Kelsey Ladd, Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director
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www.mtsu.edu/sga/homecoming.php
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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is that time of year again to celebrate 112 years of True Blue pride here at Middle Tennessee State University. Homecoming 2023 is sure to be a great time as we BLAST OFF into space to celebrate what it means to be True Blue! Together, the student body, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community we can make this the best Homecoming yet, as we take on the Colorado State Rams at Johnny ‘Red’ Floyd Stadium! We are looking forward to the hard work that each of our campus organizations and community members put in each year, but we cannot have the best homecoming without you! So get ready for an exciting ONCE IN A BLUE MOON Homecoming, full of festivities!

Sincerely,

Kelsey Ladd

Student Government Association

2023 Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director
CONNECT WITH US!

Homecoming Media:

www.mtsu.edu/myMT

@MTSUHomecoming

www.mtsu.edu/sga/homecoming.php

@MTSUHomecomingPage

Student Government Association Media:

@MTSUSGA

https://mtsu.edu/sga/

@MTSUStudentGovernmentAssociation
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WEEK OF EVENTS:

Monday, September 18:
- Homecoming Intramurals, Battleship. Rec Center Indoor Pool. 6-10 PM.

Tuesday, September 19:
- Future Alumni Pop-Up. STU Atrium 11 AM- 1 PM.
- Homecoming Intramurals, Cornhole & Spikeball. Rec Center. 5-9 PM.

Wednesday, September 20:
- Moon Walk Skate Night. Rec Center. 7-9 PM.
- Homecoming Intramurals Championships, Cornhole & Spikeball. Rec Center. 5-9 PM.

Thursday, September 21:
- Under the True Blue Moon Party. Floyd Stadium. 7-9 PM.

Friday, September 22:
- NPHC Showcase. STU Ballroom. 7 PM.

Saturday, September 23:
- Mixer on Middle Parade Watch Party. Alumni House. 10:30 AM.
- Homecoming Parade. East Main Street to Middle Tennessee Boulevard. 11 AM.
- Homecoming Game. Floyd Stadium. 6 PM.
IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

COMPETITIONS:

Entry Forms: Opens August 30, Closes September 13, 2022

- Sign Competition
- Paint Campus Blue
- Homecoming Intramurals
- Parade (Float, Vehicle, and non-competitive entries due Sept. 20)

Due Dates:

- Sign Competition due September 18 at 9 AM at Walnut Grove
- Paint Campus Blue Submission completed by September 18 at 9 AM. Judging begins this day and will continue throughout the week.
- Competitive Float Entry judging will begin on September 22 at 12 PM at its designated location.

HOMECOMING COURT ELECTION TIMELINE:

August 7-15
Potential Candidate Election Packets Available.

August 17
Candidates eligible to run will be notified via email.

August 29-September 8
Candidate Campaigning.

September 5-8
Voting opens at 10 AM on September 5 and closes September 8 at 12 PM.

September 8
Homecoming Court Election Results posted by 4 PM.

September 23
Homecoming Queen and King Announced at Halftime of game.
GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

The theme for the 2023 Middle Tennessee State University Homecoming is:

“Once In A Blue Moon”

It’s about time to BLAST OFF into this ONCE IN A BLUE MOON Homecoming week! Your Blue Raiders have started the countdown to battle the Colorado State Rams on this INTERGALACTIC occasion. Mark your calendars and prepare for an INTERSTELLAR TRUE BLUE adventure! Are you ready for take off?

The following rules, events, and activities were developed by the 2023 Homecoming Committee. Please read all rules and regulations carefully prior to homecoming events/activities to avoid any misunderstanding, incorrect interpretation, and possible disqualification from the homecoming events. Any questions should be directed toward the 2023 Homecoming Director.

Kelsey Ladd, Homecoming Director/Assistant Events Director
Office: Student Union 306
Email: sgahome@mtsu.edu
Office Phone: (615) 898-2537 ext. 2537

1. All official homecoming entry forms must be completed and turned in to myMT, no later than 12:00 PM on Wednesday September 13th. Official homecoming entry forms must be submitted in order to complete the approval process determined by the Student Government Association Homecoming Committee.

