Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between an Overall Competitor and an Event Competitor?
When registering as an Overall Competitor (paired or unpaired), an organization is automatically registered for T-shirt, Banner, the FTG Talent Show, BOPS Carnival & Field Day, Madhatter, and the Float competitions. When registering as an Event Competitor, the organization may select which specific events they do and do not wish to participate in. For example, an Event Competitor may choose to only compete in the FTG Talent Show and Float competitions. The only time an organization is non-competing is if they are just walking in the parade.

2. Can anyone donate blood during the Homecoming Blood Drive or do you need to be in a participating organization?
Anyone can donate blood at the Homecoming Blood Drive! Members of participating organizations do get bonus spirit points, but individuals are also needed and welcome.

3. Can non-students, including faculty, staff, and community members participate in the Homecoming 5K?
Absolutely! Anyone is able to register and participate in the Homecoming 5K.

4. Where can I find out the date or time of a meeting or specific event?
All of the dates and times of the required meetings for orgs and all other Homecoming events, including merchandise sales, Spirit Days and fundraisers are on the Homecoming website on the Calendar of Events tab. Also look for updates on the Homecoming list-serve, or in e-mails from the Organization Relations Committee!

5. I am interested in learning more about Homecoming and being informed about the events that are going on. Which list-serv should I join?
The General list-serv includes announcements about the latest Homecoming info including:
- General Announcements
- Alumni News
- Homecoming Week Information
The Student list-serv includes all of the above items, but includes information for students and clubs located at University Park including:
- Meeting Announcements
- Rule Changes
  - Student Volunteer Information
  - Registration Deadlines
For other questions about the list-serv, contact Molly Monaghan, Public Relations Director at PRHomecoming@psu.edu

To join either list-serv send a blank email to Homecoming@psu.edu.

6. Can anyone participate in the Homecoming week events?
Absolutely! For more information about how to get involved with Homecoming events, contact Terra Tomasic, University Relations Director at UniversityHomecoming@psu.edu.

7. What are the security committee member requirements?
For Overall Competitors, each organization is required to provide five committee members. If you are a paired organization, you need ten committee members.
each organization), fifteen committee members for a triad. These committee members must be fully initiated members of each organization prior to the Fall 2015 semester. All Committee Members are required to attend the security meeting on September 8th. These must be the same individuals that report on Parade Day. In addition there may be minimal, mandatory training prior to the parade. Event Competitors are not required to supply Security Committee Members.

8. **How do I nominate someone for Student, University, Alumni or First year court?**
Nominations for Student & University Court can be made by Penn State students digitally in the HUB-Robeson Center & on the Homecoming website. Nomination weeks for both Student and University Courts will be April 16th – April 18th and August 25th – August 29th from 10am to 4pm in the HUB, and the First Year Court nominations will be accepted August 27th – 29th from 10am to 4pm in Findlay Commons.

9. **What's the difference between Spirit and Competition points?**
Competition points are used to determine the event and overall winners for Homecoming 2015. Any organization who participates in an event is eligible to earn competition points. Competition points are awarded by judges based on the designated rubrics and adherence to requirements for each event. Spirit points can only be earned by Overall Competitors. Spirit points are based on participation. The top three organizations with the highest amount of Spirit points will be awarded Competition points.

10. **My organization already has a flatbed, are we required to rent one for the parade?**
No, if your organization already has a flatbed, they may use it as long as it does not exceed the maximum size allowed by Homecoming and the Borough. However, you are required to use the equipment supplied by Penn State Homecoming and pay the Equipment Deposit.
Glossary

- **Active Member** – an organization’s member must have been initiated prior to the start of the Fall 2015 semester.
- **Community Organization** – an organization not affiliated with Penn State University and is not a registered Student Organization. Such organizations may participate in the parade free of charge and are encouraged to come to events such as the 5k.
- **Competition Points** – Competition Points are awarded by a panel of guest judges based on defined scoring criteria.
- **Event Competitor** – event competitors may choose which competitive events they do and do not wish to participate in. Event competitors cannot earn spirit points.
- **Judging Tents** – located at the intersection of College Ave & Allen St, also called the Family and Friends Tent, this is where participants in the Float Competition will be judged from.
- **Madhatter** – a large pomped body suit that often walks in front of an organization’s float and excites the crowd. The Madhatter is often a character who correlates to the float’s theme.
- **Overall Competitor** – Overall Competitors must participate in Banner, T-shirt, FTG Talent Show, BOPS Field Day & Carnival, Madhatter and Float competitions. If at any time an organization, pair or triad must withdraw from any of these competitions, they forfeit Overall Competitor status.
- **Pomps** – pomps are 5 1/2” x 5 1/2” squares of tissue paper used to decorate floats and madhatter frames made of “chicken wire.”
- **Security Committee Member** – the Security Committee is made up of volunteers who assist with security during the Parade. Each Overall Competitor is required to provide 5 Security Committee Members for each organization involved.
- **Security Leader** – Security Leaders are selected by the Security Captain Committee and help to oversee the Security Committee Members during the Parade. Applications to become a Security Leader may be found on the Homecoming website. Contact Ahmed Mohamed, Security Director at SecurityHomecoming@psu.edu for more info.
- **Spirit Points** – Spirit Points are awarded to Overall Competitors for their participation in events that are not judged based on scoring criteria but are attendance and participation based.