

2026 Homecoming Parade Guidelines

Dates, Times, and Locations:

Online applications due:	kualumni.org/homecoming	Fri., Oct. 9, by 5 pm
Parade Safety Meeting	Kansas Union	Tues., Oct. 13, 6 pm
Float Report Time:	Memorial Drive	Fri., Oct. 23, 4 pm
Marching units report time:	Memorial Drive	Fri., Oct. 23, 5 pm
Parade:	Jayhawk BLVD	Fri., Oct. 23, 6 pm

Parade Route:

Staging will begin on Memorial Drive facing west. The Parade will start at the Chi Omega Fountain, march down Jayhawk BLVD, and conclude at 13th and Jayhawk BLVD.

Entry Categories:

**NOTE: An organization may only enter one float: Moving Parts OR Non-Moving Parts. An organization can, however, also enter a Decorated Vehicle and a Banner if they choose. They may only have one entry per category.*

Competitive

- KU Floats - mobile with moving parts
- KU Floats - mobile with non-moving parts
- Decorated Vehicles
- KU banners

Non-Competitive

- Walking Units
- Floats

Type of floats permitted:

- Moving Parts
- Non-Moving Parts
- Decorated Vehicle

Possible types of marching units permitted include:

- Marching Bands
- Walking Groups
- Dancers
- Color Guard

Parade Staging and Line-Up:

- Staging will begin on the north end of Memorial Drive.
- Check-in table will be located along Memorial Drive

Banner Judging Criteria:

- Adherence to Theme: *Home on the Hill*
- Creativity: Imagination and creativity in planning and executing.
- Appearance: Attention to detail, decoration quality and overall look.

Float Judging Criteria:

- Adherence to Theme: *Home on the Hill*
- Creativity: Imagination and creativity in planning and executing.
- Appearance: Attention to detail, decoration quality and overall look.
- Technical Complexity/Operability
- Display Condition
- Adherence to rules
- Appropriateness/good taste (point deduction per judge discretion)

**All floats will first be judged before the parade begins in the staging area.*

Parade Awards:

- First, second, and third place will be awarded in each of the competitive divisions.
- Judging will take place during staging for floats and from the platform along Jayhawk BLVD.

Required Parade Meeting:

There is a mandatory parade safety meeting on Tuesday, October 13, at 6 p.m. at the Kansas Union. All parade entrants must have a representative present for rules and safety review by the KU Police Department. An absence from this meeting will result in immediate disqualification from the parade.

Float Guidelines:

- **Eligibility.** University of Kansas students, faculty, and staff be considered for competition. In order to participate in the parade competition as a student group, the group must be registered as a student organization with the Student Engagement Center, Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center or the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life, Burge Union.
 - *Registration for Student Organizations will be due on September 8, 2026.*
- **Theme & Goals.** Float must state the Homecoming theme and the representing organization and adhere to and support the goals of Homecoming.
- **Content.** The Homecoming Steering Committee requires that good judgment be used in the graphic and copy content on the float. Homecoming representatives reserve the right to disqualify the float if it is not in adherence with the guidelines and/or the Homecoming goals that are stated in this document.
- **Alcohol.** State law prohibits consumption of cereal malt beverages or intoxicants on public streets, campus and local ordinance can result in arrests and/or disqualification of an entry. There may not be any alcohol on the float or in the vehicles. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- **Animals.** No live animals in, on, or around the float. All animals are banned from the parade.
- **Application.** Only one application is required per float. A detailed drawing of the float design should be submitted with the application. The Homecoming Steering Committee reserves the right to review designs for appropriateness and duplication.

If duplication in design occurs, the entry submitted first will be accepted and the other applications will need to submit a new design. Applicants will be informed of their status following their submission of application and materials.

- **Safety.** All floats or decorated entries must be made of inflammable materials and of safe construction. All mobile floats must have at least one working fire extinguisher on the float. Floats where people are enclosed by construction materials must provide proper ventilation, one working fire extinguisher and one "escape hatch" for each person.
- **Vehicles.** Each mobile float must be built on a four-wheeled trailer and pulled by an appropriate vehicle. Vehicles pulling floats must be of sufficient size and power to handle the float safely. This should include checking the manufacturer's specifications to make sure weight limits are not exceeded. Brakes should be checked to ensure the proper stopping ability with the weight involved. Do not exceed specifications for specific type vehicles.
- **Towing.** The actual towing equipment on the vehicle must be functional, not ornamental. Checking the vehicle's specifications and/or trailer hitch manufacturer's written guidelines should indicate appropriate weight maximums. All trailer connections must be provided with a secondary safety device such as safety chains on a normal ball hitch.
- **Dimensions.** Each float must be built within the following dimensions:
 - Maximum of 10 feet in width and 13 feet in height from the ground and 45 feet in length.
 - Multiple trailers will not be accepted, due to the route constraint on Jayhawk BLVD.
 - Any skirting below the bed of the wagon must be made of a material that will not bind or catch in axles or wheels.
- **Float Guides.** Each float entry must provide two participants to walk on each side of the float to assist the driver.
- **Driver's Vision.** The towing vehicle or truck cannot be decorated to the point of hindering the driver's vision.
- **Covering.** Groups should have a plastic tarp to cover their float in the case of rain

Float Inspections/Disqualifications:

Floats will be inspected the evening before the parade. Floats failing to meet stated requirements will be disqualified from participation in the parade. This disqualification can be imposed at any point when disregard for the requirements or individual's safety becomes apparent. Automatic disqualification will result for any float that cannot or does not complete the parade route for any reason. Please respect the rights of other entrants while meeting the goals of Homecoming as stated above. The Homecoming Steering Committee reserves the right to accept and to reject any entry from the parade if said entry does not conform to the guidelines and information outlined in this document.

Spirit Banner Guidelines:

Eligibility. University of Kansas students, faculty, and staff may be considered for competition. In order to participate in the parade competition as a student group, the group must be registered as a student organization with the Student Engagement Center.

Theme & Goals. The banner must adhere to the Homecoming theme, and state the representing organization(s).

Spirit Banner Guidelines:

- **Eligibility.** University of Kansas students, faculty, and staff may be considered for competition. In order to participate in the parade competition as a student group, the group must be registered as a student organization with the Student Engagement Center.
- **Theme & Goals.** The banner must adhere to the Homecoming theme, and state the representing organization(s).
- **Content.** The Homecoming Steering Committee requires that good judgment be used in the graphic and copy content on the banner. Homecoming representatives reserve the right to disqualify the banner if it is not in adherence with the guidelines and/or the Homecoming goals that are stated in this document.
- **Alcohol.** The state law prohibits consumption of cereal malt beverages or intoxicants on public streets, campus and local ordinance and can result in arrests and/or disqualification of an entry.
- **Material.** All organizations participating in the banner competition must supply their own banner. All decorating materials (i.e., paint) should be weatherproof. All groups are invited to participate in the banner competition.
- **Banners.** All banners will be marched in the parade. Banner entrants should report to the parade check-in area along Memorial Drive.

Marching Units Reporting Time:

- Marching units will need to report to the staging area (along Memorial Drive) at 5 p.m. the day of the parade.

Required for Entry:

Parade Announcement. A 3 to 4 sentence description about your entry that the parade emcees will read as you pass along Jayhawk BLVD. It should describe your float and name your organization or group. The audience and judges will benefit from this announcement.

Application:

Please submit online application available at kualumni.org/homecoming by Friday, October 9, by 5 p.m. There will be no late parade entries accepted.

Contact:

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Homecoming Parade Chair

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