2. Groups and organizations working together must note their partnership on the official entry forms. Groups and organizations must complete official entry forms individually and must both acknowledge the partnership on entry forms. If an organization is partnered with another organization, they do not necessarily have to enter every competition as partners.

3. All times and deadlines are strictly enforced. Refer to individual event rules and regulations for deadline information.

4. All decisions of judges will be kept confidential until the 2023 Homecoming Committee makes its official announcements. All decisions of the judges are final. Moreover, official rules are left up to the judge’s discretion to interpret the rules as they see fit.
**GENERAL COMPETITION RULES**

5. Official appeals must be made within 48 hours of the specific event in question. All appeals must be filed in writing with SGA Homecoming Director and the Director of Student Organizations and Service at sga.home@mtsu.edu and jackie.victory@mtsu.edu.

6. Since MTSU is a dry campus, we strictly enforce the “No alcohol” policy at all events and competitions. Organizations that are caught drinking or carrying alcoholic beverages during the SGA Homecoming events will be disqualified from the event. Further action may be taken however the homecoming committee sees fit.

7. Individuals or organizations who fail to adhere to the general rules and regulations must meet with the Homecoming Committee and Homecoming Advisor.

8. Winners from each event and category will be announced on Saturday, September 23rd at 4:00 PM in Walnut Grove. Please have at least one representative attend to receive awards.

9. NOTE: All on-campus locations listed are subject to change.
WORKING TOGETHER

The purpose of Homecoming is to come together as MTSU students, to celebrate school spirit, and welcome our alumni back to campus. As a result, the Homecoming committee encourages student organizations to work together in all Homecoming events and activities. Organizations that join together for these events will be referred to as “teams.”

Student organizations may be paired and work together. If student organizations do pair up, they are not required to pair up for all events. Remember sometimes participating separately can result in more points for your team effort!

SGA Sponsored events:

- Competitions
  - Sign Competition
  - Paint the Halls Blue (Residence Halls and Campus Departments)
  - Intramural Games
- Events
  - Fight Song
  - Blue Raider Blast Off Skate Night
  - Under the True Blue Moon Party
  - Future Alumni Pop-Up
  - NPHC Showcase
- Parade Competitions
  - Float
  - Non-Float
We will have overall winners in the following categories: Residential & Housing, Student Organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. Each of the competitions that are hosted is designated a certain number of points that may be accumulated. Points will be calculated and kept in a spreadsheet to determine overall winner. Winning complex, organization, and team will receive an award at the end of Homecoming Week and will be announced on our Homecoming Social Media sites.

**Residential and Housing:**
- *Paint the Halls Blue*: 100 points
- *Homecoming Games*: 100 Points
- *Sign Competition*: 100 points
- *Parade Entry*: 100 points

**Student Organizations:**
- *Homecoming Games*: 100 points
- *Sign Competition*: 100 points
- *Parade Entry*: 100 points
- *Fight Song*: 100 points

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**
- *Homecoming Games*: 100 points
- *Sign Competition*: 100 points
- *Crash the Commons*: 75 points
- *Parade Entry*: 100 points
- *Fight Song*: 100 points

All events will award first, second, and third place.

Competitions that are worth **100 points** will award as follows:
- **1st Place**: 100 Points
- **2nd Place**: 75 Points
- **3rd Place**: 50 Points

Competitions that are worth **75 points** will award as follows:
- **1st Place**: 75 Points
- **2nd Place**: 50 Points
- **3rd Place**: 25 Points
The MTSU Fight Song Competition will be held during MTSU’s Week of Welcome at 7:00 PM on August 31, 2023 in the Murphy Center. The seating to the event will be available an hour before show time. The Fight Song is designed to display school spirit. It should reflect originality, creativity, and pride in our university. The theme for this year’s fight song is “Up, Up, and Away!” Entries may incorporate anything their team feels complies with the theme. If you have any questions on whether or not something is acceptable, refer to:

