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OUR HISTORY

The Pennsylvania State University was founded in 1855 and has grown to be one of the most well-known and respected universities in the country; proudly built on tradition and pride. Every year, students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members come together for Homecoming week to celebrate all that is Penn State. In the 1860s, alumni gathered to play football during Harvest Home and Pennsylvania Day Celebrations. This tradition developed into an annual occurrence and eventually led to the first Penn State Homecoming football game, which was played on October 9, 1920, against Dartmouth.

Since then, Penn State Homecoming has gained participation and it now includes a year-long effort to bring together the students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community.
ABOUT HOMECOMING

Penn State Homecoming is the largest student-run homecoming celebration in the nation. Penn State Homecoming’s 300 student volunteers donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event. Students work with their peers, alumni, sponsors, and various other community members to help make Homecoming Week and our other annual events occur. Homecoming maintains lasting relationships with those in and outside of Penn State University to ensure a successful celebration each year.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Penn State Homecoming is to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty, and staff across the community.
2023 THEME

Illuminate the Lion Within

We all have a lion within--me, you, everyone here in the BJC and beyond. From the countless students who tour Penn State every day, to the hundreds and thousands of fans who gather to cheer on our teams, and every child you see laughing with the Nittany Lion at a football game. Everyone who has had an encounter with Penn State has been touched by the spirit of the lion. Even though we come from different backgrounds, we are one community, forever a home, united by the lion within. The lion is a symbol of our best—respect, community, integrity, discovery, excellence, and responsibility. The heart of a lion is inside every one of us--it’s up you to determine how that lion shines through.

Your Penn State Homecoming 2023 theme: Illuminate the Lion Within

-April Komal, Executive Director of Homecoming
The Homecoming Executive Committee selects two individuals to honor each year from the Penn State community as a part of the Homecoming celebration. These individuals are chosen as the Honorary Grand Marshal and Grand Marshal. Together, they represent the Penn State community for the year’s Homecoming and are honored for all of their achievements throughout the week-long celebration.

The Honorary Grand Marshal is a local figure or figures that have made an impact on the Penn State community. The Honorary Grand Marshal or Marshals are individuals who have gone above and beyond for the community and embody the spirit of Penn State.

The Homecoming Executive Committee also selects an alumnus who exemplifies qualities such as loyalty, leadership, and Penn State pride to serve as Homecoming’s Grand Marshal for the year. This individual is recognized for their perseverance and dedication in promoting ideals that make the Penn State community proud since their time at the university.

The Executive Committee chose Dr. Dr Gregory Drane as the Honorary Grand Marshals and Tanisha Wright as the Grand Marshal for Homecoming 2023.

GRAND MARSHAL: TANISHA WRIGHT

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL:

DR GREGORY DRANE
The members of the 2022 Homecoming Executive Committee were charged with planning, organizing and executing the events that make up one of the largest homecoming celebrations in the country. This committee worked hard to put together over ten events to highlight the pride and tradition of Penn State.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: APRIL KOMAL | SENIOR | MIDDLETOWN, PA**

April is a third-year student from Downingtown, PA. She is majoring in Secondary Education for Social Studies with minors in History, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, and Social Justice in Education. April has previously served as the Competition Director (2022), and an Organization Liaison Captain on the Competition Committee (2021). She loves Homecoming because it has truly made Penn State feel like home. April can’t wait to celebrate Homecoming 2023 and welcome the Penn State community back home to Happy Valley.

**LOGISTICS OFFICER: JOEY IMPERIAL | SENIOR |**

Joey is the Logistics Officer for Homecoming 2023. He is a 5th year Industrial Engineering major with a minor in Mathematics. This will be his third year in Homecoming, starting his journey as an OPPerations Captain and last year was the Director of the Largest Student Run Parade in the nation. Outside of Homecoming Joey is looking to dance at THON this year with his roommate. Joey is super excited to see what Homecoming does this year and is excited to share the experiences with the Penn State community!

