**Float Competition Supplies**

**Description:** All organizations participating in the Float or Madhatter competitions must purchase all float making supplies (i.e. chicken wire, wood glue, and pomps) through Penn State Homecoming and the Nittany Co-Op.

Pomps are 5 ½” by 5 ½” sheets of colored tissue paper sold in individual packs or cases of 24. Organizations are encouraged to purchase pomps in groups of 12 or 24. Each pack of pomps covers approximately 4 feet by 4 feet of a singly pomped float, or 2 feet by 2 feet of a doubly pomped float.

Chicken wire is sold in 36 inch by 25-foot rolls.

Wood glue is sold by the gallon.

**Instructions:** Float supplies will be distributed by the Nittany Co-Op and must be ordered through Penn State Homecoming. No outside ordering is allowed.

To order float supplies, organizations must create an account on the Penn State Homecoming Website (homecoming.psu.edu) and fill out the Float Supplies Order Form.

All organizations—whether they are an Overall or Event Competitors—must bring a check made out to “Penn State Homecoming” or an ASA transfer to the Homecoming Office, 227B HUB, on September 4th by 6:00 PM. Each organization will sign up for a pick-up time on October 2nd.

**Timeline for Ordering:**
- **April 10th:** Overall Competitor Float Supplies Order Form Opens
- **May 10th:** Overall Competitor Float Supplies Orders Due
- **August 28th:** Overall Competitor Float Supplies Invoices Sent Out
- **September 2nd:** Event Competitor Float Supplies Orders Due
- **September 2nd:** Event Competitor Float Supplies Invoices Sent Out
- **September 4th:** ALL Float Supplies Due

**Deductions:** Organizations or pairs will receive a 30 point deduction for not scheduling a pick-up time and 30 points for failing to pick-up their order at their scheduled time.

Any question regarding pomp orders should be directed to Rosemary Hwang, Distribution Management Director at distributionhomecoming@psu.edu
Parade Information & Float Regulations

The following information is provided to assist each organization or pair in successfully and safely completing the parade. These rules and regulations are in place to protect the participants, spectators, volunteers and staff involved in the parade, and are necessary to ensure that Homecoming can continue to have such a successful and entertaining celebration in the future.

General Guidelines:

- Each organization, pair or triad will be checked for alcohol and/or illegal drugs. University and State College Police will be present to conduct searches and take legal action if applicable. Any persons found with alcohol or drugs in their possession will be immediately disqualified, removed from the staging ground, and will forfeit their equipment deposit.
- Parade order will be determined at random by the Homecoming Parade Committee.
- The parade will begin at 6:00pm.
- All trash should be removed from your area before leaving the staging area. Organizations, pairs or triads that do not properly dispose of their trash will receive point deductions, fines and possible disqualification depending on the severity of the infraction.
- Any Madhatter, Banner, Float, or other presentation or performance that stops along the parade route will receive a warning and a point deduction. Multiple warnings can result in disqualification from the 2015 parade competitions and the 2015 parade.
  - Drivers, walkers or performers should prevent gaps from forming in the procession. If gaps occur, the Security Committee will issue instructions or warning to eliminate the issue.
- Any Float that fails to complete the parade route will be disqualified.
- Absolutely nothing may be thrown from a float or vehicle during the parade! Points will be deducted each time a person is seen throwing any object from a float or vehicle. All candy, flyers, etc. must be handed out to spectators by members walking on the street. This is extremely important to the safety of our spectators, especially children. Multiple warnings will result in an organization or pair being immediately pulled from the parade, disqualification, and the loss of the equipment and security deposits.
- Any organization, pair, triad or group found with obscene or political propaganda will not be permitted to participate in the parade.
- Each student organization, pair or triad registered as a walking group is limited to a maximum of 20 persons.
- If an organization, pair or triad is using a flatbed with no object build or placed on it, they are permitted to have 20 persons on the flatbed, 2 persons walking in front of the flatbed with the banner, and 1 madhatter.
- Organizations entering a float are limited to one flatbed and one vehicle. They are permitted a maximum of 5 persons on the float, 2 persons walking in front of the float with the banner, and 1 madhatter.

Float Guidelines:
• Organizations/pairs/triads must report to the parade check-in table at the staging area at their assigned time with their flatbed. Those checking in more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified, will not be allowed to participate in the parade, and will forfeit their Equipment Deposit.

• Each float must be equipped with safety chains, quick links, a triangle reflector, and a **10 Pound** fire extinguisher at all times. This equipment must be present at check-in. Any float missing equipment will not be allowed to enter the parade.

