouri: Animal Shelter Items**

- Donation Examples:
  - Dawn Dish Detergent
  - Liquid Laundry Detergent
  - Dishwashing Gloves
  - Dog Food and Cat Food (Any Bran; wet/dry)
  - Dog and Cat Treats (hard & soft; all sizes)
  - Durable/Washable Toys
  - Fleece Blankets, Flat Beds, Bathmats (Must be Machine Wash/Dryable)

### **Wednesday: Ozark Food Harvest: Food Drive**

- Donation Examples:
  - Tuna or Other Canned Meat
  - Peanut Butter
  - Boxed Meals, Rice, and Pasta
  - Canned Fruits and Vegetables
  - Cereal

### **Thursday: Salvation Army: Blanket and Soup Drive**

- Donation Examples:
  - Knit Blankets
  - Canned Soup

### **Friday: General Donation Drive**

- Anything that couldn't be donated earlier in the week can be donated today; however, all items must adhere to our donation guidelines. Items that do not meet these guidelines will not be accepted.

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Overall:**

- If there are not **three (3) members from each team** present, that team will be disqualified from earning points for that day.
- Donations must be **turned in by 2pm** every day to count for potential daily points.

### **Donation Drive:**

- Teams will compete every day during the week to earn daily points and the overall all-week donation challenge.
- The donated items will be counted, and the total number will be added to calculate daily points and placements.
- At the end of the week, the daily totals will be added together to determine who wins the weekly competition.
- Donation Guidelines:
  - o Cans cannot be disfigured in any way, such as being painted, having construction paper sleeves, having labels removed, etc.
  - o Cans cannot be over twenty ounces (20 oz)
  - o Cans cannot be expired or expire before November 17th, 2026.
  - o Bulk items will not be counted towards points. Examples: 50 lbs bags of flour, sugar, and rice. Two- to five-gallon containers of sauces. (Any gallon size packaging will be accepted)

### **Non-Food Donations:**

- o Everything must be new and in original packaging.
- o For blankets, no heated blankets or weighted blankets

### **Deductions and Disqualification:**

- o Any donations that do not fit within the rules and regulations will be a one (1) point deduction per item. If more than five (5) items do not fit within the rules, that team will be disqualified from receiving donation points for that day.

# Organized Breakdown of Points for Donation Drive:

<u><b>Donation Drive Point Breakdown</b></u>	<u><b>Daily Points (Per Division):</b></u> 1 <sup>st</sup> -100 2 <sup>nd</sup> -50 3 <sup>rd</sup> -25	<u><b>Points for the Week (Cross Division):</b></u> 1st - 200 2nd - 150 3rd – 100
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<u><b>Deductions:</b></u>	<u><b>Food Drive:</b></u>
<u>Points Deducted Per Item:</u>	1 point
<u>Number of Items for Disqualification:</u>	5 items
<u>Team Members:</u>	AUTOMATIC DQ IF 3 MEMBERS ARE NOT PRESENT
<u>Late Donations:</u>	AUTOMATIC DQ IF DONATIONS ARE LATE



# **Rockstar**

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 | Location: Hammons Student Center |  
Starts at 7:00 PM

## **Rockstar Coordinators:**

Krista Marks (HocoRockstar@MissouriState.edu)

Jared Novak (HocoRockstar@MissouriState.edu)

## **Rules and Regulations:**

### 1. Seating Clause:

- i. All teams participating in the seating draw must be present at the designated time and location specified by the Homecoming Committee, which is the Mandatory Meeting. Each team will be represented by their liaison, who will represent their team during the seating draw. The seating draw will commence with the Homecoming Committee randomly selecting numbers from a container or using a random number generator. As each number is drawn, the corresponding team to that number will get the first placement with the available options for Rockstar and Mo State Live.
- ii. There will be two (2) seating drawings, one (1) for Rockstar and one (1) for Mo State Live since not all teams are participating in both events. Mo State Live will also be having a drawing on assigning teams an MSU Tradition that they have to incorporate into their performance (see Mo State Live Section Below).
- iii. Once a placement is given, it cannot be exchanged or traded with another team. The seating draw will continue until all teams have been placed. Any team who arrives after the draw has commenced will be accommodated based on seat availability after all other teams have been placed. The decisions of the Homecoming Committee regarding the seating placement are final. Any disputes or concerns regarding the seating placement process will be addressed by the Homecoming Chair and Advisors. This rule is subject to change at the discretion of the Homecoming Committee.
- iv. The number drawn by each team will correlate with their designated check-in time for seating for said event.

