Homecoming 2025 Parade & Student Org Spirit Contest – Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Homecoming Parade and Student Org Spirit Contest! We're excited to have you on board and can't wait to see your WPI spirit in action. The winning organization will receive a $500 prize from the WPI Alumni Association.

As a reminder, the Homecoming Parade & Student Org Spirit Contest will take place at 3 PM on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

Homecoming is a family-friendly event, attended by students, alumni, and friends of the university from a wide range of backgrounds and generations. We ask for your cooperation in ensuring that Homecoming is an enjoyable experience for all who attend. With that, all groups participating in the Homecoming Parade & Student Org Spirit Contest are expected to adhere to the guidelines outlined here:

- The deadline to register your group is Sunday, September 21, 2025. No exceptions will be made.
- Groups are required to register in advance. Groups that come to the parade without pre-registration will be turned away.
- Groups registered to participate must be officially recognized student organizations at WPI, and all members of a group participating in the parade must be currently enrolled WPI students.
- Each group will have a point of contact who will be informed of plans and guidelines for the parade by email. This person is required to be present with the group during the parade and will also be available to answer questions from the Office of Lifetime Engagement regarding their group's plans in advance of Homecoming if necessary.
- No more than 20 students per group may march in the parade.
- All parade participants must be walking – no riding in or on vehicles of any kind (including bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc.) is permitted. Exceptions will be made for students requiring wheelchairs or scooters for medical purposes.
- Props (banners, signs, flags, etc.) and costumes utilized by a group must include appropriate representations of the Homecoming theme – "The Herd Comes Home" – WPI, and the organization, and not be seen as offensive (insensitive to people of different races or cultures, or people other identities and/or sexually suggestive or

offensive) or misaligned with the spirit of the event. All props and costumes must also be free of any reference to drugs and/or alcohol.
- No items may be thrown or launched from the parade route.
- No generators, pyrotechnics, flames, theatrical smoke or fog machines, or amplified music is permitted. (Music will already be playing on the parade route.)
- No smoking of any kind or open containers of alcohol are permitted.
- Any food that is distributed by a group must be pre-packaged and cannot be thrown. All food must be pre-approved for distribution by the Office of Lifetime Engagement.
- All parade participants are expected to respect the campus property and each other. Students are expected to adhere to the rules outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](). Any participant who fails to do so will be asked to leave the campus immediately.

Items that are okay to bring or use:

- Flags and/or banners with the organization's name, logo, or letters*
- Costumes*
- Pom poms
- Snack items (see above) and/or fun giveaways with your group's name or logo*
- Rehearsed chants, cheers, and awesome dance moves!

*See guidelines outlined above.

All Homecoming attendees will be invited to cast votes for the most spirited group. Votes will be collected electronically, and the online ballot will be available via QR codes posted in the vicinity of the parade route. Only votes collected during the time of the parade will count towards groups' tally. The winning organization will be notified via email to their representative the week following Homecoming. The winning organization will be asked to provide a short thank you message to the Alumni Association Board of Directors for their donation to their group.

Thank you again for your participation – Roll Tech!

Questions? Contact the Office of Lifetime Engagement at [alumni-office@wpi.edu]().