• A towing vehicle must accompany every flatbed at all times in the staging grounds. A float may not be dropped off unless there is already another towing vehicle present to replace it. **The towing vehicle should be filled with gas prior to float staging to avoid any last-minute complications.**

• All vehicles and floats must be attended at all times. Any vehicle or float seen unattended will be disqualified and will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

• Drivers must have a clear view through all windows and unrestricted access to the door.

• Absolutely no smoking is allowed in the staging area at any time. Any person caught smoking will face point deductions and possible disqualification.
  ○ Anyone wishing to smoke should first completely exit the staging area.

• An investment in a rain tarp is highly suggested in the event that it rains in the staging area before the parade begins.

• Any float that is found unsafe by the Homecoming Executive Committee or the State College Police will not be permitted to participate in the parade.

• There is limited amount of space for organizations to drive vehicles in the parade (with no flatbed/float) whether alone or in addition to a walking group. Please indicate this specific request on the registration form. The earlier a registration is received, the more likely it is that a specific request can be granted, but there are no guarantees.

**Police Regulations for Floats:**

**Read carefully – failure to adhere to these regulations will result in immediate disqualification, loss of Equipment Deposit and the float will not be allowed to participate in the parade.**

• A 10-pound minimum ABC (min 2A/10BC rating) fire extinguisher is required for each flatbed/float. Fire extinguishers must be present at inspection and check-in. Two, 5 pound fire extinguishers are not an acceptable substitute.

• Anyone in need of a Fire Extinguisher may contact FratFix at 814-880-3131.

• Electrical equipment must be powered by battery or generator. Backups are suggested; Homecoming is not responsible for faulty equipment.
  ○ Any generator must be uncovered and not placed within 3 feet of combustible materials
  ○ Generators may not be placed in enclosed spaces, passenger vehicles or truck beds.

• Wiring connections must be safe and secure. No open splices or frayed wires.

• All heat sources, including lights, must be placed safely away from combustible materials.

• No halogen lights may be used.
• Safety chains provided must be affixed to the flatbed. The safety chain should be crossed and connected to the towed and towing vehicle as well as the towing bar to prevent the bar from dropping to the ground. The chains should have no more slack than is necessary for turning.
• Reflection triangles and working brake lights and turn signals must be present.
• Individuals riding on the float must be situated in a secure location.
• Absolutely no open flames are permitted on floats or towing vehicles.
• Any person who operates a vehicle in violation shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of up to $300 for each violation.

Fire Regulations for Floats:
During Homecoming Week, many organizations build shelters to protect the float from weather conditions and to provide security. These shelters may create a fire hazard.
• Any shelter that is attached to any house or structure must be built of fire resistant material.
• Tarps, tents or other materials must be labeled or stamped approved for fire resistance.
• Care should be used with the use of flammable liquids.
• A properly illuminated egress path must be maintained any time the shelter is occupied.
• At least **ONE 10lb ABC fire extinguisher** must be displayed near each exit of the tent.
• Anyone in need of a Fire Extinguisher contact Frat Fix at 814-880-3131.
• Tents that are more than 15 feet from any structures do not need to be flame resistant.
• Tents exceeding 200 square feet and canopies exceeding 400 square feet require a permit from the State College Borough.
The Homecoming Executive Committee and the State College Police will be checking fire regulations throughout Homecoming Week. Organizations not complying will be reported to the appropriate officials and will receive a point deduction from their overall score.

“Camping Out”:
• Two or more people from the same organization gathering or marking at any particular point along the parade route before 9am on Friday, October 9th will have 100 points deducted from their overall score each time they are caught and they will be removed from the site.
  ○ Any chairs, signs, coolers, etc. left along the sidewalk to reserve an organization’s location before 9am will be removed by Homecoming Security.
  ○ Homecoming will not be held responsible for any items left unattended.
• Any organizations involved in disorderly conduct of any form (fighting, harassment, public intoxication, etc.) or any behavior deemed inappropriate by the Homecoming Executive Committee will be disqualified and removed from all parade competitions.
• Do not litter! There are trashcans available along the parade route, please use them.
• The State College Police will be patrolling the streets before, during and after the parade. If any police action is taken against a member of a particular organization, that organization’s eligibility to participate in the following year’s Homecoming celebration will come under the review by the Homecoming Executive Committee.
- The Homecoming Security Committee will patrol the parade route throughout the entire day of the parade and will take action against any persons who do not comply with these regulations.
- Failure to vacate the premises upon warning from the Homecoming Security Committee will result in police notification.

Any question pertaining to parade rules, regulations or guidelines or registration as an Alumni or Community group should be directed to Deanna Javage, Parade Director at ParadeHomecoming@psu.edu.
Float Competition

1100 points

Description: Pomped floats participating in the parade using flatbeds may enter the Float Competition and will be judged as they pass the Allen Street Gates at the Friends and Family Tent.

