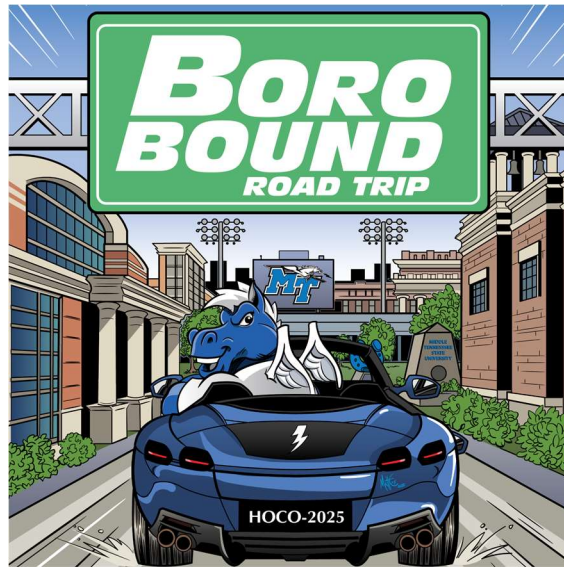


## Fight Song Rule Book 2025



The MTSU Fight Song Competition will be held during MTSU's Week of Welcome at 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in the Murphy Center. Doors for the event will open an hour before show time. The Fight Song is designed to display school spirit. It should reflect the originality, creativity, and pride in our university. The theme for this year's fight song is Lightning's Big City Adventure. Entries may incorporate anything their team feels complies with the theme. Please refer to page 4 of the rule book for a list of important dates. If you have any questions on whether something is acceptable, please refer to:

1. **The mandatory Fight Song meeting will be held Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM via Zoom. A member from each participating organization must be present.**
2. There is no fee required to participate in Fight Song. It is the organization's responsibility to remove all props, costumes, makeup, etc. If materials are left on stage or if changing facilities are not properly cleaned following the show, or any damage occurs, the organization will be charged for the damage that occurred.
3. Organizations may begin practicing immediately after the informational meeting. No groups may congregate prior to this date.
4. Groups must submit an official entry form, a list of songs, and lyrics. **Groups may begin submitting these at 8:00 AM on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Song availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups must send song list and lyrics to [sga.home@mtsu.edu](mailto:sga.home@mtsu.edu) by 4:30pm on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.** Please also include the names of all organizations participating in your email. To avoid duplication of songs, chosen songs will be time stamped, and the organization who requested the song

first gets priority and all others (if duplication occurs) must choose another song. There is no need to bring these to the SGA office. Songs and lyrics will only be accepted through email.

5. In addition to the official entry form and song lists, groups must also provide what city they would like to base their performances on. The city must be located in the United States, but groups are not limited to any specific type of city. It is encouraged that groups find a way to tie in the road trip aspect of homecoming into their performance, but it is not required. This follows the same rules as before: cities are first-come, first-served, and all submissions will be time stamped. If duplications occur, the group who submits second will be asked to choose a new city.
6. **Participating organizations should plan to attend a rehearsal time on August 27<sup>th</sup>; time is TBD, but should start around 4:30 PM.** They must arrive at the rehearsal location at least 30 minutes prior to their designated rehearsal time. Each organization will be notified of the check-in location and their designated rehearsal time.
7. **All props are due at the Murphy Center by 3:00 PM on August 28<sup>th</sup>.** Any team with props not in place by 3:00 PM will receive a 5-point deduction from their final score. Any props submitted after 5:00 PM on August 28<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted for use in the show.
8. Each team has seven minutes for their performance. Time will begin as soon as the first sound is sung, spoken, or played. Timing will end when the music stops. One point will be deducted for every 20 seconds over the time limit. (Note: If performance is 7 minutes and 15 seconds, you will still be deducted one point.)
9. Each team will have four minutes to set up and four minutes to take down any props. Any group exceeding the four minute set-up and/or tear down will be penalized 1 point per minute.
10. All props must be carried on and off the stage using the stairs or ramp on the side of the stage. If damage occurs due to an organization's method of setup / tear down, the organization will be held responsible for any damage caused to the facility, stage, or curtain set up behind it.
11. Props may be used as long as participants carry them on and off stage. Any items left on stage will result in a 10-point penalty. Props may not exceed 12 feet high. Each group must have designated individuals responsible for securing each props position. Props must be sturdy enough to stand without falling.