1. Mandatory Fight Song meeting will be June 22th at 12:00 PM, via Zoom. A member from each organization must be present regardless of partnership (example: Homecoming Chair/Fight Song Chair)
2. This year, teams will not be charged a fight song fee. We feel that there is no need when in the past organizations have followed the rules and cleaned up after themselves. It is the organization’s responsibility to remove all props, costumes, makeup, etc. If materials are left on stage or if changing facilities are not properly cleaned following the show, or any damage occurs, you will be charged for the damages occurred.
3. Organizations may begin practicing immediately after the informational meeting. No groups may congregate prior to this date.
4. Groups may begin submitting official entry form, list of songs, and lyrics at 8:00 AM on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Song availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups must send song list and lyrics to sga.home@mtsu.edu by 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The mandatory Entry Form will also close on MyMT at 4:30 PM on July 20, 2023. To avoid duplication of songs, chosen songs will be time stamped, and the organization first requesting the song is allowed and all others (if duplication occurs) must choose another song. There is no need to bring these to the SGA office. Songs and lyrics will only be accepted through email.
5. Participating organizations must arrive to rehearsal location at least 30 minutes prior to their designated rehearsal time. Each organization will be notified of the check in location and their designated rehearsal time.
6. All props are due at the Murphy Center 3:00 PM on show day. Any team with props not in place by 3:00 PM will receive a 5-point deduction from their final score. Any props submitted after 5:00 PM on show day will not be accepted for use in the show.
7. Each team has seven minutes for their performance. Time will begin as soon as the first sound is sung, spoken, or played. Timing will end when the music stops. One point will be deducted for each 20 seconds over. (Note: If performance is 7 minutes and 15 seconds, you will still be deducted one point.)
FIGHT SONG RULES

8. Each team will have four minutes to set up and four minutes to take down any props. Any group exceeding the four minute set-up and/or tear down will be penalized 1 point per minute.

9. All props must be carried on and off the stage using the stairs or ramp on the side of the stage. If damage occurs due to an organization’s method of setup / tear down, the organization will be held responsible for any damages caused to the facility, stage, or the curtain set up behind it.

10. Props may be used as long as participants carry them on and off stage. Any items left on stage will result in a 10 point penalty. Props may not exceed 12 feet high. Each group must have designated individuals responsible for securing each props position. Props must be sturdy enough to stand without falling.

11. Absolutely no glitter / confetti. If any glitter is used, the team will be disqualified.

12. The MTSU Fight Song must be sung in its traditional form first. After the first time through, the MTSU Fight Song may be sung in any non-traditional form. Only the words in the fight song may be used, they may be sung in any order. However, this year we are allowing teams to sing the name of the theme in their songs, “Up, up, and away.” These words may be added in any part of your lyrics in any order. Speaking parts do not have to follow this rule.

13. Absolutely no build-ups or stunts. Stunts may be defined as 3-person pyramids, etc. No one is permitted to jump off the stage. Stunts will also be defined as a person getting onto another person’s shoulders. Pursuant to general competition rules, SGA accepts no responsibility for accidents or injuries before, during, or after the performance.

14. Two instruments may be used during the performance. (Instruments are anything extra brought on stage to make sound. Examples: microphone, trumpet, etc.) Any necessary equipment must be requested before August 21, 2023 by 4:30 PM. Pre-recorded music may be used, however, it may not have lead vocals, or it will count as one of the instruments used. It is up to the judges’ discretion to determine if the pre-recorded vocals overpower the performance.

15. The team must provide a person to help the sound technicians with the music. Groups must have the music into two different forms. For example: A flash drive can be brought and the music can be put on a phone. If a phone is used, it must be able to go onto airplane mode.

16. Music, Lighting Cues, and a Script of your group’s performance must be submitted for screening to sga.home@mtsu.edu. The deadline is August 21, 2023 by 4:30 PM.

17. Only active members of organizations are allowed to participate or assist in the Fight Song competition in any way, with the exception of music editing. NO OUTSIDE CHOREOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED AND NO HELP FROM ALUMNI. Violation of these rules will result in immediate meeting with the homecoming committee and advisor. Violations may result in disqualification.
**FIGHT SONG RULES**

18. Maximum number of participants per performance may not exceed 35. It is not required to use all 35 participants, and the number of participants will not be a determining factor for the judging of fight song.

