



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Student Involvement
& Leadership Development

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

2016 Northern Lights Homecoming Parade Overview

Northern Illinois University

Participate in NIU's Northern Lights Homecoming Parade and show your group's Huskie Spirit to the entire campus and surrounding communities!

The Northern Lights Homecoming Parade will take place on **Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7pm**. Parade entry registration is anticipated to open on **Sunday, August 21** (subject to change).

On August 21, you can access the online parade application on the following website:

<https://niu.collegiatelink.net/form/start/103818>

Fill out the application form completely. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

You must register for the parade and pay the entry fee in order to participate.

Walk-up entries will NOT be permitted.

The following rules and guidelines are to be met by all parade entries. Any violations of the stated guidelines will result in forfeiture of participation in the parade.

Rules/Guidelines

- A \$10 cash or check entry fee is required of each entry. All checks must be made payable to Northern Illinois University. Drop off all payments to the Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Campus Life Building Suite 150 by **Thursday, October 13 at 4:00pm** [if you do not attend class/work on campus, you can park in one of the 15-minute parking spots behind the Campus Life Building or in any of the pay-to-park parking spaces (Lot M1) on the east side of the building to drop off your payment]. If you prefer, you can mail your entry fee payment instead of dropping it off. Payments can be mailed to Northern Illinois University-Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Campus Life Building Suite 150, 545 Lucinda Ave. DeKalb, IL 60115. *If you choose to mail in your payment, please indicate the purpose of the check (parade entry), the entry name, as well as an email address so we can send you an email confirmation.* Please note: mailed payments also need to be received by the October 13 deadline.
- Registration will close on **Thursday, October 13 at 4:00pm**.
- Entries may consist of decorated vehicles, on-foot entries, equestrian groups, and floats. Other categories may be considered upon request.
- New this year- we will offer a performance point for any parade entries that wish to do a short (one minute or less) performance at the end of the parade. If your group intends to perform at this performance point, be sure to indicate your wish to perform on your application in the appropriate location and provide a description of your intended performance.
- Our parade theme is once again "Northern Lights." **As a result, all entries must have some form of lights clearly displayed with their entry.** For example, you can have clear/colored lights on your entry, participants holding flashlights, glow in the dark items, and much more. The best entries are decked out from head to toe!
- This year, NIU's Homecoming theme is "Huskies Through the Decades". Although all entries must have lights clearly displayed for the parade's light theme, we also encourage entries to follow our Homecoming decades theme. For instance, an entry can dress up to represent the 1950's decade, 1960's decade, 1970's decade, etc. or have decorations to represent a specific decade or multiple decades.

- Be creative! Think outside the box in regard to your entry, and particularly your lights display.
- All entries have the opportunity to participate in an Entry Competition, and this is where your creative lights display will really come into play! **You must indicate in your application whether or not you wish to participate in the Entry Competition.**
- Entries' decorations must be respectful and in good taste. Any entries' decor not in alignment with this request will be disqualified. Entries may not display advertisement for alcohol or tobacco on their float.
- NO alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be allowed on or near the entries prior to or during the parade.
- **A MANDATORY parade meeting will be held for all entries on Tuesday, October 18 at 7pm in Campus Life Building, room 100.** At this time, a representative from your entry **MUST** be present. The position of each entry and parade logistics will be discussed at this time.

After the parade, NIU students and alumni are invited to stay in the downtown area to shop and eat at some of our local businesses and restaurants! Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow Huskies and community members!

For more information, contact Christy Fraticola at (815) 753-6505 or cfraticola1@niu.edu.

Check out this year's parade route below!



2016 Homecoming

Huskies Through the Decades

Northern Lights Parade

Thursday, October 20th, 2016

Start: 7:00 p.m. - NIU Art Building Parking Lot

End: 8:00 p.m. - IL-38 (Lincoln Hwy) and 3rd St.

