A Letter from the Homecoming Chair

Students, Faculty, and Alumni of East Tennessee State University,

I am so beyond grateful to have had the chance to take part in the planning of this year's Homecoming! It truly is an honor to be a part of such a wonderful, community-building occasion. Our celebrations this year are based on the theme of *Red, White, Blue & Gold*. This theme emerged as we join together in celebration of America's 250th year. I am so excited for Homecoming week, and I am so grateful that I share that enthusiasm with so many.

While Homecoming stands to foster community, it takes its own community to be made a reality. I would like to thank all those who have made this possible. Thank you to all the departments and organizations that have helped to put on events. I would also like to thank the individuals who volunteered their time through their service on the Homecoming Committee and as chairs for the events. Thank you to the Student Government Association for their support throughout the planning process. Lastly, a special thank you to Carter Warden for his support and guidance through all things Homecoming!

Let's make it a great one! Godspeed and Go Bucs!

Sincerely,

Maggie Martin – Student Government Association Secretary of State

Overview of Homecoming

There are Two Categories for Student Organizations

Each event designated for points will be a standalone event with winners awarded for each event. These two categories for competition are fraternities and sororities (those belonging to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office) and all other student organizations. There will not be an overall winner over both categories based on cumulative points.

General homecoming questions should be directed to Maggie Martin, mbmartin1@etsu.edu

Each event will have a dedicated homecoming chair that may be contacted for more information.

Student Homecoming Event Schedule

September 21st: Homecoming Candidate Applications Due*

September 23rd: Mandatory Homecoming Captains Meeting

October 19th- 21st: Homecoming Candidate Campaigning (Pgs. 4-5)

October 19th- 22nd: Banner Painting* (pg. 6)

October 22nd: Banners due

October 22nd-23rd: Online Homecoming Candidate Voting*

October 26th: Blood Drive* (pg. 7)

October 26th: Pep Rally and Roll Call* (pg. 8)

October 26th: Idol Karaoke* (pg. 9)

October 26th: Red, White, & Pump(kin) Pump

October 27th: Cornhole Tournament* (pg. 10)

October 27th: All American Trivia* (pg. 11)

October 28th: Canned Food Creations* (pgs. 12-14)

October 28th: Required Skit and Dance Practice (pgs. 16-17)

October 28th: Crossing the Delaware Boat Race* (pg. 15)

October 29th: Farmer's Market

October 29th: Skit and Dance Night* (pgs. 16-17)

October 30th: Big American Classic Volleyball

October 31st: Student Tailgating + Football Game

October 31st: Comedian and Yard Show

November 1st: Gospel Choir Brunch Concert

*Indicates a competitive, point-earning event

General Guidelines

All participants and organizations are expected to adhere to all current ETSU policies and student code of conduct.

Participants and organizations should not make disparaging or derogatory comments toward other teams or participants, including in-person events and social media.

During competitive events, participants and spectators are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

It is against university policy to use tobacco outside the confines of a personal vehicle. Alcohol and other illegal substances are prohibited entirely on the ETSU campus.

Each team is responsible for keeping the spaces used for these events neat and free of trash.

Homecoming team pairing of three must be approved by FSL and can be composed of organizations from the College Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Violations of these guidelines may result in disqualification and potential referral to the Dean of Students Office.

There will be a mandatory captain meeting on September 23rd, 2026, at 4 p.m.

In D.P. Culp Forum, room 311

Homecoming Organization Registration Form https://form.jotform.com/262532466405153

Homecoming Court Application Form https://form.jotform.com/262532714845157

Both Applications Due on September 21st, at 11:59 p.m.

Homecoming Court

Homecoming Court Schedule

September 21st: Submit Registration, Essay, and Campus Community Involvement Resume | due by 11:59 p.m.

September 23rd: Attend Homecoming Captains and Court info Meeting | 4 p.m.

October 5th-6th: Candidate Photos

October 19th: Campaigning Begins | 8:00 a.m.

October 21st: Campaigning Ends | 11:59 p.m.

October 22nd: Online Voting Begins | 8:00 a.m.

October 23rd: Online Voting Closes | 11:59 p.m.