- i. For example, if you draw #8, you will be the eighth team to show up the day of to your designated seating area. Times for arrival will be communicated accordingly by the Homecoming Committee.
- ii. On the day of Rockstar and Mo State Live, the full team will attend the designated check-in time for seating.

### **Rockstar Contestants:**

- v. You may have **UP TO FIVE (5)** people onstage during the performance, including the Rockstar(s) being judged
- vi. **UP TO TWO (2)** people on stage can be singing participants
- vii. There will be no changing of Rockstars or other participants once the form is submitted.
- viii. Each team will be allowed to submit **one (1) Rockstar per organization** on their team.
  1. For example, if Team One has three organizations paired together, they are eligible to submit three Rockstars however, they must all be from different organizations within the pairing.
  - ii. There will be a cap of thirty (30) Rockstars in total during the first round.
    1. If the maximum number is hit, contestants will be accepted based on the time of entry form submission. Teams that fail to submit their Rockstars before the 30 max threshold bear the risk of not being able to perform.

### **ix. Paired Organizations:**

- i. Paired organizations may have **UP TO FIVE (5)** people on stage.
  1. This group of five (5) people can be made up of:
    - a. one (1) Rockstar and up to four (4) non-singing participants.
    - b. One (1) Rockstar, one (1) **non-judged** duet partner, and up to three (3) non-singing participants.
    - c. Two (2) Rockstars and up to three (3) non-singing participants.
  2. If a paired organization has submitted 3 rockstars and 2 want to perform together, then they will only have one more Rockstar Performance remaining.

3. If the pairing/team chooses to perform a duet:
  - a. With two (2) Rockstars both will be judged together. If the two (2) Rockstars advance to the next round they will advance as a group.
  - b. With one (1) Rockstar and one (1) non-judged duet partner, **only the Rockstar will be judged.**
- x. **Individual Organizations:**
  - i. Individual organizations may have **up to five (5)** people on stage.
    1. This group of five (5) people can be made up of:
      - a. One (1) Rockstar and up to four (4) non-singing participants.
      - b. One (1) Rockstar, one (1) **non-judged** duet partner, and up to three (3) non-singing participants.
      - c. Individual organizations will only have one (1) Rockstar competing on stage
    2. If the organization chooses to perform a duet with one (1) Rockstar and one (1) duet partner, **only the Rockstar will be judged.**
  - xi. For any clarification on how Rockstar will be judged and/or the structure of scoring, please email **BOTH** [HocoTeamComp@missouristate.edu](mailto:HocoTeamComp@missouristate.edu) and [HocoRockstar@MissouriState.edu](mailto:HocoRockstar@MissouriState.edu).

## 2. Rockstar Auditions

- i. Auditions will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025, from 6-8 pm and Friday, October 17th, 2025, from 4:30-7:30 pm and are **MANDATORY**.
  - i. If none of the audition times work for a contestant, they must schedule a time outside of them with the coordinators.
  - ii. Sign up for auditions using the Signup Genius sent in the Rockstar GroupMe.
    1. The Rockstar GroupMe will relay important information such as forms, auditions, and more.
    2. If a Rockstar has not signed up for an audition time by **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:59 PM**, they will be disqualified.
- ii. **Expectations for the audition:**

- i. Contestants must have all members of their entry present unless communicated otherwise.
- ii. Contestants must have their chosen song submitted and approved by the committee.
- iii. Contestants must have all costumes/props/sets submitted to the committee through the form provided prior to the audition date.
- iv. Contestants must have some choreography ready to present to the coordinators.
- v. Contestants **MUST** perform the song, any choreography brought to the audition, and any costumes/props/sets submitted for the Rockstar event. Any differences not approved by the committee will result in disqualification.
- vi. Disqualifications can occur when songs have been submitted incorrectly and aren't changed after the 48-hour grace period that will occur after auditions.

