

East Carolina University

Fall 2023 Homecoming

Sponsored by Student Government Association

Spirit Cup Rules and Guidelines

General Information

- To participate in Homecoming festivities and be eligible for prizes, you must be an *officially registered university student organization*.
- Student organizations are welcome to partner and collaborate with other student organizations to compete together.
- There is no application fee for organizations wishing to participate in Homecoming.
- For more information for all activities during Homecoming, follow us on these social media outlets:
 - **Instagram:** @ECUHOMEKOMING
 - **Twitter:** @ecuhomecoming
 - **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ECUHomecoming>
 - **The Pirate Experience:** <https://thepirateexperience.ecu.edu>
 - **Website:** <http://homecoming.ecu.edu>

Student Organization Meetings (MANDATORY)

- All student organizations wishing to participate in the Homecoming festivities and competitions **must attend a MANDATORY** organization meeting held on:
 - **Tuesday, October 3rd @ 6 PM - Main Campus Student Center 125**
 - **Wednesday, October 4th @ 6 PM - Main Campus Student Center 125**
- If your organization's official Homecoming representative is unable to attend, you must send a delegate to gain information discussed. *Make certain to sign-in to be counted.*
- The representative of your organization must be a current member. Prospective members are not permitted. **If you do not send a legitimate representative of your organization, you will not be allowed to participate in any Spirit Cup activities.**
- At these meetings your representative will sign up for your **Skit Practice time and Canned Food Drive drop off time.**
- **All registration forms must be submitted through The Pirate Experience by September 29th, 2023 @ 5 PM.**
 - No late applications accepted without approval by the Homecoming Chair and Advisor.

Homecoming Spirit Points

To participate in the Spirit Cup Competition, you must be a registered student organization with the university (your registration must be up to date and current on <https://thepirateexperience.ecu.edu>). Competition will be divided between large student organizations and small student organizations. Large and small student organizations will not be judged against one another for the Banner Competition and Canned Food Drive. Student organization size will be checked with the roster listed on The Pirate Experience.

LARGE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Homecoming Committee awards the Spirit Cup plus \$1,000.00 to the large student organization that accumulates the most points during competitions. You are considered a “large student organization” if you have 30 or more members. If you are teaming up with another student organization, you are considered a “large student organization” if the total number of students combined exceeds 30 or more members.

Large student organizations must participate in a minimum of 3 Homecoming Activities, one of which **MUST be the Float Competition/Parade**.

The points below represent the minimum amount that will be given to each student organization that places in the top three for each competition. Points will also be given to EACH organization that participates in a competition based on the judges score sheets from the float, skit, and banner competitions. 4th through last place will receive 10 less points than the place before it (ex: For Skit, Canned Food Drive or Banner 4th place = 240-point, 5th place = 230, 6th place = 220, etc.)

Below are the points possible in the competitions. All competitions will be added together to decide who wins the Homecoming Spirit Cup.

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
FLOAT	1000 pts	750 pts	500 pts
	\$500		
SKIT	500 pts	375 pts	250 pts
	\$300		
CANNED FOOD DRIVE	500 pts	375 pts	250 pts
	\$300		
BANNER	500 pts	375 pts	250 pts
	\$300		

The Large Student Org Spirit Cup Winner will receive \$1,000.00 in addition to any prize money won in the individual competitions.

SMALL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Homecoming Committee awards the Spirit Cup plus \$500.00 to the small student organization that accumulates the most points during competitions. You are considered a “small student organization” if you have 29 members or less. If you are teaming up with another student organization, you are considered a “small student organization” if the total number of students **combined** is 29 members or less. Small student organizations are allowed to compete in the large student organization category by selecting that option on the registration form.

Small student organizations will be required to participate in the Banner Competition and Canned Food Drive and walk in the Homecoming Parade (they are not required to build a float). They are encouraged to attend skit night and support their fellow pirates.

The points below represent the minimum amount that will be given to each student organization that places in the top three for each competition. Points will also be given to EACH organization that participates in a competition based on the judges score sheets from banner competitions. 4th through last place will receive 10 less points than the place before it (ex: For Skit, Canned Food Drive or Banner 4th place = 240-point, 5th place = 230, 6th place 220, etc.)

Below are the points possible in the competitions. All competitions will be added together to decide who wins the Homecoming Spirit Cup.

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
CANNED FOOD DRIVE	500 pts	375 pts	250 pts
	\$250		
BANNER	300 pts	275 pts	250 pts
	\$250		

The Small Student Org Spirit Cup Winner will receive \$500.00 in addition to any prize money won in the individual competitions.

