

2023 OVERALL COMPETITOR HOMECOMING GUIDE

Dear Homecoming Participant,

For the past one-hundred and four years, Penn State students have come together to participate in a celebration of a school that has given us some of our fondest memories, experiences, and friends. The overwhelming pride that we display during Homecoming Week, and throughout the entire year, is second-to-none. I am incredibly excited to see everything that you all accomplish this year including amazing floats. Together, we can create a Homecoming experience to be remembered for years to come!

This Homecoming Guide is in place to educate you on the regulations and guidelines we have set to ensure you have the best Homecoming experience. While we strive to make this guide as comprehensive as possible, we encourage you to contact either our Competition Director, Liz Wesdock (competitionhomecoming@psu.edu), or myself (homecoming@psu.edu) at any time. Similarly, the entire Homecoming Executive Committee is here to serve as a resource for our participants at all times. Do not hesitate to contact any Director you feel is relevant to your needs throughout the entirety of this Homecoming season.

The theme for this year is "Illuminate the Lion Within". With this theme, we hope to highlight the qualities that Penn Staters share to create a welcoming environment, and leave their legacies at the university. Thank you for the time and dedication you will put into this year! We look forward to working with you to celebrate the best of Penn State's past, present, and future.

For The Glory,

April Komal

2023 Executive Director

Competition Overview

Homecoming's goal is to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family. Together we are trying to educate, form and bring people together by hosting competitors and hosting competitions. Through Homecoming you will receive active engagement from students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Overall Competitors must compete in all required events and are eligible to win the Overall Homecoming Competition. Overall Competitors are eligible to be paired with other Overall Competing organizations. When registered as an Overall Competitor, organizations are required to participate in these competitions:

- Float
- Banner
- T-Shirt and/or Madhatter

There are many other competitions throughout the year that can increase engagement throughout the community. If an organization fails to participate in any of the required events above, their eligibility to continue with Overall Competition will be discussed amongst the Homecoming Executive Committee.

Winners

- **1st place prize** - \$1500 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.
- **2nd place prize** - \$1000 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.
- **3rd place prize** - \$500 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.
- Prize winning will be evenly split by organizations in pair/triad. In the case the winning organizations do not have a national philanthropy, prize winnings will go to the philanthropy of their choice (excluding THON – but can do Four Diamonds).
- 1st - 3rd place Overall Competitors will be announced at the Homecoming Football game.
- Prize money will be transferred to the winning organization(s) and they are expected to donate the money to their philanthropy and then provide confirmation

Homecoming Organizations Meetings

- Each organization or pair is required to attend a fall and spring meeting that will be assigned based on availability. The time and date will be chosen in agreement between Homecoming and the Organization.
- Attendance at the Spring and Fall Info Meetings is mandatory for all organizations.
- Every Homecoming chair for each organization must be in attendance, with the exception of family/health-related emergencies or class.
- **All excuses** should be sent to competitionhomecoming@psu.edu and will be approved by the Competition Director.

Registration and Pairing

Every organization that is registering to be an Overall Competitor will be placed in a pair or triad. These pairs/triads will work together throughout the year to earn points towards Overall Competition.

Registration

- The Registration form will be released on the Homecoming Website.
- Organizations that plan on competing must fill out the Registration form by **April 7th at 5 p.m.**
- This form will not include payments.
- Security Deposits (\$150) will be due by the end of the semester.

Pairing

- Pairings will be **randomized**.
- Pairings will be released **by the end of the semester** via e-mail.
- An “Overall Competing Triad” will be synonymous with an “Overall Competing Pair” for all intents and purposes other than registration and may be referred to as “pair” henceforth.

Expectations of Participating Organizations

- An organization that chooses to participate in Penn State Homecoming represents the University and will always abide by the Penn State Student Code of Conduct. By registering to participate in any Homecoming event(s), organizations agree to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, Policies and Rules for Student Organizations, and to follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Homecoming Guide. The student code of conduct can be found at <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/codeofconduct/>. Policies and Rules for Student Organizations can be found at <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/organizationrules>.
- Paired organizations will be held responsible for the actions of their partner organization, regardless of fault. Penalties incurred due to failure to attend required meetings and events or failure to comply with the rules set forth by the Homecoming Executive Committee will affect both organizations.
- Exceptions to this may only occur if the Homecoming Executive Committee is to handle an organization’s future participation in Homecoming following a disqualification. Organizations will then be handled separately.
- The Homecoming Executive Committee reserves the right to deny any participant(s) or organization(s) entry into any Homecoming competitive event.
- Political propaganda, profanity, alcohol/drug related references and nudity are expressly forbidden.
- No decisions made by Homecoming Captains or Committee Members are binding and any such decisions are subject to review by the Homecoming Executive Committee.

- Any and all rules and regulations are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the Homecoming Executive Committee. Any modifications or additions to the rules and regulations of the Homecoming Guide will be publicized via the Homecoming listserv and the Homecoming website.
- All organizations that violate the rules and guidelines set place in the 2023 Homecoming Guide are subject to an automatic review by the Homecoming Executive Committee and can have their participation in Homecoming 2023 revoked or their future participations restricted.

Registration Financial Information

Any organization that has outstanding fines will not be permitted to register until those fines are paid.

