HOMECOMING ROYALTY INFORMATION

About Homecoming Royalty:

Homecoming Royalty is awarded to a student who serves as a role model of and for the University's student body. The expectation is that they exhibit qualities such as leadership and upstanding character, as well as a commitment to academic and extracurricular success and contributing to or having a positive impact on campus. The student selected as the 2025 Homecoming Royalty should be a positive representation of the University of North Texas student body.

Court Qualifications:

- Be nominated by a registered student organization or University-Sponsored Student Group (e.g., North Texas Dancers, Intercollegiate Athletic Team, Eagle Ambassadors)
    - Organizations/groups may only nominate one candidate
    - The nominee must be a current member of the organization/group
- For Graduate Students:
    - Must have earned 18 UNT credit hours at the time of application
    - Must have at least a 3.0 cumulative UNT GPA
- For Undergraduate Students:
    - Must have earned 30 UNT credit hours at the time of application
    - Must be classified as a Junior or above
    - Must have at least a 2.75 cumulative UNT GPA
    - Must be a full-time student, unless graduating in December 2025
- Must be currently enrolled
- Must be in good conduct standing with the University
- Must not have been on the Homecoming Court in previous years
- Must not be on the 2025 Homecoming Crew

Royalty Application Information:

The Royalty Application is available on OrgSync and is due on Sunday, September 21st, at 11:59pm. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted or considered.

The application will ask you to enter your student organization/group President's (or equivalent) email address. If you are the President, the email address of the Vice President or next officer in succession must be entered. On September 22nd, Homecoming Crew will email the President (or other officer, if applicable), asking them to confirm your nomination. It is strongly encouraged that you notify the President (or other officer, if applicable) of the need to reply and confirm the nomination via that email. If the President (or equivalent) does not receive the email by please contact homecoming@unt.edu immediately. For your application to be considered, this officer must confirm the nomination. If confirmation is not completed by 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 24th, your application will not be considered.

Applications include a section for a photo and 200-word maximum biography. You may include things such as your classification, major, campus involvement, hobbies, interests, etc. If you are

selected to Court, this photo and biography will be placed on the Homecoming website. The photo and biography are considered final upon submission and not open for revision or swapping.

A panel of judges comprised of University faculty/staff, students, and/or alumni will review each application. Applications will be scored on the written essays and résumé. Applicants will be asked to answer the following essays, with each question's response being limited to 300 words:

1. What does Homecoming mean to you?
2. Based on your experience at UNT, what advice would you share with peers regarding how to be a successful student and leader?
3. Royalty will be given a chance to make an impact on campus via a one-time $1,000 funding grant. Assuming you have no other funding resources, what would you do with that funding to make UNT a better place and why? *Must follow the guidelines laid out under the Court Campus Impact Project section.

In your application, you will also be asked to provide a copy of your class and work/internship schedule for the week of Homecoming.

Court Interview Information:

Candidates selected for an interview will be notified on Friday, September 26th. Interviews will be conducted by a different panel of judges, also comprised of University faculty/staff, students, and/or alumni. Interviews will be held from September 29th- October 2nd between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Candidates will be judged on the following:
- University involvement in activities and organizations/groups
- Academic pursuits, interests, and achievements
- Demonstration of leadership skills and abilities
- Commitment to UNT values and demonstration of school spirit
- Personal presentation, including professionalism
- Enthusiasm and sincerity

Following interviews, the 10 candidates with the highest combined interview and application scores will be selected for the 2025 Homecoming Court.

Court Event Participation:

Court members are expected to participate in Homecoming events throughout the week and will receive points for every official (i.e., supervised by members of the Homecoming Crew) Homecoming event they assist with. If a member has class, an internship, or work, this will be counted as an excused absence and they will receive points for that event. Each member of Court will receive a schedule of events that lists every event that is required for full points. Court members will be expected to participate in each event for a pre-determined amount of time. If a member does not stay for the expected amount of time, or finish the tasks needed, they will not receive any points for attending.