12. There will be an LED wall behind the stage. Organizations are encouraged to design a slide or multiple slides that will be displayed during their performance. **All slides must be submitted by August 21, 2025, by 4:30 PM as a PowerPoint (16:9) slide.**
13. Absolutely no glitter / confetti. If any glitter is used, the team will be disqualified.
14. The MTSU Fight Song must be sung in its traditional form first. After the first time through, the MTSU Fight Song may be sung in any non-traditional form. Only the words in the fight song may be used; however, they may be sung in any order. Speaking parts do not have to follow this rule.
15. Absolutely no build-ups or stunts. Stunts may be defined as 3-person pyramids, etc. No one is permitted to jump off the stage. Stunts will also be defined as a person getting onto another person's shoulders. Pursuant to general competition rules, SGA accepts no responsibility for accidents or injuries before, during, or after the performance.
16. Two instruments may be used during the performance. (Instruments are anything extra brought on stage to make sound. Examples: microphone, trumpet, etc.) **Any necessary equipment must be requested before Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by 4:30 PM.** Pre-recorded music may be used; however, it may not have lead vocals, or it will count as one of the instruments used. It is up to the judges' discretion to determine if the pre-recorded vocals overpower the performance. \*\*\*
17. The team must provide a person to help the sound technicians with the music. Groups must have music in two different forms. For example: A flash drive can be brought, and music can be put on a phone. If a phone is used, it must be able to go into airplane mode.
18. **Music, Lighting Cues, and a Script of your group's performance must be submitted for screening to [sga.home@mtsu.edu](mailto:sga.home@mtsu.edu). The deadline Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by 4:30pm\*\*\***
19. Only active members of organizations are allowed to participate or assist in the Fight Song competition in any way, with the exception of music editing. **NO OUTSIDE CHOREOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED AND NO HELP FROM ALUMNI.** Violation of these rules will result in an immediate meeting with the homecoming committee and advisor. Violations may result in disqualification.
20. The maximum number of participants per performance may not exceed 35. It is not required to use all 35 participants, and the number of participants will not be a determining factor for judging the fight song. \*\*\*

21. Music, vocals, and speaking may not include profanity or offensive jesters.
22. Fight Song will be included in the overall Homecoming Competition and will go towards Lightning's Cup.
23. All decisions made by the judges are final. Judging will be based on the following:  
Performance, Spirit, Theme, and Pre Performance.
  - a. Performance: 35% of clarity of words, creativity, choreography, set display
  - b. Spirit: 30% of enthusiasm, school spirit, crowd appeal
  - c. Theme: 30% of choice of music, costumes, props, story
  - d. Pre-Performance: 5% of entry form, directors meeting attendance, music & instrument, sign in submitted on time, etc.

Final scores have been very close in the past, so please follow the rules to give your organization the best chance of winning.

\*\*\* This information has not been finalized through production services. Please ensure that you check your registered email regularly to receive any updates. \*\*\*

### **Important Dates:**

June 30<sup>th</sup>: Fight Song Interest meeting over Zoom at 3:00pm CT.

July 1<sup>st</sup>: Submissions for songs and cities open at 8:00am CT

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Submissions for songs and cities close at 4:30pm CT

August 14<sup>th</sup>: Submissions for necessary equipment are due by 4:30pm CT

August 14<sup>th</sup>: Submissions for music, lighting cues, and script are due by 4:30pm CT

August 21<sup>st</sup>: Submissions for PowerPoint slides (LED displays) are due by 4:30pm CT

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal for Fight Song at Murphy Center, time is TBD.

August 28<sup>th</sup>: Props are due to Murphy Center by 3:00pm

August 28<sup>th</sup>: Show begins promptly at 7:00pm

**\*Please send all submissions to [sga.home@mtsu.edu](mailto:sga.home@mtsu.edu)\***