October 31st: Winners Announced | Halftime at Football Game

Eligibility

1. Candidates must be in good academic standing with the university.
2. Candidates may not hold a position on the Student Government Executive Board.
3. Candidates may not currently be chairing any Homecoming event or serving on the Homecoming committee.
4. Candidates must represent a student organization but aren't required to have a running companion.
5. Participants may participate in one category. Participants can self-select based on their gender identity. Non-binary students may register as either "king" or "queen."
    a. Candidates who are male identifying should register in the "king" category.
    b. Candidates who are female identifying should register in the "queen" category.

Registration & How to Enter:
- All eligibility requirements must be met to enter the competition. Candidates are required to submit a registration form, including an essay and campus and community involvement resume.

Campus and Community Involvement Resume:

Resume with a summary highlighting campus and community involvement including, but not limited to leadership positions, service projects, scholastic achievements, involvement in organizations, as well as any other relevant information.

- Candidate's name at the top of the resume, one page long, format and style are determined by the candidate. Submitted as a PDF

Essay:

A two-page essay answering: "What does ETSU Pride mean to you, and how have you experienced this pride through school spirit, campus involvement, and campus traditions?"

- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font. Submitted as PDF. Candidates name at the top of the essay.

Campaigning Guidelines

All candidates are given permission to campaign and ask for support from fellow students. All candidates must adhere to the following rules:

1. Campaigning Timeline: October 19th at 8:00 a.m. through October 21st at 11:59 p.m.
    a. No candidates, or organizations they represent, are allowed to campaign outside this timeline.
2. Borchuck Plaza, Quad, University Commons, and social media are the only approved campaigning locations.
    a. All other locations are considered off-limits for campaigning, including: the library, all residential areas, CPA, and the D.P. Culp Student Center.
3. Policies: Candidates are allowed and encouraged to be creative and have fun while campaigning!
    a. Allowed materials: posters, social media posts, vehicle decorations, candy, t-shirts, buttons, and similar promotional items.
    b. Any items given to others, like candy, must be individually packaged and should not be placed near the flow of pedestrian traffic.
    c. Self-serve giveaways, including food items, are prohibited. All items for distribution should be kept behind tables for table representative(s) to hand out individually (wearing gloves).
    d. Prohibited materials: chalk, iPads, laptops, and tablets.
4. Candidates will only be allowed to apply for King or Queen one time per year (i.e. no reapplications).
5. Candidates are expected to attend a run through on the football field the morning of October 31st. Late arrival will result in a penalty, unless proper notice is given.

Scoring Breakdown

The candidate in the queen and king categories with the highest scores will be crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

1. 70% Online Votes, 30% Essay and Campus & Community Involvement Resume
2. Judges will include alumni, faculty, and staff.

Points

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 200 points

Homecoming Court questions should be directed to Kaden Powers, powerske1@etsu.edu

Banner Painting Competition

Banner Painting Schedule

October 19th starting at 8:00 a.m. - Banner Pickup

October 22nd by 4:00 p.m. - Banner Return

Banners will be picked up and returned to the Carrier Center (Culp, 2nd floor).

Guidelines

1. Groups will paint their banners on their own schedule between October 19th and October 22nd, picking up and dropping off during the allocated timeframes. Groups are welcome to pick up their banners on October 19th.
2. Students and organizations will decorate a banner that will be displayed on campus showing ETSU pride, representing their organization using the theme "Red, White, Blue & Gold."
3. Groups will be provided with one 8' tall 2' wide waterproof vinyl banner.
4. Groups must provide their own acrylic paint and brushes.
5. The banners must hang vertically.
6. Paint on the matte, non-slick side of the banner.
7. Prohibited materials: glitter of any sort, glue, non-waterproof paints, and temporary items, such as shaving cream, strings, and foam art
    a. Organizations will be disqualified for the use of any of these items.
8. The use of prohibited materials, use of obscene words or graphics, professionally made banners, organizations copying other's ideas, alumni or inactive members participating in events, or being absent from events will result in disqualification.
9. Design and resulting artwork must comply with TBR Policy 3:01:01:00 Organizations and Policy 3:02:00:01 General Regulations on Student Conduct.

Scoring Breakdown

1. Judging will be based on originality, creativity, appearance, ETSU spirit, and adherence to theme.
2. Scoring will be judged with both an FSL and Other Student Organization categories, resulting in two sets of winners.
3. Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.

