HOMECOMING PARADE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW:

The Ball State Homecoming Parade has been a long standing tradition since 1939. The purpose of the parade is to celebrate Ball State University, further engage our alumni, create a sense of nostalgia about campus and to showcase Cardinal pride. Homecoming provides an opportunity for Ball State alumni from around the country to engage in numerous ways during the celebratory week and weekend.

The theme for this year’s Homecoming is “Cardinals Around the World.” All entries are required to adhere creatively to our theme. Adherence to the theme is part of the judging criteria. Even if an entry is not interested in the judging competition, adherence to this year’s Homecoming theme is required.

Parade winners will be recognized within two weeks following Homecoming day.

PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The submission of a parade entry form and fee does not guarantee a spot in the parade line-up. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for the available slots. There are a limited number of slots available at the lineup site for all entry types. Once the specified number of slots are filled, additional entries will be added to the parade waitlist.

For the safety of our spectators and parade participants, all parade participants must abide by the following rules and regulations:

- All floats, vehicles or entries must reflect the Ball State University Homecoming Theme.
- Individuals are not allowed to jump on or off moving units at any time nor should individuals hang onto moving units. Spectators from the crowd are not allowed to join the parade line-up.
- Your parade unit must clearly display the name of your business/organization.
- All parade participants must conduct themselves in an acceptable and respectable manner.
- Music with vulgar language is prohibited.
- The selling of food, drinks, and other items is prohibited.
- For safety reasons, water in any form (water guns, cannons, water balloons, hoses, or similar devices) is prohibited.
- All equestrian units must be bagged or units must provide a person to pick up animal waste along the route.
- Any individual who shows or exhibits inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the parade.
- It is the responsibility of the participating organization to remove its entry from the parade route and campus immediately following the parade.
All entry forms are due to the Homecoming office no later than Thursday, October 5, to ensure that preparations can be completed in time. Sorry, no entries will be added after this time.

FLOAT ENTRIES: The cost to enter a float in the parade is $100. All campus floats must get a police escort to the lineup site. For an escort, contact the University Police Department at 285-1111.

- Float size: Maximum measurements for floats are: 15 feet high (from the ground), 11 feet wide, and 22 feet long. Jeeps, flatbed trucks, pick-ups, etc. may be used for floats. A standard hay wagon or farm wagon may also be used at the base (a standard hay wagon consists of a frame and four wheels). The height restriction of 15 feet has been adopted for your protection so that the float will clear all the wires and trees along the parade route. All floats must adhere to these limitations and be capable of negotiating corners on the route.
- Bus entries and/or vehicles larger than a standard car or truck should sign up in the float category to ensure enough space at the lineup site. Please indicate that your vehicle is oversized/bus on your entry form.
- One car is permitted to accompany each float without paying an additional fee. Cars that accompany floats will line up behind the float.

CAR/WALKING ENTRIES: The cost to enter a car/walking unit in the parade is $75. A separate entry form must be submitted for each car/walking unit entered in the parade.

- Only one vehicle is permitted in this category. If you have more than one vehicle in your unit and/or require extra space, please sign up as a separate car/walking entry and ask to be placed together in the lineup.

For additional information, contact the Homecoming Office, (765) 285-1083 or homecoming@bsu.edu