### 3. Event Specifications:

- i. **Lineup for the event may start at 5:00 PM on the day of the event.**  
Specific team/pairing times will be assigned based on the drawing for Rockstar and Mo State Live Seating.
  - i. General admission and non-student guests (who are not participating in the event) may also begin lining up at 5:00 PM.
- ii. Chosen songs **cannot go over two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30).**
  - i. If a contestant goes over two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30) at the Rockstar event, it will result in a **five (5) point deduction** until they hit three (3:00) minutes which will then result in a **ten (10) point deduction.**
- iii. Songs are not allowed to have backup vocals unless they are approved by the committee.
  - i. If a contestant's song has backup vocals, they should notify the coordinators.
- iv. All songs must be family friendly, with no mature subject matter or crude/explicit language.
  - i. If there are questions about the lyrics or suggestiveness of the song, please email the Rockstar Coordinators to get clarification on whether a song would be acceptable or not.

- v. Each contestant **must** provide **three (3)** song options for their first-round performance **AND two (2) secondary songs** if they are to move on to the second round.
  - i. There will be no changing of songs once submitted unless the songs submitted were already taken.
  - ii. If multiple contestants submit the same song, it will be based on the time of entry.
  - iii. Songs must be submitted in MP4 form to the Dropbox found in the BearLink Rockstar Form by Thursday, **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00 PM**, to allow time for coordinators to review the song(s) format.
    - 1. **Each Rockstar must submit their own song form** to ensure each Rockstar has a second-round song approved.
      - a. If Rockstars are a duet, only fill out ONE form for both Rockstars.
    - 2. The earlier a song is submitted, the earlier it will be approved.
  - iv. Second-round performances cannot include any backup performers or singers. Only the Rockstar will be allowed on stage.
    - 1. If the final round consists of any duet Rockstars, only those two (2) Rockstars will be allowed on stage.
      - a. For clarification, if an organization has two (2) Rockstars paired and if those two (2) Rockstars advance to the finals, then they will advance as a group.
- v. Contestants will be notified if their chosen song(s) were already taken or not approved by the coordinators by **10 PM on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**
- vi. All costumes/props/set ideas are due to the Rockstar form found on BearLink by **5 PM on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** There only needs to be one (1) submission per performance.
  - 1. The earlier the form is submitted, the earlier the items will be approved.
- vii. Contestants will be notified if their chosen costumes/props/sets are not approved by **10 PM on Sunday, October 12, 2025.**
- vi. Entry forms must indicate the specifications of each performance including:

- i. All participants **MUST** be in one of the organizations within the pairing/team.
- ii. Indication of who will be singing and if they are a competing Rockstar or a duet partner, or any non-singing participants.
- iii. If two (2) Rockstars from different organizations are performing together, each organization must submit its own form

**1. One (1) submission only equals one (1) rockstar.**

- vii. Each performance will have two (2:00) minutes cumulative for setup and teardown, it can be one (1:00) minute for setup and one (1:00) minute for teardown, etc.
    - i. There will be a **five (5) point deduction** for every thirty (:30) seconds past the two (2:00) minutes.
  - viii. **No stunting is allowed on stage. The participant and the backup dancers must always keep at least one foot on the stage while performing.** This means no lifting, standing on chairs, jumps, or flips before, during, or after the performance. Failure to comply with this rule will result in **immediate disqualification**.
  - ix. The consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances by participants prior to or during the event is **strictly prohibited**. Any performers found to be under the influence will result in **immediate disqualification**. Any audience member(s) who act under the influence will be removed from the venue and/or from the program.
  - x. If any members of organizations are seen blocking walkways or exits, there will be a **five (5) point deduction** to their score to ensure everyone's safety.
  - xi. There will be a **mandatory** dress rehearsal on the day of the event, please use the Sign Up Genius found in the Rockstar GroupMe to sign up for a time slot by **Tuesday, October 30<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM.**
- 4. Scoring:**
- i. Round One **will be scored based on division**, meaning there will be a separate Top Three (3) in:
    - i. Fraternity and Sorority Life
    - ii. Residence Life
    - iii. Student Organizations
      - 1. If two performers from the same team/group both place in the top three (3), they will be announced as the highest

place and the lower place will be filled by the next highest scoring contestant.