Rules:

- Float construction will begin Sunday, October 4th at 5pm.
- During the inspection on the night prior to the parade, the vehicle that will be towing the float MUST have a full tank of gas.
- Organizations/pairs must report to the parade check-in table at the designated time with their floats. Floats arriving more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified, lose their equipment deposit, and will not participate in the parade.
  1. Organizations arriving without the proper safety equipment will not be considered checked-in and will have 30 minutes to retrieve the equipment or be disqualified.
- Floats must be complete upon arrival at the staging area for check-in.
- The Borough Traffic Coordinator strictly prohibits anything being thrown from a flatbed, float, or vehicle. Deductions will be made each time any person is caught throwing any item.
- Organization(s) names must appear clearly on the float.
- Paper-mâché and airbrushing are prohibited during float construction.
- Float dimensions may not exceed 8ft wide X 20ft long X 15ft high. If a float does not meet this size requirement, it will be disqualified and not allowed to participate in the parade.
- Floats must be pulled by a State College Borough-certified motor vehicle with a properly working towing hitch.
- Any float deemed unsafe or inappropriate by the Homecoming Executive Committee or the State College Police will be removed from the parade and disqualified from competition.
- Floats will be inspected several times during float inspection and on Parade Day. Each in accordance with all Police and Fire Regulations as well as Homecoming Competition Rules and Regulations. Please read each respective section carefully to ensure your float meets all regulations and will be allowed to participate in the parade.
- Any member of an organization caught vandalizing floats or any parade equipment will be immediately disqualified from all parade competitions and forfeit its Overall Competitor status, and in addition may also face legal action. IFC, the Panhellenic Council, and the State College Police Department will be contacted.
- Any organization that has a float subject to vandalism, and does not appear in the parade will be immediately disqualified from all parade competitions and forfeit its Overall Competitor status. This means that each organization is responsible for the safety and well being of its float at all times!
  - Have someone guard your float at all times!
  - Parade order is determined at random by the Parade Committee.

The Homecoming Executive Committee reserves the right to disqualify any floats that do not meet quality standards.

Scoring Criteria:
• Is Complete & Fully Pompded 125 points
• Utilizes Flatbed Space Effectively 100 points
• Quality of Construction 100 points
• Consistent Use of Materials/Decorations 100 points
• Appealing Design/Color Scheme 125 points
• Creativity/Originality 100 points
• Use of Lights, Moving Parts, Etc. 50 points
• Relates to Organization/Pair’s Theme 100 points
• Promotes Penn State Spirit 75 points
• Appropriate for Audience 100 points
• Entertaining/Crowd Reaction 125 points

Deductions:

• Floats not complying with Police and Fire Regulations at the initial float inspection will receive a deduction of 20 points per infraction.
• Floats not complying with Police and Fire Regulations at float inspection on parade day will be disqualified and not allowed to participate in the parade.
• 200 point deduction for beginning construction before Sunday, October 4th at 5pm
• 50 point deduction each time an object is seen being thrown from a float/vehicle
• 25 point deduction if the organization name(s) does not appear on the float
• 50 point deduction each time a member of your organization is caught smoking in the parade staging area or while on the float
• 50 point deduction (minimum) if an organization or pair’s area is not cleaned prior to leaving staging area
• 50 point deduction if a float makes any stop at any part of the parade route, unless directed to do so by Homecoming or Police personnel

Any questions concerning parade order should be directed to Deanna Javage, Parade Director at ParadeHomecoming@psu.edu.

Any question related to the Float Competition should be directed to Jaclyn Gross, Competition Director at CompetitionHomecoming@psu.edu.
## Float Competition 2015 Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete, Fully pomped, quality of construction, Consistent use of materials/dec orations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Float looks complete, pomps are securely attached, care to make the float is apparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appealing design, color scheme and creativity/originality</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Unique and imaginative artistic effort in designing the float is present, visually pleasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of lights, moving parts, utilizes flatbed space</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Flatbed space is evenly distribute d and covered, lights and moving parts are present and fully functioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Score</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Relates to organization’s theme</td>
<td>Fully demonstrates and relates to the chosen theme</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Theme is not represented or discernable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotes Penn state spirit</td>
<td>Fully encompasses Penn State pride, tradition and values</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Does not include any PSU reference</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience appropriate/Crowd reaction</td>
<td>Fun to watch and very expressive, appropriate for all ages</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Crowd is not responsive, not family friendly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The Float Competition will be judged by invited faculty, students, staff and community members, as selected by the Judging Captains on the Competition Committee.*