The 2011 Homecoming Parade will be on Friday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m. The Parade will begin at the Pine Street Parking Lot (behind the Superior Dome). **PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO THE PARADE LINE-UP WILL BE OFF OF WRIGHT STREET.** Parade entries should be centered on the Homecoming theme, “Heroes & Villains.” Student organizations are eligible to compete in the decorated car, marching unit and spirit banner, and float categories. NMU faculty, staff and alumni are invited to participate in the parade but are not eligible to partake in the competition. Any student organization competing in the decorated car, marching unit and spirit banner, or float categories will be awarded points toward their overall Homecoming score.

A representative from each participating organization must be present at the **MANDATORY PARADE MEETING** on Thursday, September 22, at 8 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center.

When constructing units for competition, **be prepared for any weather condition** that may exist during preparation and/or the parade itself. No “sympathy points” will be allotted for weather-damaged units.

Vehicles and trailers must be inspected to make sure there are no mechanical problems before the parade begins.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Prior to the start of the Parade at the Pine Street parking lot, Parade Officials will inspect all entries. Entries not finished on both sides will have judging points deducted from their totals. **Judges decisions are final!**

**All** parade units must register at the line-up with the Special Events Committee by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30.** Any unit that is not in the assigned position at the proper time will automatically be disqualified.

Parade numbers will be distributed during registration. These numbers must be displayed prominently on the right front corner of the Parade entry. Units without Parade numbers will not be judged or considered for a participation prize.
Marquette City Ordinance prohibits throwing items from your parade entry!

Please bear in mind that any competition unit or members of that unit that are found consuming alcoholic beverages at any point along the parade route will automatically be removed from the parade and will be disqualified from the competition. This rule will be strictly enforced.

RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETING CATEGORIES

Float Information

1. Float entries must be submitted in writing to the Center for Student Enrichment by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

2. NO duplications of float ideas will be permitted. At the time of entry, a second idea should be available in case there are any duplicate ideas. In the case of duplicate entries, the first entry received will be given priority.

3. Floats should be consistent with the theme “Heroes & Villains” and/or center on the NMU Wildcat football game against the Wayne State Warriors.

4. All floats must have wheels and be pullable.

5. Any type of material may be used during construction (remember that a variety of weather conditions are possible during the parade). All entries must be constructed so spectators on both sides of the street can view them. This includes decorations and trim.

6. **Lettering is required, which includes the name of the sponsoring organization and the float title.** Lettering must be a minimum of 8” high and visible from both sides of the street. **Each team must supply their own tape.**

7. Maximum height is 13 feet (measured from the ground up.) Minimum size can be as small as the back of a pick-up truck.
8. If a decorated car is pulling the float, it must be entered as being competitive on both the Float and Decorated Car entry forms.

9. All entries must display their parade number on the right front side of the float. If this number is not visible, the float will not be judged or considered for a participation prize.

10. There is no limit to the number of people allowed on the float. The final decision is up to the Special Events Committee on the day of the parade. Upon inspection of the unit, the Special Events Coordinator or Parade Chair has the authority to limit the number of passengers who can safely ride on the float.

11. Floats must participate in the parade on Friday, September 30, in order to be eligible for points and prizes. They must finish the entire parade route.

12. To be eligible for competition, floats must register and line up for the parade in the Pine Street parking lot by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, where they will be pre-judged. All parade entries MUST USE THE ENTRANCE ON WRIGHT STREET and proceed around the Superior Dome for line-up.

13. Final judging will take place during the parade. In the event of bad weather, final judging will take place during the Parade line-up. Judges decisions are final!

14. First, second and third place floats will receive 100, 90 and 80 points, respectively. Remaining floats will receive 70 participation points toward their overall score. Only one float per organization will receive points (place or participation).
Float Judging Criteria

A panel of judges will determine the best float entries by using the following criteria. A maximum of 100 points may be earned from each of the judges.

**Overall Appearance (0-25 points)**
- Does the float look good?
- Does the float go with the Homecoming theme?
- Does the float convey its message?
- Does the float promote spirit and support for NMU?
- Does the float appropriately represent NMU?

**Construction Quality (0-25 points)**
- How well is the float put together?
- Difficulty of the construction?
- Will the float last through the parade?
- Does it look safe?

**Originality (0-25 points)**
- Is it something out of the ordinary?
- Is the idea of the float projecting the theme of Homecoming creatively?

**Extra Points (0-15 points)**
- Awarded for: moveable parts, gimmicks, meeting size requirements, etc.

**Lettering (0-10 points)**
- Does it meet the minimum 8” requirement?
- Can it be read?
- Is it neat?
Marching Unit and Spirit Banner Information

1. Entries must be submitted in writing to the Center for Student Enrichment by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Construction may begin earlier by gaining application approval of marching units and spirit banner design by the Special Events Committee.

2. The marching unit and spirit banner should be consistent with the theme “Heroes & Villains” and/or center on the NMU Wildcat football game against the Wayne State Warriors.