19. Music, vocals, and speaking may not include profanity or offensive jesters.

20. Fight Song will be included in the Overall Homecoming Competition and will go towards Lightning’s Cup.

21. All decisions made by the judges are final. Judging will be based on the following: Performance, Spirit, Theme, and Pre Performance.
   a. Performance: 35% of clarity of words, creativity, choreography, set display
   b. Spirit: 30% of enthusiasm, school spirit, crowd appeal
   c. Theme: 30% of choice of music, costumes, props, story
   d. Pre-Performance: 5% of entry form, mandatory meeting attendance, music & instrument, sign in submitted on time, etc.

*Final scores have been very close in the past, so please follow the rules to give your organization the best chance at winning.*
PARADE & NON-COMPETITIVE ENTRIES

The Homecoming parade is one of the longest standing traditions of Middle Tennessee State University. It is the best way to unite and feature the community of students, alumni and local residents. Anyone has the opportunity to be recognized by walking in the parade or building a float. For those interested in participating in the parade please check the web page for information, route location and forms.

1. All entry forms for parade are to be submitted to https://mtsu.edu/sga/homecoming.php by 12:00 PM on Wednesday September 20th.

2. Entries must be in good taste supporting MTSU spirit. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to reject and/or disqualify any entry not in compliance with contemporary community standards.

3. All participants must conduct themselves in a respectable, sportsmanlike manner at all times. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to limit individual student, alumni, or any other participation in the Homecoming Parade. If an individual participant cannot maintain the appropriate conduct as defined by contemporary community standards, he/she will be asked to leave the parade, float, or vehicle and site. If that individual refuses to leave the vehicle or float (including the immediate area) that group will be immediately disqualified from the event.

4. Where applicable, each group must, as a part of their official entry, designate a qualified, sober (meaning NO alcohol has been consumed) driver for the entry and any other vehicle used in the parade. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to determine the satisfactory state of each driver and may disqualify a driver if he or she does not meet the agreed standards. Upon disqualification of the driver, the entire entry will also be declared ineligible to participate in the parade.

5. Participants may choose to either enter a float, vehicle, or a non-float entry. The 2023 Homecoming Committee must approve all entries. Once the Homecoming Committee receives an entry form no changes may be made.

6. All participants must be dressed in MTSU school colors (Royal Blue and White) or according to the 2023 theme while participating in the parade. Keep in mind that school spirit is considered for competition. Other school spirited items (balloons, pompoms, signs, etc.) are encouraged. All (theme costumes) should be family friendly.
7. Floats may be pulled by any vehicle or means approved for street operations in the state of Tennessee. All float entries must be at the intersection of Bell St and Highland (old hospital parking lot) at 9:00 AM vehicles and walkers should arrive at 10:00 A.M., the parade begins at 11:00 AM. Any entry not in its correct location and checked in with the parade by this time will receive a penalty of five points for every 15 minutes late. All participants must be in the correct location on hour prior to parade Kick-off.

8. Participants should arrange to be dropped off at the parade check in location, as no through vehicles will be permitted.

9. **ATTENTION:** The check in location is the parking lot at the corner of Bell and Highland. NO cars will be allowed to park at the parking lot beside Oakland Mansion. People walking in the parade may park in the parking garage at the corner of Bell and Highland.
FLOAT COMPETITIVE ENTRY

Float decorations are a great way for your organization to display the spirit of MTSU and the homecoming theme. Organizations are welcome to work together to create a float to be displayed during the parade. A float is best described as a decorated platform, either built on a vehicle, truck or towed behind on a trailer. The rules stated in the General Parade rule will be considered along with the following are. If there are any questions, please contact the Homecoming Director.

1. Entries must be in good taste supporting MTSU spirit. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to reject and/or disqualify any entry not in compliance with contemporary community standards.

2. All participants must conduct themselves in a respectable, sportsmanlike manner at all times. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to limit individual student, alumni, or any other participation in the Homecoming Parade. If an individual participant cannot maintain the appropriate conduct as defined by contemporary community standards, he/she will be asked to leave the parade, float, or vehicle and site. If that individual refuses to leave the vehicle or float (including the immediate area) that group will be immediately disqualified from the event.