Points

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 250 points | 3rd Place: 200 points

Banner Painting questions should be directed to Peyton Gentry, gentrypa1@etsu.edu

Blood Drive Competition

Monday, October 26 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Pride Walk (South Dossett)

Hosted by Volunteer ETSU with support from the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement

In partnership with Marsh Regional Blood Center

Give Blood. Save Lives. Earn Points for Your Organization.

Guidelines

Every three seconds, someone needs blood, and most of us will need blood or blood products at some point in our lifetime. Just one donation can help save up to three lives.

Encourage your organization members to donate on **Monday, October 26**, and help ensure our local hospitals have the blood and blood products they need to care for our community.

Walk ins are welcome. No appointment is needed.

Competition Scoring

Organizations can earn points based on successful blood donations:

• **2 points** for each student who donates

• **15 bonus points** for reaching 12 successful donors

• **25 bonus points** for reaching 25 successful donors

• **50 bonus points** for contributing at least 50 units

• **10 bonus points** for sharing the blood drive promotion on your organization's official social media account and tagging **@volunteeretsu**

Maximum points – 175

For questions about the blood drive or competition, contact Maggie Martin at **martinmb1@etsu.edu** or Volunteer ETSU at **serve@etsu.edu**.

Pep Rally & Roll Call

Monday, October 26th | 5:00 p.m.

Amphitheater (The Culp Auditorium if raining)

The primary goal of this event is to celebrate homecoming, athletics, and the homecoming candidates!

Guidelines

1. Get creative with your costumes! Show us how much blue and gold you own and support our candidates and athletics. USA attire is encouraged!
2. Be loud! Let the entire campus know how excited we are for football. Bring noise makers, horns, etc. We will be taking a roll call of all organizations registered for pep rally participation.
3. All groups must submit the words of their chant to the event chair **24 hours prior** to the event. Failure to do so will result in a point deduction. Chants must comply with TBR Policy 3:01:01:00 Organizations and Policy 3:02:00:01 General Regulations on Student Conduct.
4. Show your school spirit! We want to see blue and gold in all your costumes and Roman gear!
5. King and Queen candidates will receive pep rally instructions at the captains meeting.

Score Breakdown

1. Judging will be based on the creativity of your organization's group chants, as well as overall attendance, and blue and gold dress shown by members.
2. Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.

Points

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 250 points | 3rd Place: 200 points

Pep Rally & Roll Call questions should be directed to Katie McLain, mclainks@etsu.edu

Idol Karaoke

Monday, October 26th | 6:00 p.m., immediately following Pep Rally

Culp Auditorium

Guidelines

1. One representative of each organization or pairing of organizations will perform a 3-4 minute song of their choice that they believe represents the theme.
2. Organizations paired with another organization may perform a duet.
3. All songs and costumes to be performed must submit their song and costume to the event chair 24 hours prior, or a point deduction will incur. Performance must comply with TBR Policy 3:01:01:00 Organizations and Policy 3:02:00:01 General Regulations on Student Conduct.

Score Breakdown

1. Judging will be based both on vocal ability and performance value (costuming, stage presence, etc.).
2. Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.
3. Scoring will be awarded to all student organizations resulting in only one set of winners.

Points

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 250 points | 3rd Place: 200 points

Idol Karaoke questions should be directed to Katie McLain, mclainks@etsu.edu

Cornhole Tournament

Tuesday, October 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

University Commons

Guidelines

1. Rules have been adapted from the American Cornhole Association. Modifications have been made to suit ETSU Campus Recreation.
2. Detailed rules will be provided by ETSU Campus Recreation after event sign up.
3. Scoring will be judged with both an FSL and Other Student Organization categories, resulting in two sets of winners.

Scoring Breakdown

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 250 points | 3rd Place: 200 points

Cornhole Tournament questions should be referred to Trey Potter, potterld@etsu.edu

All American Trivia

Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Culp Auditorium

Guidelines

1. Each organization will put together a team of four to compete in American-themed trivia.
2. Organizations that are paired will be required to have two representatives from each organization.
3. Teammates will be required to place their phones facedown in a visible manner.
4. No smartwatches may be worn during the duration of the competition.
5. Any team caught attempting to cheat will be disqualified from the event.
6. Scoring will be awarded to all student organizations resulting in only one set of winners.
7. Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.

