

# HOMECOMING SPIRIT PARADE

2026 OFFICIAL RULE BOOK



**HOMECOMING**  
**TEXAS STATE**

**OCTOBER 19 – 24**



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Student Involvement  
& Engagement

# HOMECOMING SPIRIT PARADE

Texas State's Homecoming Spirit Parade ("Parade") unites the Texas State University and San Marcos communities, featuring the TXST Marching Band, Strutters, TXST Spirit Teams, Homecoming Royalty and entries from departments and student organizations.

## NATURE AND PURPOSE:

The Texas State University Homecoming Spirit Parade is an activity of the University. It is administered by Student Involvement and Engagement.

The purposes of the Parade are to:

- A.** Celebrate TXST's traditions and accomplishments;
- B.** Cultivate alumni connections to the institution;
- C.** Honor university-related achievements of TXST students, personnel, and/or alumni;
- D.** Rally support and enthusiasm for the Homecoming football game

The Parade is an expression of the University for these purposes. The University controls the Parade, the Parade theme and topics, the selection of Participants, and reserves the right to refuse any participant for any reason. It is not an open forum for expression on topics identified by participants but rather is limited to expression of the University's selected theme and topics for the purposes noted above.

## PARADE ELEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- E.** Permit: Student Involvement and Engagement will apply to the City of San Marcos on behalf of Texas State University for a permit for the Homecoming Spirit Parade.
- F.** Parade Details: Student Involvement and Engagement will establish and publish the particulars of the Parade, including:
  - 1.** Application process and deadlines to participate;
  - 2.** Number of participants;
  - 3.** Minimum and maximum numbers of individuals for each participant category;
  - 4.** Timing, duration, route, program, announcing, order, and other logistics; and
  - 5.** Policies for orderly, safe, and aesthetically appropriate participation.

# PARTICIPANTS

**A. Invited Participants:** Student Involvement and Engagement may invite the following types of participants into the Homecoming Spirit Parade:

1. University entrants, including, for example, University Officials/offices, Marching Band, and Spirit Teams;
2. Homecoming Royalty Court;
3. Honorees and other dignitaries;
4. TXST Athletics, Alumni Association, Parent Association, UFCU Bank;
5. Bands; and
6. City of San Marcos

**B. Student Organizations:** To be eligible to participate, a student organization must be a Recognized Student Organization or university program in good standing at Texas State University.

**C. Other:** Student Involvement and Engagement reserves the right to invite additional participants and/or consider anyone they deem appropriate for participation.

# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

**A. Invited participants and invited bands** are still required to register as their proposed entries are subject to review and approval by Student Involvement and Engagement to ensure that they abide by other applicable policies.

**B. Recognized Student Organizations** wishing to participate must submit a timely and complete application to Student Involvement and Engagement. The timing, process, and application form will be determined and published by Student Involvement and Engagement each year.

**C. Student Involvement and Engagement consideration**

Student Involvement and Engagement may request additional information or explanation and may request amendments to applications.

1. Student Involvement and Engagement will approve or deny any applications based on eligibility; timeliness; space availability; sharing opportunities for participation over time; aesthetic merit; and consistency of other Parade policies.
2. Student Involvement and Engagement will inform each applicant in writing whether their request to participate is approved or denied. If it denies a request, Student Involvement and Engagement will identify the reason(s) for denial.

# PARTICIPATION

Participants must follow all processes, policies, and requirements established by this Rulebook and Student Involvement and Engagement. Participants must also comply with other applicable university policies and laws. Failure to comply with any section of the Rulebook will automatically disqualify the participants from participation in the Parade. Student Involvement and Engagement will be responsible for determining whether a participant is following applicable processes, policies, and requirements and for issuing any directive withdrawing of a participant from the Homecoming Spirit Parade.

Additionally, students must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's mission as an educational institution. Students who conduct themselves in a manner that violates the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to disciplinary penalties with the Dean of Students. Violations of any of the above requirements/policies may result in being banned (as an individual and/or organization) from future Parades.

All organizations/departments wishing to enter the Parade must submit an entry form no later than the deadline. Late entries will not be accepted.

## ENTRIES

Entries are categorized into classes, depending on the type.