3. Floats may be pulled by any vehicle or means approved for street operations in the state of Tennessee.

4. No person participating in the parade is allowed to be inside the truck bed, if the truck is pulling a trailer during the parade.

5. Each group must, as a part of their official entry, designate a qualified, sober (meaning NO alcohol has been consumed) driver for the entry and any other vehicle used in the parade. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to determine the satisfactory state of each driver and may disqualify a driver if he or she does not meet the agreed standards. Upon disqualification of the driver, the entire entry will also be declared ineligible to participate in the parade.

6. No person participating in the parade is allowed to enter or litter on any private property (people’s yards, business, churches, etc.) If a group is found guilty of this, a 15 point deduction and you will be asked to leave the area.

7. Floats must have at least one working fire extinguisher on board at all times. Any entry not having a fire extinguished will be disqualified. The homecoming committee will be inspecting floats at check in to ensure all entries meet this requirement.

8. The location of the float construction site must be on the parade entry form. The Homecoming Committee and Parade Director reserve the right to visit each site at any time throughout the building process.

9. Any float that has movement must have consistent movement throughout the parade route.

10. All (theme) attire should be family friendly.
**FLOAT COMPETITIVE ENTRY**

11. All size specifications will be strictly enforced. If an entry does not conform to the specifications for the event it will be automatically deducted 5 points per width, length, and height. Indicated measurements are from skirt to skirt of the trailer.

12. All entry forms are due September 20th at 12:00 PM through MyMT.

**Float dimensions may not exceed:**

- Maximum Width: 9 ft
- Maximum Length: 16 ft
- Maximum Height (from the ground): 10 ft

Non-float specifications will be determined on an individual basis.

Judging of the float will begin at noon on Friday, September 20th. Parade entries will be informed of their judging time prior to the parade. However, spirit judges will be placed at strategic locations throughout the parade route.

- 25% School Spirit & Incorporation of Theme on Float
- 25% School Spirit & Incorporation of Theme during Parade
- 30% Workmanship & Color Scheme
- 20% Originality & Creativity
The non-float entry is one of the less costly and more creative ways for organizations to be involved with Homecoming Parade. If your organization wants to be in the parade but does not have resources to create a float, this is a good way to participate. Organizations or individuals can choose to walk behind/with a banner or a vehicle in order to be recognized in the parade.

1. Non-float entries may be described as an organization driving a car, golf cart or simply walking the parade route. An organization can choose to have a decorated banner to introduce their organization.

2. Participants should arrange to be dropped off at parade check in location at the corner of Bell and Highland, as no through vehicles will be permitted.

3. All participants must conduct themselves in a respectable, sportsmanlike manner at all times. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to limit individual student, alumni, or any other participation in the Homecoming Parade. If an individual participant cannot maintain the appropriate conduct as defined by contemporary community standards, he/she will be asked to leave the parade, float, or vehicle and site. If that individual refuses to leave the vehicle or float (including the immediate area) that group will be immediately disqualified from the event. Murfreesboro Police will then be contacted and student will be sent to Judicial Affairs.

4. All participants must be dressed in MTSU school colors (Royal Blue and White) or according to the 2023 theme while participating in the parade. Keep in mind that school spirit is considered for competition. Other school spirited items (balloons, pompoms, signs, etc.) are encouraged. All attire should be family friendly.

5. All registered primary drivers should arrive at the parade start at 10:00 AM to get their spot in the parade. Participants should be at the intersection of Bell St and Highland (old hospital parking lot) one hour prior to parade start time to decorate their cart. The person responsible for the vehicle must check in with the parade director to receive access to parade spot.

6. Each vehicle may only have participants riding that have available seating. (ex: if there are four seatbelts, only four people can ride in the car). Organization members can walk behind the vehicle in the parade!

7. Vehicles entries can chose to be decorated before they arrive or on site. If you wish to be judged you will need to indicate this on the entry form, judging will take place on the parade route.
8. Each group must, as a part of their official entry, designate a qualified, sober (meaning NO alcohol has been consumed) driver for the float and any other vehicle used in the parade. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to determine the satisfactory state of each driver and may disqualify a driver if he or she does not meet the agreed standards. Upon disqualification of the driver, the entire entry will also be declared ineligible to participate in the parade.

