

2025 Edward C. and Helen G. Schmamel Homecoming Parade Rules and Regulations

Welcome Back Student Organizations!

It's the time of year to begin thinking about Homecoming. The Campus Activities and Programming Board has been working hard throughout the summer to plan events for each day of the week. In addition, the 2025-2026 Blue Key class is excited to be organizing the Edward C. and Helen G. Schmamel Homecoming Parade. As in past years, we would love to see your organization participate in the parade, which will be held on September 27th. This year's theme is Saddle Up for Spirit: Homecoming on the Range.

If your organization has any additional questions, we would be happy to respond. There will be general meetings open to all participating organizations on Thursday, September 4th from 6 PM - 7 PM and Tuesday, September 9th from 6 PM - 7 PM. We will discuss the rules, answer any questions that may come up, and save time to deliver any participation fees.

If you feel your organization would benefit from an independent explanation of the rules, we would be glad to speak at one of your organization's meetings. Please contact committee members at the email address below.

We would like this Homecoming Parade to have the most student participation ever! Thank you all in advance for all of your effort in making the 2025 Edward C. and Helen G. Schmamel Homecoming Parade a success!

Sincerely, Blue Key

UToledoBlueKey@gmail.com

Colin Kinnersley, Administrative Chair: Colin.Kinnersley@rockets.utoledo.edu

Failure to comply with these rules will result in a one-year suspension from participation in the Edward C. and Helen G. Schmamel Homecoming Parade.

Float Dimension Regulations

Maximum Dimensions of Float Bed

1. Width: 10 feet
2. Length: 25 feet

Decorated Float Rules

2. Total maximum width of the float is to be 10 feet. Parts of the float may extend longer than the 25-foot length of the float bed. Decoration may not rise higher than 12 feet from the float bed.
 - a. **10-point deduction for exceeding maximum dimensions.**
3. Floats cannot contain any decorative materials other than pumping materials. This includes any additional prop that may be added to the float, tarps, painted decorations, etc.
 - a. **10-point deduction for each item that is not pumped.**
4. No float can travel under its own power source.
5. Motors are allowed on the float for the sole purpose of moving individual parts of the float.
6. No political endorsements are allowed on a float or in the vehicle pulling the float. This includes signage, clothing, flyers, etc.
7. FOOD IS PERMITTED before and during the parade, but a "Food Description Form" (found on InvoNet) must be filled out before the day of the parade with details about the type and amount of food you will be bringing.
8. NO ALCOHOL is permitted on the float or in the vehicle which is pulling it before, during or after the parade.
 - a. **Any organization found to be violating this rule will immediately be disqualified.**
9. NO outside open containers except for water bottles filled only with water are permitted before or during the parade. Items supplied by vendors/student ambassadors at the event are the only exception. This ban includes, but is not limited to outside soda cans, plastic bottles, hydroflasks/stanleys, blender bottles, etc.
 - a. **3-point deduction for each outside non-water bottle.**
10. No alcoholic beverages are allowed at the building site.
 - a. **First Infraction: Warning, Second Infraction: 15-point deduction, Third Infraction: Disqualification.**
11. No one is permitted to be on or under the float bed in any way at any time during the parade or judging.

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- a. **3-point deduction for each individual on/under float.**
- 12. A reasonable number of persons may ride inside the bed of the pickup truck. Blue Key reserves the right to limit such numbers for safety reasons at their discretion. All persons must be seated inside the truck bed. No one is to be standing in the truck bed, sitting on the edges of the truck bed, or sitting on the tailgate. Tailgate must be closed at all times.
 - a. **3-point deduction each recorded violation.**
- 13. Participants riding in vehicles pulling floats must be seated at all times. All vehicle doors are to be closed. All extremities are to be within the vehicle.
 - a. **3-point deduction for each recorded violation.**
- 14. NO standing on running boards while the vehicle is moving.
 - a. **3-point deduction each incident.**
- 15. NO disrespectful behavior to any faculty/staff member, member of Blue Key, or anyone else in the parade or along the parade route. Blue Key reserves the right to prevent any participant from walking in the parade if they are deemed to be highly intoxicated.
 - a. **5-point deduction for each incident of disrespectful behavior.**
 - b. **10-point deduction per individual removed from parade.**
- 16. NO cursing/foul language before or during the parade.
 - a. **1-point deduction each incident.**
- 17. Absolutely NO damage to other organization's floats and/or cars.
 - a. **Immediate Disqualification.**
- 18. Limit of three organizations per float.

Failure to pay fines by the start of the 2026 Spring Semester will result in a one year suspension.

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Decorated Cars/Trucks

1. Cars/Pick-ups will be judged using the same categories as floats.
2. There are no construction restrictions for decorated cars.
3. There may be no decorations covering the front window, passenger's window, driver's window, or back window. Only rear window decorations are permitted (both passenger and driver sides) at the discretion of Blue Key.
4. Decorations inside the vehicle are permitted, but they may not obstruct the view of the driver.
5. The car itself must be safe to drive, and must be able to clear any overhead obstruction of 12 feet
6. No political endorsements are allowed on or in the decorated vehicle. This includes signage, clothing, flyers, give-aways, etc.
7. NO ALCOHOL is permitted in the vehicle at any time before, during or after the parade.
 - a. **Immediate Disqualification.**
8. NO outside open containers except for water bottles filled only with water are permitted before or during the parade. Items supplied by vendors/student ambassadors at the event are the only exception. This ban includes, but is not limited to outside soda cans, plastic bottles, hydroflasks/stanleys, blender bottles, etc
 - a. **3-point deduction for each non-water bottle.**
9. A reasonable number of persons may ride inside the bed of a pickup truck. Blue Key reserves the right to limit such numbers for safety reasons at their discretion. All persons must be seated inside the truck bed. No one is to be standing in the truck bed, sitting on the edges of the truck bed, or sitting on the tailgate. Tailgate must be closed at all times.
 - a. **3-point deduction each incident.**
10. Participants riding in the decorated vehicles must be seated at all times. All vehicle doors are to be closed. All extremities are to be within the vehicle.
 - a. **3-point deduction each incident.**
11. NO standing on running boards while the vehicle is moving.
 - a. **3-point deduction each incident.**
12. NO disrespectful behavior to any faculty/staff member, member of Blue Key, or anyone else in the parade or along the parade route.
 - a. **5-point deduction each incident.**
13. NO cursing/foul language before or during the parade.
 - a. **1-point deduction each incident.**
14. Absolutely NO damage to other organization's floats and/or trucks/cars.
 - a. **Any act will result in immediate disqualification.**
15. Limit of three organizations per vehicle

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Judging of the 2025 Homecoming Floats and Cars/Trucks

1. Floats will be judged by the following categories:
 - i. Relevance to Theme (“Saddle Up for Spirit: Homecoming on the Range”) - 15 Points Max
 - ii. Originality - 10 Points Max
 - iii. Mechanics and Structure - 10 Points Max
 - iv. Overall Appearance - 10 Points Max
 - v. School Spirit - 5 Points Max
2. Five Members per organization may present their float to the Judges.
3. Organizations are encouraged to have members present to show school spirit.

Final Scoring

1. There will be five individual judges.
2. Each judge will award points in all five categories.
3. Each of the five categories will be judged based on the scale above (50 possible points).
4. After judging each float, the scores from each category will be totaled by the judges and given to the float co-chairs (50 possible points).
5. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place floats. There will also be separate trophies for first and second place cars/trucks.
6. In the event of a tie, the lowest three category scores will be added together for each participant involved in the tie. The one with the greatest three category point total will be the winner.

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