- Overall Competitors may begin final registration on the Homecoming website on **March 28th until April 7th**. All payments and online registration must be submitted to consider a pair/triad participant in Homecoming 2022.
 - *Registration signifies a commitment by the participating organizations to compete in all Homecoming events.*
- Organizations may use a check as payment made to **“Penn State Homecoming”** and the organizations’ names must be written on the memo line.
 - Please note, **we will not be accepting personal checks**. Checks must be written from the account of the competing organization, not an individual members account.
 - **Checks should be brought to 227B HUB no later than May 5th, 2023 at 4 p.m. to avoid late fees.**
 - Please see “Financial Obligations” for more information.
 - If a check is turned in later than May 4th, a \$10 late fee will be added per day the check is late for up to \$100.
 - After April 7th, 2023 at 5p.m., an organization will be able to register late as an Overall Competing Organization for an extra \$30.
 - *If an organization fails to submit their full payment by the registration due date, an extension may be given at the discretion of the Financial Management Director, and late fees will incur. If after the extension, the organization has still not paid, they are disqualified from participating in this year’s Homecoming celebrations.*

Financial Obligation Information

An overall pair is responsible for their entire payment. However, each organization that is part of an overall pair or triad may split the cost at their own discretion as long as the total payment is paid in full by the registration deadline.

All of the below fees are non-refundable, and all deposits will be cashed immediately.

• Security deposits will be reimbursed via an electronic transfer to an organization's ASA account. If an organization does not have an active ASA account, a check will be issued to one single organization within a pairing or a triad. A full reimbursement will only be issued if all security requirements were fulfilled and all equipment was returned undamaged by the scheduled return date.

If any organization has concerns about participating due to monetary constraints, please

reach out to competitionhomecoming@psu.edu

Overall Competition Fees:

Security Deposit <i>This will be returned at the commencement of Homecoming 2023 if organizations do not incur financial penalties over the course of the year.</i>	\$150.00
Competition Fees Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banner<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parade Participation• Float Competition	\$90.00 (First time competitors \$75)
Flatbed Rental <i>*Decorations for floats are bought in addition to these costs.</i> <i>Split between all organizations in your pair/triad</i>	\$300.00

[Guidelines](#)

- The \$150.00 security deposit is required from all groups, due to participation in the float competition. This deposit will provide the organization with safety chains, quick-links, and reflectors. No security deposits will be returned to an organization until Penn State Homecoming receives clearance from R.B. Powell, owner of Nittany Mountain Trail Rides, that the flatbed and equipment were returned in proper condition.
- Returns will be made only if all security requirements were fulfilled and all equipment was returned undamaged by the scheduled return date.

Student Organizations paying via organization check:

Registration fees must be paid by writing a check made payable to “**Penn State Homecoming**” and the organizations’ names must be written on the memo line.

- Please note, **we will not be accepting personal checks.** Checks must be written from the account of the competing organization, not an individual members account.
 - Checks will need to be turned in to 227B HUB for documentation no later than the final day at 5 p.m. of registration period to avoid late fees.

If all equipment is returned over time and in proper condition, the organization’s security deposit will be notified via email or phone when their refund will be available for pick up in the Homecoming Office (227B HUB). If the refund is not granted, the organization will be informed via email.

Organizations without organization checks may pay via Associated Student Activities (ASA) accounts:

The Registration fees can be paid by opening a transfer request with Penn State Homecoming acting as the vendor:

- Transfer request forms are available in 240 HUB. A copy will need to be turned in to 227B HUB for documentation no later than the final day at 5 p.m. of registration period to avoid late fees.
 - *Be sure to use the object code of 50251 (Registration/Tournament Fee). The Income object code is 41006 and Homecoming’s account number is 8525.*
- **If equipment is returned on time and in proper condition, the organization’s security deposit will be reimbursed via an electronic transfer to their ASA account.** If the refund is not granted, the organization will be informed via email.

Merchandise Information

- Organizations DO NOT need to have their merchandise approved by the Merchandise Director. However, if organization merchandise is deemed inappropriate by any of the Homecoming Executive Committee, the organization will be disqualified from the event at which the merchandise was worn, and forfeit any points earned at that event.

○ Please note you must order from a Penn State-approved licensed vendor. Custom Ink is not an approved vendor. Our approved vendors include Collegiate Pride and Shenk Company.

• If an organization would like to use any official Penn State Homecoming Logo, including the 2020, “S” or Legacy logos, they must meet with a member of the Merchandise Committee. The Homecoming Merchandise Committee must then place this order.

• All apparel must be appropriate, reflect Homecoming and Penn State in a positive light and should promote school spirit.

○ **ABSOLUTELY NO SEXUALLY EXPLICIT, ALCOHOL, OR DRUG-RELATED MATERIAL IS ALLOWED.**

• Individuals/organizations are not permitted to sell Homecoming merchandise as a means to make a profit for personal use. If an individual or organization is found violating this rule, the individual or organization will be required to shut down the sale, refund all individuals that anticipated buying merchandise, and pay a fine to Homecoming.

• Profit from Penn State Homecoming merchandise sales is used as a fundraiser for Homecoming, which in part, allows for registration fees for competitors to be as low as they are. Taking away profit from a Homecoming fundraiser will result in higher registration fees for competitors.

Any further questions should be directed to the Competition Director, Liz Wesdock, at competitionhomecoming@psu.edu

By signing below, I acknowledge the terms of being an overall competitor.

Printed Name _____

Organization Name _____ Signature