Additional Opportunities for Points

- Any organization that provides a Jeep or Convertible for the parade must contact billingsh21@students.ecu.edu and will receive 10 additional points per vehicle up to 50 points.
- If members of the competing organizations volunteer to assist with events throughout the week. If you have any members interested in volunteering, please email Homecoming@ecu.edu.
 - 5 points per volunteer up to 30 points per event

Judging

- Competing student organizations must create all original work and designs submitted into the competitions.
- Organizations will be disqualified from competitions if they are found to be using commercial or political advertising in any of the material submitted for judging. If an organization is found cheating, taking work/stealing from others, and/or damaging another student organization's property (float, skit props, banner – to name a few) this will be seen as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Not only will judiciary action be taken with the ECU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, but the student organization will be removed from any and all Spirit Cup competitions.
- Failure to meet the guidelines for each competition will result in the disqualification from that competition.
- Vulgarity, nudity, references to drug/alcohol use or other illegal activity will result in an automatic disqualification.
- Material that has been submitted for judging will be awarded 1 (least amount) to 10 (most number of points) based on the following categories:
 - **Creativity & Originality** (Imaginative, Artistic, Resourceful, Unique, Inventive)
 - **Design & Workmanship** (Engaging, Appealing, Entertaining, Quality, Effort)
 - **Use of Theme** (Incorporation, Representation, Interpretation)
 - **Spirit** (Promotion of Pirate Pride)
- The judges' decisions are final. A copy of each competition's score sheet will be available upon request in a general summary packet within one week of the conclusion of the Homecoming week.
- Prizes for Homecoming events will be distributed within 2 weeks following the festivities. Prizes will no longer be valid after November 30.
- Special Note: The following items have slowed down the process of awarding organizations their prizes:
 - If organization does not have a Tax ID or EIN# (Request in advance; Student Engagement can assist.)
 - If an organization does not have an ECU Banner ID (Request in advance; Student Engagement can assist.)
 - If we email your primary contact and they do not respond to the email.

Deduction of Points (NEW)

- Points will be deducted for unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Homecoming Chair and Homecoming Advisor.
- Deduction of points is included in the judge's score sheet and depends on whether the organization has followed the guidelines for Banner, Skit, and Parade. Below are additional point deductions if the organization does not follow the guidelines for each spirit cup event.

Banner Competition

- *Banner disqualification will happen if inappropriate images are painted, or items are glued on.*

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Number of Points Deducted if Not Followed</i>
The organization must use the banner that is provided by the student engagement office.	- 10 Points
The banner is painted vertically	- 10 points
The banner is not the correct size	- 10 points

Skit Night Competition

- Skit night disqualification will happen if any members are believed to be under the influence.
- Deduction of points is included in the judges score sheet and well dependent upon whether the organization has followed the guidelines.

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Number of Points Deducted if Not Followed</i>
More than 25 people on the stage at one time	- 10 Points
Performance longer than 5 minutes	- 10 points

Canned Food Drive

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Number of Points Deducted if Not Followed</i>
Less than 5 volunteers present	- 100 points
Failure to arrive during your designated time	- 100 Points

Parade Floats

- Disqualification will happen if any members are believed to be under the influence.
- There will be an automatic disqualification for floats that have inappropriate images.
- Any organization that arrives after 8:15 am regardless of issues with the float will be disqualified.

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Number of Points Deducted if Not Followed</i>
Arrive from 8:00 am – 8:05 am	- 10 points
Arrive from 8:05 am – 8:10 am	- 20 points
Arrive from 8:10 am – 8:15 am	- 30 points

****Remember, all competitions are based on your understanding and interpretation of the theme. BE CREATIVE, use your imagination, and show your Pirate Pride!!****