9. All entry forms are due on Wednesday, September 20 at 12:00 PM through MyMT.
SIGN COMPETITION

We are going to decorate the campus with our sign competition! Each group will decorate a piece of plywood and it will be placed on campus for everyone to see. We will leave the signs up for game day. This is a great and easy way to get your student organizations name out there! Show your school spirit and make a design!

Construction & Materials

1. **Maximum size is 8 feet wide by 4 feet tall.** The Homecoming Committee members will measure the dimensions for point violations.

2. Signs can only be painted. Signs can only be made out of wood and paint. Make sure your sign is waterproof! This means that a protective coating may be needed on the sign. Tents are not considered as protective covering. Waterproofing may be tested. If your sign is not waterproof, you will receive a 5 point deduction.

3. The Homecoming Committee will provide the stakes to support the signs. The Homecoming Committee will drill small holes (6-8) and secure to the stakes. It is suggested to bring a small amount of touch up paint.

Setting up of Sign

1. All signs are due between 9 AM and 10 AM on Monday, September 18 at Walnut Grove. Signs must be completed, pre-constructed and finished (and dry) by the time they are put up. Only 6-8 holes will be drilled on site by the Homecoming Committee. Touch up paint after the sign is in place is allowed only around the drill hole site. If a sign is not completed by the time it is placed, it will not be judged.

2. A representative from each group must stay with the sign until cleared by a designated Homecoming Committee member. Entries deemed unsafe by the MTSU Homecoming Committee or Advisor are subject to disqualification. All areas must be clean before the site is left. If items are left behind, a 5 point deduction will occur.

Overall Information

1. Please make sure that the names of the pairing are on the sign and easily visible. Sign must adhere to both your pairings’ theme and the overall university Homecoming theme.

2. Pictures will be taken of all entries at the completion of set up, and judging will be taken place during homecoming week.

3. Entry Form is due on Wednesday, September 13 at 12:00 PM through MyMT.
Paint Campus Blue

The MTSU Homecoming’s Paint Campus Blue will promote Blue Raider Pride and school unity. All departments, facilities, and housing on campus are strongly encouraged to participate in this competitive event. Each participating site should be decorated in MTSU school colors (Royal Blue & White) and in accordance with the Homecoming Theme, “Once In A Blue Moon.” Sites are encouraged to decorate as much as possible (inside, outside, or around office area) in whatever manner they see best to portray MTSU pride (streamers, window chalk, banners, lights, etc.). Faculty and students may collaborate in this creative competition. Decorations should be displayed throughout the Homecoming celebration weeks. All decorations must comply with building and fire safety codes (i.e.: not blocking fire extinguishers and alarms, emergency doors, air vents, sprinkler systems, lighting fixtures, etc.)

1. Entry forms are due Wednesday, September 13 at 12:00 PM through MyMT. Areas that can be decorated Residence Halls, Department, Office Doors

2. Each participating site should be decorated in MTSU school colors (Royal Blue & White) and in accordance with the Homecoming Theme, “Once In A Blue Moon”.

3. Judging will begin Monday, September 18th and continue throughout the week. All entries should be ready to be judged by that date.

4. The competition will be based on the following scale:
   - 40% School Spirit & Incorporation of Theme
   - 30% Quality of Art, Color, Workmanship
   - 30% Originality & Creativity
Intramurals

Homecoming intramural competitions will be September 18-20 during Homecoming week on the MTSU Campus Recreation Center. All homecoming games will count for both campus rec intramural points and homecoming points. Games may be subject to change. Entries and entry fees must be made through campus rec by a certain date. Please go to: www.mtsu.edu/campusrec/intramural/ for registration and contact information.

Homecoming Competitions hosted by Campus Rec:

- Spikeball
- Cornhole
- Battleship

Crash The Commons

Crash The Commons is an event hosted by Fraternity & Sorority Life where Homecoming Groups compete in various activities. This year, standings will be allotted towards homecoming. First place will receive 75 points, Second will receive 50, and Third 25. For all questions regarding Crash The Commons, please contact mtsufsl@mtsu.edu.