Scoring Breakdown

1st Place: 300 points | 2nd Place: 250 points | 3rd Place: 200 points

All American Trivia questions should be referred to Izzy Marlow, marlowi@etsu.edu

Canned Food Creation

William B. Greene Stadium Roundabout

Canned Food Creation Schedule

October 28th from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Canned Food Creation can drop-off

October 28th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Canned Food Creation construction

October 28th at 3:05 p.m.: Canned Food Creation judging

Guidelines

1. Build a sculpture with canned food to commemorate ETSU and our theme, Red, White, Blue & Gold! Canned food will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank.
2. Groups can use up to 20,000 items (canned food) in their creation. Items must meet the following criteria:
    a. Items with dents or damage to their packaging are NOT acceptable.
    b. Water will not be accepted.
    c. Cereal or dried goods in undamaged packages will be accepted.
    d. Checks or money orders in place of food items will be accepted. For every $5 given, the organizations will be awarded 1 pound toward their total weight.
3. Food delivered after 3 p.m. will not count toward weight total.
4. Construction ends at 3 p.m. No organization will be permitted to continue working on the creation after that time.
5. A space of 5’ x 5’ will be assigned for each organization's construction.
6. Structures must stay within these boundaries and cannot exceed six feet tall.
7. You may not use paper to wrap the cans or other foods in.
8. Additional materials used in creations (flag, wooden blocks, etc.) must be pre-approved by the event chair before **Sunday, October 25th** at 11:59 p.m.
9. Each organization will be responsible for loading and labeling their own can boxes at the event’s end. Any cans collected that will not be used in the creation should be boxed and labeled prior to the event.
10. Each group participating must have at least 3 representatives present after judging is complete to load food from creations into respective trucks.
11. Delivery of food that will not be used in the canned sculptures can be taken to Second Harvest Food Bank before this event. **To do so, you must set up an appointment with Second Harvest.** Food delivered early will be tagged and weighed for each organization in advance. Information on how to set up an appointment will be given at the mandatory captains meeting.

Scoring Breakdown

Two awards will be given for this event:

1. The largest amount of food/heaviest weight award will be given to the group that collects the largest amount of food/heaviest weight, as per the list provided by Second Harvest Food Bank. The creations are limited to the use of no more than 20,000 cans; however, teams may collect more cans than will be used in the creation to increase weight totals for this award.
2. The creativity award will be given to the group that scores the highest according to judging for their creation.
3. Scoring will be judged with both an FSL and Other Student Organization categories, resulting in two sets of winners.

Creations will be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Ingenuity/Creativity
2. Relevance to the Homecoming theme
3. Size and Sturdiness of Construction

Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.

Points

Points for Creativity:

1st Place: 400 points | 2nd Place: 325 points | 3rd Place: 250 points

Points for Weight:

1st Place: 400 points | 2nd Place: 325 points | 3rd Place: 250

Canned Food Creations questions should be directed to Benjamin Cathey, catheybj@etsu.edu

<u>Bucky's Food Pantry Bonus</u>

William B. Greene Stadium Roundabout

October 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Food and/or monetary donations due

Guidelines

1. For every 100 items given you will receive 50 pounds credit toward food weight (up to maximum of 500 items / 250 pounds weight credit).
2. Eligible items:
    a. Soups (cans or ramen)
    b. Small cans of coffee and small bottles of coffee creamer
    c. Boxes of tea or juice
    d. Sugar
    e. Flour
    f. Cereal and oatmeal
    g. Mixed Vegetables
    h. Salsa
    i. Jell-O / Pudding
    j. Cake Mix and Icing
    k. Evaporated milk
3. Monetary donations in place of food items will be accepted. For every $5 given, the organization will be awarded 1 pound toward their total weight. The donation link is on the Bucky's Food Pantry website. Please forward the email receipt of your donation to the chair.
4. It is up to the organization to separate and label the Bucky's Bonus from the donations for Second Harvest.
5. Organizations participating must send an email prior to and after drop off to Maggie Martin, Katie McLain, and Bucky's Food Pantry.

Bucky's Food Pantry questions should be directed to Benjamin Cathey, catheybj@etsu.edu

Crossing the Delaware Boat Race

Wednesday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m.