- a. EX. If team/group 1 scores both first and third place and team/group 2 scores fourth, team/group 1 will be announced as first and team/group 2 will be announced as third.
2. If two (2) people (or up to three (3)) from the same organization score in the overall Top Five from Round One, they will both move on to Round Two.
  - a. In this situation, only the higher placing contestant will get points for their pairing/team/organization.
3. If a team/group uses two of its rockstars for one performance, those 2 rockstars will be scored as a duo and advance as a duo, if they advance.
  - a. EX. If team 1 has three rockstars and 1 is a solo and the other (2) are a duo then the one rockstar is solo scored and the duo is scored together.
  - b. EX. If team 2 has 3 total Rockstars who are all solo performances then all (3) are scored as solos.
- ii. Round Two **will be scored based on overall points**, meaning the Top Five can be made up of any combination of divisions.
  - i. After the Top Five from Round One perform their second song, they will be judged, and the Top Three overall scorers will be announced.
    1. The top three will gain EXTRA points as follows for their org. Third: 3 Points Second: 5 Points First: 10 Points

## 5. Fan Favorite:

- i. The Fan Favorite will be voted on by the audience during the intermission. One liaison from each pairing will meet the Rockstar co-coordinators during intermission to cast their vote. **While this performer will not score any more points or be judged in the second round**, they will be given the chance to perform their second song. If the fan favorite is someone who already advanced, then the next top scorer who didn't place will perform.
  - i. The vote will be held during the first intermission and one (1) liaison will vote for one (1) Fan Favorite.

## 6. Event Timeline:

### Prior to the Event

- Rockstar and other participants are due in the entry form by **Friday, October 3rd.**
- Song submissions (three main performance song options, two second-round song options) due to the form found on BearLink by **Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.**
  - Contestants will be notified if submitted songs are taken or not approved by October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 PM.

Costumes/props/sets due to the form found on BearLink by **Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.** (separate form)

- Contestants will be notified if chosen costumes/props/sets are not approved by October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 PM.
- Song Drop Box due by **October 16<sup>th</sup> by 5PM** on Bear Link.
- Auditions will be held on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  - Sign up using the form sent into the Rockstar Group chat.
  - Rockstars must sign up for auditions by **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, by 11:59 PM** or they will be disqualified.
- Sign up for dress rehearsals using the Sign Up Genius found in the Rockstar GroupMe by **Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.**

### Day of the Event:

- **The lineup for the event may start at 5:00 PM.** Refer to your pairing/teams assigned seating time for designated area and time to show up.
- Report to the designated seating area for Rockstars and performers by **6:55 PM.**



# **Judging Criteria: Rockstar**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points (both first and second rounds). Talent will be ranked 1–5 points, Overall Impression 1–5 points, and Theme/Originality 1–5 points for a perfect score of 15 points. The \*\* means that MSU Pride is no longer a required section in grading, but you can get up to five (5) extra points on your score by demonstrating MSU Pride.**

Originality/Creativity	Visually stimulating and inventive; how well the performance stood out and ‘wow-ed!’ you
Correlation to Theme	Relates to MSU’s Homecoming Theme – “Once Upon a Homecoming”
**MSU Pride Showcased**	Performance displays elements of the university; amount of pride felt (Bear Wear, MSU related lyrics or props, etc.)
Talent/Overall Impression	Performance is unique and imaginative; the overall number is engaging and impressive

# **Field Day**

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 | Location: McDonald Arena |  
Starts at 4:00 PM

## **Tradition Councils Representatives:**

Macy Godfrey (TCSpiritEvents@MissouriState.edu)

Emalee Granville (TCSpiritEvents@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description**