Royalty Scoring Criteria:

Royalty selection will be calculated as follows:

Résumé	10%
Essays	20%
Interview	25%
Student Vote	30%
Participation	15%
_____	
Total:	100%

The candidate with the highest combined score will be named Homecoming Royalty!

Court Campaigning:

Court members may campaign from Wednesday, October 8th at 8:00am until Thursday, October 16th at 11:00pm. Court members are limited to spending up to $150 on their campaigning efforts. UNT faculty and staff may not be included in any promotional material or other efforts to earn votes—faculty and staff may only comment on the student's actions, not promote students to vote for them.

Court is expected to abide by all university policies (including the UNT Solicitation, Signs and Postings Policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Vulgar, inappropriate materials and campaign smearing will not be tolerated. Again, Royalty should be role models for other UNT students. Any Court member believed to be in violation of university policy or the Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students office.

Any Court member who does not follow these rules may be disqualified.

Court Student Vote:

The student vote will take place on OrgSync from Monday, October 13th at 8:00am until Thursday, October 16th at 11:00pm.

Court Recognition:

In 2018, one of the goals of the Homecoming Crew was to increase the prestige of the position as well as recognition for the student deserving of the honor. As such, Student Activities has committed to recognizing Royalty in the following way:

- $200 co-sponsorship for each Court member's student organization
- $1,000 one-time funding towards a campus-impact project or activity, approved by appropriate campus entities, that Royalty will coordinate
- Brick with Royalty's name installed at the Alumni Pavilion near DATCU Stadium
- Digital media campaign promoting Royalty
- Opportunity to represent the University at speaking engagements

Court Important Dates:

In addition to previously mentioned event participation, activities in bold are MANDATORY for the Homecoming Court.

Sept. 21	Applications due on OrgSync by 11:59pm
Sept. 24	Org/Group nomination confirmation due by 5:00pm
Sept. 26	Top candidates invited to interviews
Sept. 29- Oct. 2	Candidate interviews for selection to Court
Oct. 3	Homecoming Court notified by 5:00pm
Oct. 6	**Homecoming Court information meeting, time TBD**
Oct. 6	Announcement of Court
Oct. 8-16	Campaigning
Oct. TBD	**Halftime Walkthrough**
Oct. 13-16	Voting in OrgSync
Oct. 13	Dinner with a Dozen
Oct. 18	**Royalty announced at football game**

Court Campus Impact Project:

As you think about what you would like your Campus Impact Project to be, you will want to follow the guidelines below to determine whether your project is feasible. These guidelines are not meant to discourage you from pursuing a project, but to ensure that your idea can be successfully executed if you win. The idea is for you to run for Homecoming Royalty with a campus impact project platform that you can actually deliver on. This project is yours and we want you to take ownership of it. You will be responsible for executing the project with guidance from Student Activities, so make sure it's something you're passionate about and that you're excited to plan.

Questions to Consider:

Does it already exist?
Make sure your idea or something very similar to your idea doesn't already exist somewhere else on campus. A quick search should tell you the answer, but if you're unsure, ask.

Is it sustainable long term?
If you're wanting to implement a new program that would require student and/or staff oversight, like a mentorship program or a new composting system, think about what that would entail in the long term. Often, implementing a program is easy but maintaining it can be difficult and more costly. We don't want to transfer cost to another department to take on the project after you have left/the first time. Examples:

- A mentorship program would require a department to take on additional responsibilities like hiring student staff, training them, coming up with goals and execution plans, marketing for students to be mentored, etc.

- A composting system would require a department to move compost daily from the original location, maintain the composting site, appropriately market to students how/when to compost, etc.

Categories of Projects:

When you're thinking about your idea, it will likely fit into one of these 3 categories: Event, Beautification, or Donation. These categories are not all-encompassing and it is entirely possible that you could come up with an idea outside of these categories. Once you figure out which category your project may belong in, use the guidelines below to hone in on your idea.

Event
If you want to host an event, there are many items to take into consideration. Some examples of past event ideas include a seminar to assist first-generation college students, mental health training day, and disaster preparation seminar.
- What is the event?
  - Are you spreading awareness about a cause?
  - Do you want to provide an opportunity for learning?
- Who do you hope to impact most?
  - Keep in mind that your event may target a specific group of students, but cannot exclude others.
  - Is this event open to just students? Can staff/faculty attend?