**OUTREACH OFFICER: SHANNON BARKER | SENIOR | PROSPECT PARK, PA**

Shannon is a fifth-year student from Prospect Park, PA! She is majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in Diversity and Inclusion in Health and Human Development. She is beyond excited to take on the role of Outreach Officer for Homecoming 2023! This will be her fifth year in Homecoming, starting off her journey on the First-Year Involvement Committee, and moving on to Merchandise as a CM, Captain, and Director last year. Outside of Homecoming, Shannon is a THON Entertainment Captain--you’ll be able to catch her DJing THON events! Shannon is so excited for this upcoming year in Homecoming and to share her love for the organization with the Penn State community!

**ALUMNI RELATIONS: KERRY QUINN | SENIOR | NAZARETH, PA**

Kerry Quinn is the Alumni Relations Director for Homecoming 2023! She is a fourth-year student from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, and is currently studying Corporate Innovations and Entrepreneurship at the Smeal College of Business. She is also acquiring a minor in Management Information Systems. Outside of Homecoming, she is involved with Lion Ambassadors and an OPPerations THON committee. Kerry is very excited to be a part of the Homecoming 2023 Executive Committee, For the Glory!
COURT RELATIONS: PAIGE MEYERS | JUNIOR | PITTSBURGH, PA
Paige Myers is a third-year student from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! She is majoring in Health Policy Administration with minors in Kinesiology, Sports Studies, and Diversity and Inclusion. Last year, she served as a Student Court Captain on the Court Relations Committee. Paige loves Homecoming because it brings so many people together to celebrate the tradition and love surrounding Penn State. She is so excited to further explore her passion for Homecoming and the Court Relations Committee this year and is honored to work alongside her amazing co-directors!

COMPETITION DIRECTOR: LIZ WESDOCK | JUNIOR | BEL AIR, MD
Liz Wesdock is a fourth-year student from Bel Air, MD. She is studying Education & Public Policy. This is her second year involved with Homecoming, and she was a Competition Captain last year. Outside of Homecoming, Liz is involved with PLL Dance Company and Vole Dance Club. She also participates in THON as a member of the special interest organization, Trilogy. She is very excited to work with the amazing Executive Committee for Homecoming 2023!

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: JENNA BORKO | SENIOR | ROCK HILL, NY
Jenna is a fourth-year student from Rock Hill, NY majoring in accounting. Last year, she served as a Fiscal Tracking captain on the Financial Management committee. Outside of Homecoming, she is a member of Women in Business as well as a committee member for THON merchandise. Jenna loves Homecoming because it brings together so many people from different backgrounds to celebrate Penn State and she is so excited for this year!

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT: ARUSHI KRISHNAN | JUNIOR | CHICAGO, IL
Arushi is a third-year from Chicago, IL majoring in Psychology with a Women’s Studies minor. Her experience with Homecoming began her freshmen year when she was on the First Year Involvement Committee, and this past year she had the opportunity to be an Involvement Captain on University Relations. Outside of Homecoming Arushi is a Communications Captain for THON, a member of Penn State Lion Scouts, and is also the Secretary for the Penn State League of Women Voters chapter. Arushi is excited to bring all members of Penn State Homecoming and the Penn State community together throughout the year!

MERCHANDISE DIRECTOR: ALEX MACPHERSON | SENIOR | VERNON, NJ
Alexandra is a fourth-year from Vernon, NJ majoring in Secondary Education with minors in English, Journalism, and Jewish Studies. Last year, Alexandra was the Allen Street Jam Captain on the Pride Events Committee. Outside of Homecoming, Alexandra is involved with the Sigma Kappa Sorority. Alexandra is so excited to take on the role of Merchandise Director and sell many, many shirts!