Each team or organization will participate in multiple types of challenges that test them academically and athletically. This event is sponsored by the Traditions Council.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. If competing as a team, each organization within the team must have at least one representative. Each organization must also complete an entry form and indicate which team they are competing with.
2. **Teams must have exactly six (6) participants.**
3. All participants must sign the University Safety Waiver because the event includes physical activity.
  - a. Tennis shoes/comfortable closed-toe shoes and gym clothing will be required.
4. Each division has their own designated time to participate in Field Day.
  - a. Student Organizations
    - i. Check-in: 4:00 PM
    - ii. Competition: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
  - b. Residence Life
    - i. Check-in: 5:00 PM
    - ii. Competition: 5:30 PM- 6:30 PM
  - c. Fraternity and Sorority Life
    - i. Check-in: 6 PM
    - ii. Competition: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
5. Each team must participate in all the challenges.
  - a. **Each team member must participate in at least one (1) of these challenges.**

6. A team can win up to 5 points for each challenge depending on how fast a challenge is completed, or how many correct answers are given. No points will be awarded if the challenge is not completed.
7. Winning teams will be determined by totaling the number of points earned throughout the event.
8. In the event of a tie, there will be a tie-breaker.
9. Homecoming points will be awarded to the top three organizations/teams from each division.

**The following breakdown will be used to distribute Homecoming points by competing category:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place--200 points**

**2nd place--150 points**

**3rd place --100 points**

# **MO State Live**

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 | Location: Hammons Student Center |  
Time: 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

## **Tradition Councils Representatives:**

Cassie Leary (HocoSpirit@MissouriState.edu)

Kaile Harper (HocoSpirit@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description**

The purpose of MO State Live is to showcase the organization's pride for Missouri State University and The Bears through fun performances.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. The performance will take place on the floor of the Hammons Student Center Arena. Teams may use the whole floor (designated floor area) to entertain the crowd.
  - a. Teams may use props, sets or decorations to enhance their performance. Props, sets, and decorations **may not exceed 7 feet in height, 5.5 feet in width, and 7 feet in depth, including wheels.**
    - i. Wheel should at a minimum be at least 5" Diameter
    - ii. Set pieces must include wheels with locks.
    - iii. If any sandbags are used throughout the performance, they must each individually have a secondary covering. i.e. pillowcases, trash bags, etc.
  - b. Sets will be judged based on overall appeal and appearance.
    - i. All props, sets and decorations must be picked up immediately following MO State Live. Anything left behind will be discarded.
2. 20 team members are permitted to perform.
  - a. Teams must have at least 3 members from each organization to participate in the performance.
3. Performances have a 3-minute minimum and a 6-minute maximum.
  - a. There will be a maximum of 2-minutes of dancing and 4-minutes of skit for each performance.
  - b. At mandatory meeting, Teams will be randomly assigned to a MSU Tradition, that they must incorporate into their performance.

4. The Homecoming committee will be conducting check-ins with the teams during their practice time. MO State Live Coordinators will be in contact with the organization's chairs to schedule these check-ins during the week of **October 20-October 28th**, at which time the coordinators will review your team's choreography and/or stunts.
  - a. If any choreography and/or stunts are deemed inappropriate or too dangerous, the team will be notified at their check-in with the coordinators. The coordinators will return to a practice between November 3-7 and expect necessary changes to be made to your performance.
  - b. Each team will have one person who must stay in contact with the Homecoming Committee to coordinate check-in times.
5. Practices are permitted to begin after the team has submitted entry forms.
6. Teams will be given a check-in time by **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, for MO State Live. There will be a table at Hammons Student Center where there will be homecoming committee members to help you check in.
  - a. If a team is 10 or more minutes early or late, 5 points will be deducted from their performance score.
7. **There will be a mandatory dress rehearsal from 9:00AM to 5:00PM on Thursday, November 13, 2025.** The MO State Live Coordinators will send out a Signup Genius for each team on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  - a. Teams must bring all props, sets, or decorations FULLY constructed to dress rehearsal. No further construction will be allowed after check-in.
8. Seating clause:
  - a. All teams participating in the seating draw must be present at the designated time and location specified by the Homecoming Committee, which is the Mandatory Meeting. Each team will be represented by their liaison, who will represent their team during the seating draw. The seating draw will commence with the Homecoming Committee randomly selecting numbers from a container or using a random number generator. As each number is drawn, the corresponding team to that number will get the first placement with the available options for Rockstar and Mo State Live.
  - b. There will be three drawings, one (1) for Rockstar and two (2) for Mo State Live (One (1) for seating & one (1) for MSU Tradition) since not all teams are participating in both events.
  - c. Once a placement is given, it cannot be exchanged or traded with another team. The seating draw will continue until all teams have been placed. Any team who arrives after the draw has commenced will be

accommodated based on seat availability after all other teams have been placed. The decisions of the Homecoming Committee regarding the seating placement are final and binding. Any disputes or concerns regarding the seating placement process will be addressed by the Homecoming Co-Chairs. This rule is subject to change at the discretion of the Homecoming Committee.