Banner Competition – Monday October 16th, 2023

- A banner will be provided to groups that have signed up to compete. Banners will be the size of a **STANDARD FULL BED SHEET** (NO LARGER; NO SMALLER.) If the banner is lost, damaged, etc. it is the organization's responsibility to replace it with the same size specifications (we will measure - be prepared).
- Banners must be designed **HORIZONTALLY** with the theme: **Surfin' ECU**. *Banners must include 4 small holes along the top to aid in hanging on a railing.* As we will not have any tools onsite, failure to puncture holes prior to submitting the banner will result in termination and forfeit to the competition.
- Banners must include **your student organization's name, Homecoming theme and ECU mascot (PeeDee or Skull & Crossbones design) as well as incorporate the opponent (UNC Charlotte, 49ers).**
- Banners must **NOT include any glitter, feathers, or any type of items that may fall off** when hanging during the week. If any debris is found, a cleaning fee will be imposed set forth by ECU Facilities.
- Banners must be dropped off on:
 - ⊘ **Friday October 13th, 2023, from 10am-2pm** in the Student Engagement Office (Room 107 in the Student Center)
 - Committee members will hang banners on the evening of Sunday, October 15th, 2023.
- The competition will take place in the Eakin Student Recreation Center again this year. Judging will take place on October 16th. The top 3 organizations will be announced, in no particular order, by the conclusion of the workday on Monday and shared on social media platforms.
- Banners will be displayed in the ESRC for the remaining week of Homecoming.
- **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE YOUR BANNER BACK UNTIL THE FOLLOWING WEEK.** Therefore, you will not be able to use it for your skit or float.
 - ⊘ Banners can be claimed in the Student Engagement Office (Room 107 in the Student Center) until November 4th, 2023. After that any unclaimed banners will be discarded.
- **Fan Favorite Contest**
 - ⊘ Organizations are encouraged to have their members, friends, and families to visit the Homecoming Instagram page and vote for their banner in the Fan Favorite BRACKET!
 - ⊘ Organizations will be randomly put into a bracket.
 - ⊘ Each organization will need to vote via Instagram story to see their organization advance.
 - ⊘ The Fan Favorite Contest will begin Sunday and each day we will announce who progresses until there is a winner!
 - ⊘ The Fan Favorite will win an additional 50 Spirit Cup points.

Skit Competition: Tuesday, October 17th, 2023

- Skits must be choreographed with the theme, *"Surfin' ECU"* in mind.
 - Your music must be submitted at Skit Practice on a link emailed to the organizations primary contact. The file must be saved as SKIT and the name of your organization(s).
 - If your organization has a speaking role it is encouraged to have it pre-recorded. No microphone will be available for use.
 - All props must be provided by the student organization.
 - Skits must include a minimum of 3 ECU facts. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of points.
- Lighting requests WILL NOT be an option. Please plan accordingly.
- **NO profanity, discriminating language, obscene gestures, obscene themes, or ideas** will be permitted in the skit. Organizations will be disqualified immediately from Skit competition if any of the prohibited items are used.
- Reference to, or use of, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products is **strictly prohibited**.
 - If ANY member from your organization appears to be under the influence, or currently using, a mind-altering substance, it will result in immediate disqualification for the ENTIRE organization at the discretion of the Homecoming Chair and Homecoming Advisor as well as a conduct report submitted to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. As in any major campus event, ECU Police will be on-site to assist with any disruption within the audience or the performance area.
- The dress of the performers must correspond with the skit in a non-provocative way. Nudity is not permitted. Disqualifications will occur if these rules are not followed.
- There is a time limit of **FIVE (5) minutes** on all skits. The timer begins when the recording begins. Skits that run over time will receive a point deduction.
- Performers are allowed to be lifted; they cannot be thrown. There must be hands on any performers lifted at all times.
- A limit of up to 25 performers can be on the stage at one time; this doesn't include times of transition.
- There will be a **MANDATORY** skit practice on **Sunday, October 15th** in **Hendrix Theatre, located in Mendenhall**. Organizations will sign-up for their designated time at the mandatory student organization meeting on October 3rd & 4th.
- Skit Night Competition will take place on **Tuesday October 17th** at Greenville Town Common (Rain Location: **Minges Coliseum**)
- All participating groups must have their representatives present for the entire Skit Night from start to end. Groups must sign-in and report at 6:00pm. Your choreographer and 1 other individual from your group will have access to the space shortly before the show (identify yourselves to the Homecoming Committee upon inquiry.)
- If your organization wishes to record the performance or take pictures, we ask that you do so without blocking the judges. Only 1 non-performing group member is permitted to be on the floor during performance. If an additional person is found to be on the floor, a point deduction will occur.
- **Points will be deducted for unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Homecoming Chair and Homecoming Advisor. This includes organizations leaving early before final results are announced.**

Non-Perishable Food Drive – Friday October 20th, 2023

- The Food Drive will be held on Friday, **October 20th** at the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina located on 1712 Union St. (off Frog Level Road), Greenville, NC 27834.**
- At the organization meetings each organization is required to select a time slot for drop off.
- On the day of the food drive (October 20th), your organization must be present to unload your donations during your scheduled time.
 - Organizations are required to have **at least 5 volunteers** to unload & sort items from their vehicles during drop-off, remove items from plastic bags, and clean up the space prior to leaving. All trash must be discarded.
 - Items must arrive at the drop-off stations and start at their designated time. **A 100-point penalty will be deducted from your overall total if you fail to arrive by your scheduled time.** Plan accordingly as the Food Bank is approximately a 20–30-minute drive from campus, depending on traffic.