PARADE DIRECTOR: GRACE FARRELL | SENIOR | WEST CHESTER, PA
Grace is a fourth-year from West Chester, PA majoring in finance. Last year, she served as a Logistics and Merge Point captain on the Parade committee. Outside of Homecoming, she is the chair for the Women in Business' Power of Us Gala. Grace loves Homecoming because of its ability to bring together the diverse Penn State community to celebrate Penn State’s values and traditions. She looks forward to the year ahead and can not wait to lead the Parade Committee in putting on the largest student-run parade in the nation!
PRIDE EVENTS DIRECTOR: JESS MULLER | JUNIOR | NEW YORK CITY, NY
Jess is a 3rd year student from New York City majoring in Forensic Science. Her Homecoming experience began in her freshman year when she was on the First Year Committee and she then served as the Best of Penn State Carnival Captain on Pride Events. Outside of Homecoming, Jess is a THON Hospitality Captain, Vice President of the Forensic Science Club, a Program Assistant for the First Years in Science and Engineering, a backpacking leader for the Penn State AURORA program, and a member of the Presidential Leadership Academy. Jess is so excited to bring some new ideas to Pride Events and see the way that Homecoming brings people together for another year!

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR: SARA BOBULINSKI | SENIOR | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Sara is a fourth year from Virginia Beach, Virginia majoring in Professional Photography. She worked on the PR committee for Homecoming 2022 as a photographer. While outside of Homecoming, she has worked as a THON photographer CM for THON 2022 and 2023, a VALLEY magazine Photographer since Spring 2022, and serves as the Media and Promotions Chair for Volé Dance Company. She grew up learning about the traditions and stories of Penn State from her family which helped spark her love for Penn State while creating her own as she continues her years in college. She cannot wait to help bring Homecoming’s story alive and showcase to a wide community how special Homecoming is.

TALENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR: JEREMY BELL | SENIOR | LITITZ, PA
Jeremy is a fourth-year from Lititz, PA, and he is studying Human-Centered Design and Development. Jeremy served as the DJ for Homecoming 2022, where he gained experience working with Talent Relations and other Homecoming volunteers. Outside of Homecoming, Jeremy is the Vice President of Sunny State, a committee member for THON Rules and Regulations, and a member of Club Cross Country. Jeremy’s favorite hobbies are traveling, listening to music, and photography. Jeremy is very excited to organize various events for Homecoming 2023 and instill pride in the community!

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR: VIRAJ JOSH | SENIOR | CHADDS, PA
Viraj is a fourth-year from Chadds Ford Pennsylvania. He is majoring in Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations with an additional focus on Application Development at the College of IST. Last year, Viraj served as the Donation Development Captain for the Financial Management Committee. Outside of Homecoming, he serves as a Merchandise Captain for Penn State THON and an LA for the college of IST. Viraj is involved in Homecoming because he enjoys celebrating what makes our Penn State community great and spreading Penn State Pride!

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR: HAILEE YOUNG | SENIOR | NAZARETH, PA
Hailee is a 4th year from Nazareth, Pennsylvania. She is majoring in Biology with a Neuroscience Option and Pre-PA track with a minor in Women Studies. Last year, Hailee served as the Court Relations Director on the Homecoming Executive Committee. Outside of Homecoming, she is the THON Chair for the Biological Honor Society, a THON Special Events Committee Member, and the Treasurer for Best Buddies. Hailee is involved in Homecoming because of the opportunity it creates to bring together all students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and anyone in the Penn State family to honor the community and family we have established here.
HOMECOMING EVENTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 8, 2023 | 10:00AM | WHITE COURSE
PLAY ON TEAMS OR 2V2 AT SOME OF THE HOLES TO WIN PRIZES

RALLY AND ROAR PARTNERED WITH SPA
OCTOBER 8, 2023 | 5:00PM | CURTIN ROAD
WE ARE TAKING OVER CURTIN ROAD! STOP BY FOR FREE FOOD, INFLATABLES, LIVE MUSIC, AND FIREWORKS AT 9PM.

