

## **Competitive Float Entries**

Float decorations are a great way for your organization to display your MTSU pride and the homecoming theme. Organizations are welcome to collaborate to create a float to be shown during the parade. A float is best described as a decorated platform, either built on a vehicle, truck, or towed behind on a trailer. The rules stated in the General Parade Rules section will be considered along with the following:

- 1. All entry forms are due September 10 at 12:00 PM on MyMT.
- 2. Entries must be tasteful and support MTSU Blue Raider pride. The 2025 Homecoming Committee reserves the right to reject and/or disqualify any entry not in compliance with contemporary community standards.
- 3. All participants must conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times. The 2025 Homecoming Committee reserves the right to limit individual students, alumni, or any other participant in the parade. If an individual cannot maintain the appropriate conduct as defined by contemporary community standards, then they will be asked to leave the parade, float, or vehicle. If the individual refuses to leave, their respective group will be immediately disqualified.
- 4. Where applicable, each group must designate a qualified, sober (meaning NO alcohol or substances have been consumed) driver as a part of their official entry. The 2025 Homecoming Committee reserves the right to determine the state of each driver and may disqualify a driver if they do not meet the above criteria. Upon disqualification of the driver, the entire entry will also be declared ineligible to participate in the parade.
- 5. All floats and vehicle entries must be approved for street operation in the state of Tennessee. This means all vehicles must be street legal with up to date tags, registration, and insurance, and the driver must have proper identification on them at all times.
- 6. No person is allowed to be inside the truck bed while it is in motion during the parade.
- 7. No person participating in the parade is allowed to enter or litter on any private property. This includes but is not limited to yards, businesses, churches, etc. If a group is found guilty of this, a 15 point penalty will be applied, and the group will be asked to leave the area.
- 8. Floats must have one working fire extinguisher on board at all times. Any entry that does not have a fire extinguisher will be disqualified. The 2025 Homecoming



- Committee will be inspecting floats prior to the start of the parade to ensure all entries meet the requirement.
- The location of the float construction site must be on the parade entry form. The 2025 Homecoming Committee and Parade Director reserve the right to visit each site at any time throughout the building process.
- 10. Any float that has movement must have consistent movement throughout the parade route.
- 11. All costumes and attire worn during the parade should be family friendly.
- 12. All size specifications will be strictly enforced. If an entry does not conform to the specifications, an automatic deduction of 5 points will be applied for every inch over the specified width, length, and height. The dimensions may not exceed:
  - Maximum Width: 9 ft.
  - Maximum Length: 16 ft.
  - Maximum Height (from wheel to top): 10 ft.
- 13. Float judging will be Friday September 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 12:00 PM. Parade entries will be informed of their judging time prior to the parade. For the spirit aspect, spirit judges will be placed at strategic locations throughout the parade route. Floats will be judged on this rubric:
  - School spirit and incorporation of theme (float): 25%
  - School spirit and incorporation of theme (parade): 25%
  - Workmanship and color scheme: 30%
  - Originality and creativity: 20%