3. Entries must include **both** a marching unit and spirit banner to compete for points.

4. Any type of material (paper, fabric, paint, wood, etc.) may be used to make a spirit banner (remember that a variety of weather conditions are possible during the parade.)

5. **Lettering is required, which includes the name of the sponsoring organization.** Lettering must be a minimum of 8” high and visible from both sides of the street. **Each team must supply their own tape.**

6. Maximum size for spirit banners is 15’ x 13’; Minimum size is 3’ x 8’.

7. Spirit banners must be made by members of their respective organizations. Any professional work or help will automatically disqualify the sign from the competition.

8. All entries must display their parade number prominently on the **top right side** of the banner. If this number is not visible, the marching unit and spirit banner will not be judged or considered for a participation prize.

9. The marching unit must consist of at least five people (including banner carriers); there is no limit to the maximum number of people allowed in the marching unit.

10. Spirit banners may not be carried by more than four people and may be carried by holding it in hand or by attaching it to poles.

11. **To be eligible for competition, marching units and spirit banners must register and line up for the parade in the Pine Street parking lot by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, where they will be pre-judged. All parade entries MUST USE THE ENTRANCE ON WRIGHT STREET and proceed around the Superior Dome for line-up.**

12. Final judging will take place during the parade. The group will be able to stop in front of the judges momentarily to perform their routine, if applicable. In the event of bad weather, final judging will take place during the parade line-up. **Judges decisions are final!**
Marching Unit and Spirit Banner Judging Criteria

A panel of judges will determine the best marching unit and spirit banner entries by using the following criteria. A maximum of 100 points may be earned from each of the judges.

**Overall Appearance (0-25 points)**
- Does the marching unit and spirit banner look good?
- Does the marching unit and spirit banner relate to the Homecoming theme?
- Does the marching unit and spirit banner convey its message?
- Does the marching unit and spirit banner promote spirit and support for the NMU?
- Does the marching unit and spirit banner appropriately represent NMU?

**Construction Quality (0-25 points)**
- How well is the spirit banner put together?
- Difficulty of the spirit banner/costume construction?

**Originality (0-25 points)**
- Does the unit wear unusual costumes or utilize props?
- Is the idea of the marching unit projecting the theme of Homecoming creatively?
- Is it something out of the ordinary?
- Does it have moving parts, unique materials or creative lettering?

**Uniformity (0-15 points)**
- How well does the unit move together?
- Are the costumes consistent?
- Do the members work as a unit?
- Were they “in-step”?

**Lettering (0-10 points)**
- Does the spirit banner lettering meet the minimum 8” requirement?
- Can it be read?
- Is it neat?
Decorated Car Information

1. Entries must be submitted in writing to the Center for Student Enrichment by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Construction may begin earlier by gaining application approval of decorated car design by the Special Events Committee.

2. The decorated car should be consistent with the theme “Heroes & Villains” and/or center of the NMU Wildcat football game against the Wayne State Warriors.

3. Any type of material (paper, fabric, paint, wood, etc.) may be used (remember that a variety of weather conditions are possible during the parade.)

4. Each unit will consist of a single car.

5. If a decorated car is pulling a float, it must be entered as being competitive on both the Float and Decorated Car entry forms.

6. All entries must display their parade number on the **passenger** side of the vehicle. If this number is not visible, the unit will not be judged or considered for a participation prize. **Each team must supply their own tape.**

7. Hanging limbs or bodies out of the windows during the parade will be prohibited.

8. **To be eligible for competition, decorated cars must register and line up for the parade in the Pine Street parking lot by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, where they will be pre-judged. All parade entries MUST USE THE ENTRANCE ON WRIGHT STREET and proceed around the Superior Dome for line-up.**

9. Final judging will take place during the parade. In the event of bad weather, final judging will take place during the Parade line-up.
Decorated Car Judging Criteria

A panel of judges will determine the best decorated car entries by using the following criteria. A maximum of 75 points may be earned from each of the judges.

**Overall Appearance (0-25 points)**
- Does the decorated car look good?
- Does the decorated car relate to the Homecoming theme?
- Does the decorated car promote spirit and support for NMU?
- Does the decorated car appropriately represent NMU?

**Construction Quality (0-25 points)**
- How well are the decorations put together?
- Difficulty of the construction?

**Originality (0-25 points)**
- Is the design something out of the ordinary?
- Does the decorated car have moving parts, unique materials or creative lettering?
- Does the decorated car project the theme of Homecoming creatively?

Note:
- All organizations must read and comply with the terms and conditions of the “Use of Vehicles and Travel Policy” and fill out the Vehicle/Travel Authorization Form if the policy applies to them.
- Violation of any restrictions mentioned shall automatically disqualify the entry from competition. Specific waivers of the above restrictions can be authorized only by joint consent of the Parade Chairperson and the Special Events Coordinator.
- The Special Events Committee and the Center for Student Enrichment are not responsible for any damage that may occur to any competition unit prior to, during or after the parade.