There are five entry classes, and they are defined as follows:

**Class A – Traditional Float:** All participants must provide their own pulling mechanism and transportation, if applicable. The pulling mechanism must consist of a maximum of one motorized vehicle. Each entry must follow the vehicle/float dimensions: 12ft height, 60ft length, 100-inch width (including rails), and a 1ft street clearance. A maximum of 30 people may be present on or around the float entry.

**Class B – Motorized Vehicles Without Floats:** The number of vehicles included in this entry space will be dependent on the size of the vehicles. Entries in this class are subject to approval by TXST.

**Class C – Walking:** These entries may consist of a maximum of 40 people on foot.

**Class D – Marching Bands:** These entries take up more space than others and may require special considerations from Parade staff. There is no formal requirement regarding the size or number of people in this entry class.

**Class E – Airborne & Oversized Inflatables/Etc.:** These entries will be considered unique and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Homecoming Parade Committee. All decisions made by the committee are final.

**Student Involvement and Engagement reserves the right to limit the number of entries for each class. All participants must abide by the following rules and guidelines. TXST reserves the right to reject any entry that is not in good taste, inappropriate, or not in the best interest of the Parade.**

# GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

- A.** Throwing candy or other items from the float is NOT permitted.
- B.** Unless there is an emergency, entrants must remain in their vehicle or on their float for the duration of the Parade route. Entrants are not allowed to ride on top of vehicles.
- C.** This is a forward-motion Parade. No backward motion is permitted during the Parade. Brief stops during the Parade for dance routines and/or band maneuvering are acceptable.
- D.** Vehicles must proceed all the way, safely, past the end of the Parade route before stopping and unloading.
- E.** No political notices, signs, or announcements allowed, unless by a Recognized Student Organization whose primary organization objective is to promote a particular candidate for public office, position on a ballot measure, political party or political campaign.
- F.** The consumption of alcohol or other illegal substances is strictly prohibited before and during the Parade. Anyone suspected of violating this policy will be asked to leave immediately.

# MOTORIZED VEHICLE GUIDELINES

All motorized vehicle entries must abide by the following university policy

- A.** Every driver must carry a valid driver's license. Drivers should be able to present an appropriate license on Parade day if requested by the Homecoming Parade Committee, University, or Law Enforcement Officials.
- B.** All vehicles must carry Automobile Liability Insurance with a combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage of not less than the State of Texas minimums. Proof of insurance should be available from the driver on Parade day if requested by TXST.
- C.** There must be an interval between vehicles that is equal to the vehicle's length. For example, a vehicle 6 feet in length must have a gap of 6 feet between that and other vehicles in the entry. If the vehicles are of varying sizes, the space between vehicles must be equivalent to the length of the largest vehicle.
- D.** Vehicles must yield right of way to all.
- E.** Vehicles must be in good physical and operating conditions. No excessive exhaust. Great tire conditions.
- F.** All units must keep pace with the units in front of them.
- G.** No 18 wheelers or tractor trailers.
- H.** Stunts, wheelies, driving out of designated Parade route, and reckless behavior are prohibited.
- I.** All drivers are required to have a clear view and maintain constant observation of all sides of their unit. If any view of these areas is obstructed by accessories, decorations, etc., supervision must be posted at each corner of the unit to ensure the safety of people and objects in the surrounding areas.

# FLOATS AND VEHICLE DECORATIONS

- A. Decorative materials must be flame retardant.
- B. You can decorate your float/vehicle prior to Parade Day or on-site AFTER you have checked in.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Activities which draw Parade attendees into the Parade route are very serious and can create liability for all Parade entries. It is important that Parade entrants understand the danger of distributing items during the Parade, which can create personal liability.

If your group decides to hand out candy or other items along the perimeter of the Parade route, you must follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators along the Parade route.

- A. Throwing candy or other items from the float/vehicle is NOT permitted as it entices Parade participants into the path of the Parade.
- B. Anyone handing out candy or other items along the Parade route must walk the entire Parade route. Under no circumstances shall observers be drawn into the Parade route (into the street).
- C. Anyone handing out candy or other items is not allowed to get onto the float/vehicle for the duration of the Parade.
- D. No one riding the float/vehicle is allowed to get off the float/vehicle for the duration of the Parade.