ALLEN STREET JAM
OCTOBER 9, 2023 | 3:00 PM | SOUTH ALLEN STREET
STOP BY ALLEN STREET BETWEEN BEAVER AND COLLEGE AVES ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH FROM 3-7PM. ENJOY FUN GAMES, FREE AIRBRUSH APPAREL, LIVE PERFORMANCES AND MORE!

PAST TO PRESENT
OCTOBER 10, 2023 | 11:00AM | HUB
ENTER THE HUB ON TUESDAY BETWEEN 11 AND 4 AND BE GREETED BY OUR LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM. GET TO KNOW THE HISTORY BEHIND SOME OF PENN STATE AND STATE COLLEGE’S MOST PREVALENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SEE OUR PERFORMERS!

FTG TALENT SHOW
OCTOBER 10, 2023 | 7:00PM | SCHWAB AUDITORIUM
HOMECOMING WILL BE HOSTING A TALENT SHOW IN SCHWAB AUDITORIUM TO SHOWCASE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE GREAT TALENTS! COME OUT AND BE A PART OF IT OR WATCH THESE AMAZING PERFORMERS IN ACTION!

BOPS
OCTOBER 11, 2023 | 2:00PM | HUB LAWN
HOMECOMING’S BEST OF PENN STATE CARNIVAL TAKES PLACE ON HUB LAWN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH FROM 2 TO 7 PM. COME RIDE THE RIDES, PLAY THE GAMES, AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

HOMECOMING/OPULENCE DRAG SHOW
OCTOBER 11, 2023 | 8:00PM | THE BASEMENT NIGHTTIME SPOT
PENN STATE HOMECOMING IS SO EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH OPULENCE TO PUT ON OUR SECOND ANNUAL DRAG SHOW! OPULENCE IS PENN STATE’S PREMIERE DRAG AMBASSADOR GROUP. COME OUT FOR A FUN NIGHT OF PERFORMANCES!
PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY (P.O.C.) PEP RALLY
OCTOBER 12, 2023 | HUB
THE PEP RALLY CELEBRATES THE DIVERSITY OF THE STUDENT OF COLOR COMMUNITY AT PENN STATE THROUGH PERFORMANCES BY DIFFERENT CULTURAL-BASED ORGANIZATIONS. COME TO CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES HERE THROUGH DANCE, SPOKEN WORD AND COMMUNITY GATHERING!

ALUMNI ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 1:00PM | HINTZ ALUMNI CENTER
THE HOMECOMING ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS AN EVENT ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND MEMBERS OF THE PENN STATE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. BERKEY CREAMERY ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED ALONG WITH MUSIC, ALUMNI BLUE BAND PERFORMANCES, AND A CASH-ONLY HOMECOMING MERCHANDISE SALE!

PARADE
OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 6:00 PM
ON BEHALF OF PENN STATE HOMECOMING, THE PARADE COMMITTEE IS EXCITED FOR THIS YEAR’S HOMECOMING PARADE WITH THE THEME “TOGETHER STATE PREVAILS.” WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ONE OF PENN STATE’S OLDEST AND MOST FAMOUS TRADITIONS THAT KEPS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI CONNECTED.

GUARD THE LION SHRINE
OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 7:30PM-10:00PM | LION SHRINE
MEMBERS FROM PENN STATE’S ARMY ROTC PROGRAM COME TO STAND GUARD & PROTECT THE SYMBOL OF OUR BEST! AT THE EVENT THERE WILL BE FREE FOOD, INCLUDING POPCORN & FUNNEL CAKES, OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHOTOS WITH THE NITTANY LION, & A VARIETY OF GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS TO WIN GIVEAWAYS & PRIZES! LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WILL ALSO BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, INCLUDING THE BLUE BAND DRUMLINE.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME
OCTOBER 14, 2023 | 12:00PM | BEAVER STADIUM
CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR UPDATES REGARDING PENN STATE HOMECOMING VISIT:

- homecoming.psu.edu
- Twitter/Instagram:@psuhomecoming Youtube/Facebook:
- @pennstatehomecoming

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDIA, CONTACT US:

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