University of Cincinnati
2015 Homecoming Parade Float Rules

I. Eligibility
Organizations are eligible to enter a float in the Homecoming Parade provided the following requirements are met:

♦ All float participants must be part of an approved UC student organization.
♦ 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 hand in a registration form, a $10 per float registration fee, and a detailed drawing and description to the parade committee at the Myers Alumni Center no later than Wednesday October 14th by 12:00 PM (noon). This will guarantee your place in the parade line-up. More details on entries are found in the “Entries: Float Sketches and Theme” and “Construction” sections.
♦ At least one member of the organization constructing a float must attend one of the float rules meeting. Those meetings will be held on Monday October 5th and Wednesday October 7th at 5:30 PM in the Alumni Center.
♦ 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.

II. 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 supplied a fire extinguisher for free by the 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 in the parade lineup and must be returned to the Alumni Center by gametime on the day of Homecoming.
♦ 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 pompoms used and bottles of smoke machine fluids used to the parade for the Fire Marshal.

III. 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 a 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.

IV. Float Vehicle
- 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.
- 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.
- Insurance will be purchased by the Alumni Association covering bodily injury and property damage, which is only for parade spectators. There is no vehicle coverage.

V. 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.

VI. Advertising Rules
- 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.
- Advertising may be written on a banner that can be carried in front of the float by two (2) people. The banner is to be 9'X3'.
- Banners must include “The Cats Are Back in Town” and the words “University of Cincinnati Alumni Association.”
- Articles shall not be tossed out or thrown from the float, but they may be handed out.

VII. Entries: Float Sketches and Theme
- Sketches for floats will only be accepted if they are in the following form:
  1. Sketches must be submitted on an 8 ½ by 11-inch sheet of paper.
  2. One side of the paper must show a reasonable representation of the float, giving precise dimensions for height, length and width.
  3. The reverse side of the sketch should list the names, emails, addresses and phone numbers of the float chairpersons. (Minimum of two persons of contact.)
  4. The float must represent/incorporate the Homecoming theme, “The Cats Are Back in Town” and the Homecoming game opponent. The University of Connecticut is this year’s opponent.
- Revisions must be submitted to the Homecoming Committee by 5:00PM Wednesday October 21st 2013. Changes or revisions which are not submitted or approved by the parade committee will disqualify the organization from the award competition.

VIII. Review of the Float Entries
- The Homecoming Committee 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 only AFTER they have met all requirements.
- Once the entry is approved, the float will be positioned in the parade.
- When a float entry is approved, a letter is sent which will contain:
  - The time and date of the entry’s approval.
  - The information about the parade line-up (position, assigned number, etc.)
  - The time for the float to be at the parade will be announced as soon as the game time is known and parade start time is determined.
IX. Before the Parade

♦ TIME: The Homecoming Parade will start about four hours before the start of the game, which isn’t announced until 6-10 days beforehand. Floats must be lining up **one hour before parade start 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 8:30am. Floats must arrive at 7:30am.
- If the game starts at 3pm, the parade will start at 11:00am. Floats must arrive at 10:00am.
- If the game starts at 7pm, the parade will start at 3:00pm. Floats must arrive at 2:00pm.
- 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: The parade committee will pre-determine the position of each float in the parade line up.

♦ ASSIGNED NUMBERS: These will be given to each parade entrant for easy identification. The assigned number must be placed in the right side window of the float vehicle before the float will be allowed to proceed in the parade.

♦ FORMATION: The parade will form along Calhoun Street. The float entry must enter Calhoun Street from Jefferson Ave to be checked in. If the float 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 Nippert Stadium.

X. Criteria for Judging

♦ Float judging will be based on the following criteria:
  1. Overall visual appearance and effect on first impression
  2. Originality, imagination and cleverness relative to theme
  3. Adherence to the theme
  4. Incorporation of the Homecoming football game opponent
  5. Mechanics
  6. Most creative use of colors
  7. Neatness and craftsmanship
  8. Resemblance to entry sketch

♦ The following grading system will be used:
1-4 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 located directly in front of Wilson Auditorium.

♦ 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 BE ALCOHOL FREE, OR THE ENTIRE FLOAT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!

♦ THE HOMECOMING COMMITTEE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMOVE FLOAT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PARADE/FLOAT WHO DEMONSTRATE INAPPROPRIATE AND UNRULY BEHAVIOR.

♦ Scholarship Rewards of $500 for first place, $400 for second place, and $300 for third place will be rewarded to organization(s) that produce a winning float. The award must be placed in a designated scholarship account for your organization. In the event that two or more organizations develop a winning float, the check will be divided evenly among the winning parties. Checks must be picked up by winning groups within 90 days of notification or the reward is forfeited and checks will be canceled.

XI.

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 decision will be made by the UCAA and are final. The UCAA may waive any of these rules in its sole discretion.

These rules are subject to change. You will be notified with any changes that may occur.

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