CPA Swimming Pool

Guidelines

1. Each organization will put together a "boat" constructed ONLY from cardboard and duct tape.
2. Competitors will race from one end of the CPA Pool to the other and will be timed.
3. Boats should not exceed 6 feet and length and 4 feet in width.
4. Boats should fit two students.
5. Students should not wear shoes, must be barefoot.
6. Paddles/oars will be provided by the CPA.
7. Lifejackets can be worn if students are not confident in swimming ability.
8. Lifeguards will be present.
9. Boats must be inspected and approved by CPA staff 30 minutes prior to the event.
10. Scoring will be judged with both an FSL and Other Student Organization categories, resulting in two sets of winners.

Scoring Breakdown

1st Place: 250 points | 2nd Place: 200 points | 3rd Place: 150

Boat Race questions should be referred to Jarod Teague, teaguelj@etsu.edu

Skit Night Schedule

Pre-recording: Due Sunday, October 25th by 11:59 p.m.

Script, Participant List, and Organization History: Due by Tuesday, October 27th by 11:59 p.m.

October 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.: Skit Technical Rehearsal

October 29th at 7:00 p.m.: Skit Night Competition

Guidelines

1. The skit should be based on your interpretation of the ETSU Homecoming theme.
2. Your organization's skit should be appropriate and respectful of all audiences. Guests are looking forward to taking part in skit night, so please put forth your best effort and performance. This includes music, lines, costumes, dance moves, etc. Groups failing to follow this rule will be disqualified. If you are questioning the appropriateness of a particular aspect of your performance, be safe and don't do it.
3. Each organization will create an original skit script using active members as the cast. Further recording information will be provided at the Captains' Meeting. .
4. Teams of two organizations are allowed 25 active members and teams of three are allowed 30 active members to participate in their skit night performance.
5. Inactive or alumni members of your organization will not be permitted to perform in your organization's skit night performance.
6. Skits can be no longer than 6 minutes in length. Groups will be given no more than 2 minutes for setup. Take this time limit into consideration when choosing props. Points will be deducted for exceeding time limits.
7. The audio version of skits must be pre-recorded.

Skit Pre-Recordings

1. Audio must be sent to event chair by **Sunday, October 25th** by 11:59 p.m.
2. In addition to the audio, a copy of the script, a brief history of your organization to be announced prior to performance, and a list of participants with the E numbers of each participant should be sent in by **Tuesday, October 27th** by 11:59 p.m.
3. If these deadlines are not met, a point deduction will incur.

Rehearsals

1. Organizations must sign up for a rehearsal at the Captains Meeting on September 23rd .
2. These times are available on a first come, first serve basis. No exceptions.
3. Technical rehearsals will be by appointment only on October 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
4. On October 28th, technical rehearsal times are twenty minutes in length.
5. Only one rehearsal time slot per group will be permitted.

6. Your group must be present at their scheduled rehearsal time. Groups arriving late or missing members will be asked to leave and will lose their rehearsal time.
7. No "make-up" rehearsals will be scheduled.
8. No other group(s) will be permitted in the practice facility during a scheduled organization's rehearsal.
9. Your rehearsal should be the exact routine, setup, and performance of the skit performed on October 29th.
10. These are technical rehearsals, not practice. Please come prepared.

What to Bring to Rehearsal on October 28th:

1. Props/costumes and a list of props and costumes to be used. Props will be approved at rehearsal. If additional props are used on skit night, twenty points will be deducted from your final score.

Score Breakdown

1. Judging will be based on creativity, quality, uniqueness, and how well the Homecoming theme is incorporated into the design and the organization's display of ETSU pride.
2. Judges will include alumni, staff, and faculty.
3. Scoring will be judged with both an FSL and Other Student Organization categories, resulting in two sets of winners.

Points

1st Place: 400 points | 2nd Place: 325 points | 3rd Place: 250 points

Skit Night questions should be directed to Nora Honeycutt, honeycuttns@etsu.edu

Audio, scripts, organization history, and participant lists should be sent to Nora Honeycutt, honeycuttns@etsu.edu

Closing Remarks

I am so excited to see all of these events come to life over the course of Homecoming week in celebration of ETSU! Here's to a week full of buccaneer pride and memories to last a lifetime. Thank you again to all those who came together to make this possible and thank you to all those who participate in the events- Homecoming couldn't be a success without you.

Gratefully,

Maggie Martin – SGA Secretary of State