Scoring System

- Points will be based upon the number of pounds of food that you donate plus bonus points. **4 pounds = 1 points**
- Cases of water will be accepted – **LIMIT of 20 (qty) – 24 (packs) 16.9oz bottles ONLY.**
 - All other sized cases of water will be donated to the Food Bank BUT will not count towards your total weight.
 - **1 case of water = 10 Points** with a maximum of 200 possible points to be earned
- Bonus Points = “Backpack for Kids” program
 - **One completed backpack = 200 BONUS POINTS** with a maximum of 5 completed backpacks equaling 1,000 total BONUS POINTS.
 - To receive the extra bonus points, competing student organizations must have ALL items listed below to be counted.
 - Please note: Student organizations are not required to purchase and fill backpacks.
 - One Backpack must include:
 - (10) Cereal cup/bowl single serve containers (no boxes)
 - (10) Chef Boyardee microwaveable bowls
 - (24) Cans of Vienna Sausages, Tuna, or Chicken Salad in a can
 - (2) 12-count of Sugar Free Fruit cups/Sugar Free Pudding Cups
 - (2) 12-count of Granola Bars
 - (3) 8-count of Variety Snack Crackers
 - (3) 8-pack of Juice Boxes
 - (2) 40-oz jars of Peanut Butter
 - Come prepared with these items separate from your other donations to be counted and verified by a Homecoming Committee member during your assigned drop-off time.
- **Come prepared with these items separate from your other donations to be counted and verified by a Homecoming Committee member during your assigned drop-off time.**

- In the overall Spirit Cup Scoring System, Canned Food Drive points will not be added directly from the Canned Food Drive score sheet. Organizations will be ranked first to last place based on the number of points in the Canned Food Drive score sheet and will be assigned points from the overall Spirit Cup Scoring System based on their rank.
 - For example, if you earn 1200 points in the Canned Food Drive, that does not mean you will have 1200 points added to your overall Spirit Cup Score. Rather, those 1200 points will be compared to all other organizations' Canned Food Drive points and Spirit Cup Point will be assigned based on your rank, first to last place.

Non-permissible items (these items will not be accepted)

- Large cans
- Food in glass jars
 - Baby foods will be accepted as long as they are not in glass jars.
- Items that may melt if exposed to hot weather or heat.
- Loose items such as cocoa mix packages or cider mix packages
- Pet foods or other types of non-human edible goods
- Items such as boxed Pop-Tarts or Easy Mac must come in their original “as purchased box.”

Friendly Reminders

- When you arrive at your assigned drop-off time with your 5+ volunteers, Do Not drive past the Committee tent. This is the first station to check-in. You will be directed what to do next and where to go.
- If you arrive early, park in the grass area until we can take you.
- If you are running late, we will provide you with a phone number to call to let us know.