Beautification
If you want to make some sort of physical improvement to campus, there are many aspects to take into consideration. Some examples of past beautification ideas include adding fairy lights to the outdoor space of the Union Starbucks, purchasing a freezer for the campus food pantry, and creating a community reflection space for students to plant flowers/plants and share their stories.
- What are you adding/improving?
  - Is there something on campus that doesn't function as best as it could or is there a need that isn't currently being filled?
- Where will it go? Is there space available for this project?
  - This will be the number one issue with any beautification project.
  - If you want to create a space for a group of people or a purpose, there either needs to be space on campus that isn't currently being utilized, or space that could have its purpose changed.

Donation
As far as staying within budget, donating the money is the easiest way to ensure you do that, although not likely to provide the specific impact you're looking for (compared to an event or beautification project of your choosing). Before you decide who to donate the money to, keep in mind that the point of the Campus Impact Project is to fund a project/donate the money somewhere that directly impacts campus and/or the UNT student body. Therefore, you will be looking on campus for a recipient, which could be a department or even a specific program. After you have selected a department or other on-campus entity, reach out to them and see if they have any specific projects or needs coming up that they could use the funds for. Your campaign will be more effective if you have a specific purpose for the money rather than just saying you'll donate it.

<u>Project Budget</u>:

To help you get a better idea of the costs associated with the project, you will be required to submit a sample budget with your Homecoming Royalty Application. This budget at this point is a good-faith estimate and is intended to give you and Student Activities an idea of the cost of the project, to ensure it is realistic.

When creating your budget, you will want to keep in mind the following considerations based on the type of project you choose:

Event

- Anticipated attendance?
    - How many people do you think will attend? This will determine which spaces are available to house your event.
- Where will the event take place? There is a charge for use of many spaces on campus.
    - Do you want the event to take place inside or outside?
    - What will be taking place at the event?
    - Are there speakers and/or activities that would be better suited for one environment over the other?
    - Will your expected attendance fit in the space?
- What equipment will you need?
    - Depending on what is taking place at your event, you may need items like a stage, microphone, sound system, etc.
    - Assume everything you need has a cost associated with it.
- How will you market the event?
    - Boosting posts on social media, creating lawn signs, and promoting the event on the Union TVs all cost money.
    - You want your event to be well-attended so taking marketing costs into account is important.
- Event date/time
    - We will likely host the event in the spring semester to ensure the event can occur before you graduate.
    - Does the event coincide with a specific day, month, week?
        - If so, is it important to you that it takes place during this same time?
    - Hosting a single workshop/event is feasible; hosting a week's worth of events may not be.
- Will there be speakers?
    - Keep in mind if you need to pay someone to speak at the event or provide a service at the event.
    - Utilize on-campus departments and resources when possible as they typically would not charge.
- Will there be food, giveaways, etc.?
    - Assuming you have money left in your budget, do you want to include some sort of catering or a giveaway for attendees?
    - If being able to offer these items is important to you and your event, you may have to limit attendance in order to make up the cost.

Beautification
- What materials and/or labor costs will be involved?
    - Anything involving breaking ground will likely be over $1,000.
    - If you want to build or tear something down, it's very likely that it will not be in the $1,000 budget.
        - You may know someone who could build the project for less (think a DIY budget), but UNT has its own architects and construction teams that have to follow certain guidelines and codes.

When submitting your budget, you must use the provided template (available on the website in the Royalty Information Packet) and follow these steps:

1. Enter a brief description of the cost next to the expense type under the description column
    a. For example: if you want to hand out t-shirts at your event, you may put "50 t-shirts" in the description column next to "Giveaways"
2. Enter the estimated cost next to the expense type under the financial estimate column
    a. For example: if you received an estimate for 50 t-shirts that comes out to $350, you will enter that in the financial estimate column next to "Giveaways"
3. You will not necessarily fill out an estimate for each expense type
    a. For example, if you want to plan an event for your project, you likely won't have an estimate for "Donation"