- d. The number drawn by each team will correlate with their designated check-in time for seating for said event.
  - i. For example, if you draw #8, you will be the eighth team to show up the day of to your designated seating area
  - ii. On the day of Rockstar and Mo State Live, the full team will attend the designated check-in time for seating.
- 9. Crude language, obscenity, vulgar behavior, profanity, etc. (final decision is made by the homecoming committee) will NOT be tolerated and will result in disqualification.
- 10. **Line formation at Hammons Student Center cannot begin until 5:30 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2025.** Refer to your pairing/teams assigned seating time for designated area and time to show up.
  - a. General admission and non-participating guests can start lining up at 5:30 pm.

We encourage organizations to consider the cultural competence pillar of the MSU Public Affairs mission when thinking of including elements of stepping and to reflect on whether the inclusion of such elements would be an appropriation of culture. To learn more about the history of stepping and strolling, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2ObfMFT>.

## **Judging Criteria: MSL**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points. Each criterion will be ranked on a 1–10-point scale for a perfect score of 50 points.**

Concept Originality/Creativity	Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative
Cohesiveness/Appearance	Cohesive and visually appropriate look for the performance, incorporating costumes, props, and set design
Complexity of Routine	Perceived time and effort put into the complexity and execution of the routine
MSU Pride and Theme Shown	Showcased and related to elements of the university and the homecoming theme; amount of pride felt
Overall Impression	Overall feel of the performance (talent, execution, etc.)

# **Band of Bears Homecoming Parade**

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025 | Location: John Q. Hammons Parkway |  
Starts at 9:00 AM

## **Tradition Councils Representatives:**

Lucas Leluong (HocoParade@MissouriState.edu)

Kobe Hendrix (HocoParade@MissouriState.edu)

Emily Delich (HocoParade@MissouriState.edu)

## **Event Description**

The Missouri State University Homecoming Parade is the highlight of Homecoming week for many students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. John Q. Hammons Parkway will be lined with people during the parade.

Important Note: All entries are subject to approval from the Homecoming Parade Coordinators and Homecoming Leadership Team. They reserve the right to refuse any parade entries that are in direct conflict with the mission, values, and goals of the university. For a complete listing of the mission, values, and goals of the university please see the main Missouri State University website ([www.missouristate.edu](http://www.missouristate.edu)).

We look forward to seeing you at the parade! Go Bears!



## **Parade Important Dates:**

<b><u>Wednesday, October 22 at 5 PM</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University-affiliated parade entry forms are to be completed online.</li><li>• IF your organization is using something OTHER than a vehicle to pull your float, it must be approved by this date.</li></ul>
<b><u>Friday, November 7 at 5 PM</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ALL COMMUNITY parade entry forms must be completed online. (Community Entries are non-competing entries)</li></ul>
<b><u>Saturday, November 15 at 9 AM</u></b> <b><u>(Parade Day)</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ALL entries –floats, walking, animal entries and decorated cars – must arrive between 7:00 and 8:00 am to be entered in the parade.</li></ul>