Float Competition/Parade - Saturday, October 21st, 2023

- Floats must be designed with the theme Surfin' ECU Theme in mind.
- Floats **must** have **your organization's name, the Homecoming theme and ECU or the Mascot (PeeDee or Skull & Crossbones) and incorporate the opponent (UNC Charlotte 49ers) on the float** to be judged.
- Floats may not be taller than twelve feet from the pavement. Floats must be able to stand on their own without assistance from student members who are competing for Spirit Cup.
- Floats and/or trailers must be able to maneuver a street corner.
- Organizations must provide their own source of transportation for their float.
- Floats must either consist of a flatbed truck, a trailer pulled by a vehicle, or a walking float. A decorated vehicle is not appropriate for those competing in Spirit Cup.
- Alcohol or other mind-altering substances are strictly prohibited on any float and also should not be referenced in any way.
 - If ANY member from your organization appears to be under the influence of a mind-altering substance, it will result in immediate disqualification for the ENTIRE organization(s) in the Float Competition to be determined at the discretion of the Homecoming Chair and Homecoming Advisor.
- Check-in will start at 7AM and will end at 8AM on Saturday, **October 21st** at the Wahl-Coats Elementary School parking lot.
- Note: Judging for Float Competition takes place twice - prior to the Parade as well throughout the Parade. Before the Parade, the Judges will be judging use of theme, workmanship, following the rules, and creativity of the Float. During the Parade, Judges will be looking for Campus Spirit and Pirate Pride throughout the entire event.
- Your organization will be disqualified if found to be using commercial or political advertising on your float. This includes the sides of the vehicle that pulls your float.
- Floats are to be held to the highest standard for each organization. Any that are seen as unacceptable by the Homecoming Chair and Homecoming Advisor will be disqualified from the competition and removed from participating in the Parade.
- If your float arrives broken or damaged, it is not the Homecoming Committee's fault or responsibility. We recommend that you report any of these issues to the local authorities to investigate as well as notifying us.
- If any organization is found cheating, taking work/stealing from others, and/or damaging another student organization's property this will be seen as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Judiciary action be taken with the ECU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the student organization will be removed from all Spirit Cup competitions. **(Report any incidents using this link <https://cmlink.me/2wh/s39>)**
- Spectators are encouraged to watch the Parade along 5th Street. ***Parking is NOT permitted within any of the staging areas; not allowed at Wilkerson's Funeral Home and not allowed at Wahl-Coates Elementary School. We recommend parking along 4th Street.***

Captain of the Ship

The Captain of the Ship recognition program recognizes students who make outstanding contributions to ECU through their campus and community involvement, as well as their efforts to support the success of other Pirates. **The Captain of the Ship will receive a \$1,000 Educational Award courtesy of SGA.**

- All ECU students are eligible. Organizations are encouraged to nominate their peers/members. There is not a limit to the number of applicants that will be accepted.
- Students may nominate themselves.
- Eligible students do not need to be a member of a Student Organization to apply.
 - The application will focus on their contributions to ECU and their ideas to engage with the ECU student body.
- Multiple students from the same organization can apply.
- Our Top 10 student candidates will be selected through an interview in combination of their overall contributions to ECU's Mission, Vision, Values, and their personal embodiment of the University's motto "To Serve". These 10 finalists will be selected based on merit of the above criteria. They will no longer be limited by gender identity.

The Top 10 student candidates will be recognized during the Homecoming festivities, including Cannonball on the Lawn, Freeboot Friday, the Homecoming Parade, and a recognition ceremony during the Homecoming football game. From these 10 finalists, one student will be further recognized as the "Captain of the Ship" recipient in recognition of outstanding achievements and contribution to the success of others.

Criteria

- Candidates must be an enrolled ECU student in good academic standing.
- Candidates must have a 2.5 minimum GPA.
- No former crowned Homecoming winners may be nominated.

Timeline

- July 26th: Nominations Open on the Pirate Experience
- September 22nd: Nominations Close on the Pirate Experience
- September 26th: Top 20 Announced on social media.
- October 3 & 4: Top 20 Interviews with Judging Panel
- October 5th: Top 10 will be notified.
- October 11th: Top 10 Announced on social media.
- October 16th: Voting Opens on the Pirate Experience and closes Friday, October 20th at 5 PM
- October 21: Winner announced at Homecoming Football Game

**The Top 10 student candidates will need to be on-campus for Cannonball on the Lawn, the Homecoming Parade, and the Homecoming Football Game*

Homecoming Fall 2023 Full Schedule

Visit homecoming.ecu.edu for all the details.

Tuesday, October 3 rd or Wednesday, October 4 th	Mandatory Organization Meeting @ 6 PM Main Campus Student Center Room 125
Friday October 13 th	Banner Drop Off @ 10 AM – 2 PM Student Engagement Office – Main Campus Student Center Room 107
Sunday, October 15 th	Skit Practice @ 1 PM – 6 PM Hendrix Theatre – Mendenhall Building
Monday, October 16 th	Banner Competition Cannonball Kick-off @ 5 PM – 8 PM Main Campus Student Center Lawn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free T-shirts - Live Music - Food Trucks - Top 10 Captain of the Ship Nominees announced. Captain of the Ship Voting Begins on Pirate Experience
Tuesday, October 17 th	Skit Night @ 8 PM – 10 PM Town Common
Thursday, October 19 th	Bingo Night in Hendrix Theatre @ 6 PM
Friday, October 20 th	Canned Food Drive 11 AM – 4 PM Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Captain of the Ship Voting Ends Freeboot Friday
Saturday, October 21 st	Float Competition/Parade Football Game ECU vs. UNCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Captain of the Ship Winner announced. - Spirit Cup Winner Announced