## **Definitions of Entry Categories:**

1. ***Float (Competition Entry):*** A float entry is defined as a decorated platform or structure being pulled by a vehicle or as a self-propelled wagon.
  - a. **Note: The vehicle pulling the float can be decorated, is part of the float, and will be judged as part of the float.**
  - b. All float entries must have two (2) representatives, different from the Parade Contact, from each team to be their Float Safety Monitors. These people will help monitor and control the participants in the float line-up area. These individuals' names must be submitted on the entry form in the parade section.
  - c. Each entry must also submit how many participants will be riding on the float the day of the parade. This number must be submitted when turning in the float entry form on BearLink.
  - d. Please remember that because of traffic signals and other obstructions, floats must be **less than 13 feet in height and less than 20 feet wide**. No one can be standing or dancing on top of the highest point of the float.
  - e. Float operators must have an adequate escape route meaning they cannot be sealed/enclosed into the float without means of getting out quickly in the event of an emergency.
  - f. **Entries must clearly identify the organization's full name(s) on both sides of the float for the purpose of judging. An organization must identify the complete name, and not a nickname or acronym they go by.**
2. ***Decorated Car (Competition Entry):*** A car entry is defined as a vehicle requiring a standard automobile license to operate which is decorated in accordance with the Homecoming theme.
3. ***Walking (Competition Entry):*** A walking entry is defined as any group of individuals moving through the parade without a car or a float. These individuals may utilize a similar dress style, synchronized movement, and/or organized choreography to be judged upon.
4. ***Animal (Non-Competition Entry):*** An animal entry is defined as any parade entry that includes animals. Each animal is required to have a clean-up crew. All animals must be controlled by means of a harness, halter, or leash if not otherwise contained. Animals may by no means be cruelly

exploited, endangered, or abused in the process of this entry. For example, it is okay to ride a horse, but not okay to have an animal in a cage on display.

5. ***Political Entries (Non-Competition Entry)***: This entry is defined as any entry into the parade that represents a political party and is participating in the parade for political support, including election to an office or support for a policy/interest group. This entry is not eligible to receive cash or prizes, nor will they be considered in the competition.

## General Parade Information

1. An organization must complete a separate entry form for each category they choose to participate in. Entry categories are the methods or formats through which an organization or group participates in the parade. An organization may have only one (1) entry in any category. Each entry will be judged independently.
2. Competition divisions are the groupings of organizations that will be competing for points. Organizations will only be competing for points within their own divisions, which are as follows: Student Organizations, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Residence Life.
3. Entries must complete the **ENTIRE** parade route or be disqualified.
4. The parade staging (line-up) area will be on east Trafficway St. between National Ave. And John Q. Hammons Pkwy. Parade entries **must enter from National Ave.** (for floats, walking, animal, or car entries). All entries must check in with one of the Homecoming Parade Coordinators or a designated Homecoming representative. During staging, an organization's entries will be separated by other parade entries when blending of entries occurs.
5. We must have accurate contact and phone information for each entry that is submitted. Each organization must select a Parade Contact; each entry from an organization must have a Parade Contact. **The Parade Contact must be present to check the entry in and must stay with the entry throughout the entirety of the parade.** The Parade Contact will be the primary contact for the day of the parade to the Homecoming Committee. The contact information listed on the application must be reachable weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM
6. All entries must meet local fire codes. Any type of open flame, fuse lite, or firework is prohibited for all participants. Entries should include a fire extinguisher the day of parade.
7. Any entry may be removed from the parade and competition if, in the opinion of the parade officials or the Homecoming Committee, the entry is operated in a hazardous manner or because of the misbehavior of individuals or animals associated with the entry.
8. Late community entry form submissions will be charged a \$25.00 entry fee.

## Rules

1. Each entry **MUST have a banner in front of the entry** that clearly identifies the **organization's complete and official name**. If the entry is for a team, each organization's name must be clearly stated on the banner. Any entry that does not have this banner, or if the banner is not legible from the judging booth, **WILL NOT BE JUDGED**, and **WILL NOT RECEIVE PARTICIPATION POINTS** for the Parade.
2. All entries are restricted to distributing information in a handbill **no larger than 4.25" x 5.5" (1/4 letter size)** to community members present during the parade. The handbill may be two-sided.
3. All candy must be store bought, sealed, and individually wrapped. There will be **NO** homemade candies, desserts, or anything edible distributed amongst the crowd.
4. All entries must be continuously moving. Entries are not permitted to stop to perform choreographed routines. Any entry causing undue delay will be disqualified.
5. **THROWING CANDY OR OTHER ITEMS FROM VEHICLES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**—it must be handed out by walkers. Entries must provide one or more designated individuals to walk alongside the entry if you wish to distribute candy to attendees.
  - a. If an entry violates this policy, a 10-point deduction will be applied to their total score. Repeated or deliberate violations may result in disqualification from judging and participation points.
6. Entries must complete the **ENTIRE** parade route or be disqualified.
7. For the safety of all those competing, there will be no interfering with the entries that are either in front or behind your competing entry. If anyone disturbs another entry during the parade, your entry will be immediately disqualified, and no points will be awarded to the team.

## **Rules & Regulations about Alcohol and Controlled Substances**

The Missouri State alcohol policy does apply to **ALL** individuals in the parade and is stated as follows:

*The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol is prohibited on University property, in conjunction with university activities, and in conjunction with student organization events. Prohibited unlawful use includes violation of the Missouri law prohibiting possession or use of alcohol by persons under 21 years of age and all other state and federal laws regulating use, possession, or distribution of alcohol and drugs. "University activities" include those activities that are planned, promoted, or sponsored by a University department or other University subdivision. This policy is explicitly stated in the Annual Notice to Students and Employees.*

Therefore, **Entries will be removed and disqualified immediately if the presence of alcohol or drugs is detected.**

1. All entries are prohibited from displaying or distributing any information with regards to alcohol or drugs (including "Happy Hour" or "Specials" information) as well as any display of alcoholic beverage company logos. The Office of Student Engagement does not support alcohol or drug use among students or community members.
2. Companies promoting alcohol/drugs (Budweiser, Dispensaries, Brown Derby, etc.)
3. Participants of all entries (walking or driving) are strictly prohibited from using alcohol or controlled substances prior to and during the parade.
4. The parade is a Missouri State sponsored function. Therefore, any alcohol and controlled substance-related situations will likely result in the immediate disqualification of your entry. Any violations of this policy will result in further disciplinary sanctions through the Missouri State University Judicial System.

## **Trophies and Judge Criterion**

### **Trophies and Winners**

This year, trophies will be awarded to the top three overall entries in each of the following judged.

#### **Categories (Regardless of Division):**

- Float
- Decorated Car
- Walking Entry

#### **9 Trophies will be presented in total for:**

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

	<b>Float</b>	<b>Decorated Car</b>	<b>Walking Entry</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	500 pts	300 pts	300 pts
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	400 pts	200 pts	200 pts
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	300 pts	100 pts	100 pts

Note: In the case of team entries involving multiple organizations, only one trophy will be awarded per entry. It is up to the collaborating groups to determine how the trophy will be shared, displayed, or rotated among the team members. No duplicate trophies will be issued.

# **Judging Criteria: Parade**

**The following criteria will be used by the judges in distributing points for each of the float, car, and walking entries. Each criterion will be ranked on a 1–10 point scale for a perfect score of 50 points per entry.**

## **Float Entry**

Creativity	<b>Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative</b>
Relation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Presentation/Eye Appeal	Overall appeal of the entry to spectators
Quality of Workmanship	They put forth the effort to create a high-quality decoration; their hard work is apparent
MSU Pride Shown	Showcased elements of the university; amount of pride felt



### Car Entry

Creativity	<b>Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative</b>
Relation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Presentation/Eye Appeal	Overall appeal of the entry to spectators
Quality of Workmanship	They put forth the effort to create a high-quality decoration; their hard work is apparent
MSU Pride Shown	Showcased elements of the university; amount of pride felt

### Walking Entry

Creativity	<b>Visually stimulating and inventive; they have been unique and imaginative</b>
Relation to Theme	Design relates to MSU's Homecoming Theme "Once Upon a Homecoming"
Presentation/Eye Appeal	Overall appeal of the entry to spectators
Movement or Choreography	Movement or choreography of group is coordinated
Dress Style/Costumes	Appearance of the group is unified and relates to the theme

**Note:** Each parade entry will be judged **before and during** in case of a tie between categories. If a tie were to occur, the rankings of the parade entries before the event will be taken into consideration.

# Parade Route Information

The parade route will start at the corner of St. Louis and John Q. Hammons Parkway and will continue John Q. Hammons Parkway until Bear Blvd.(except for floats, exit on Grand).

**8:45 AM closure for the parade route**

