

LANDER UNIVERSITY

UNDER THE  
BLUE & GOLD TOP  
HOMECOMING

FEBRUARY 2-7



OFFICE of CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

# STEP RIGHT UP, BEARCATS!

Under the Blue & Gold Top, we celebrate Homecoming 2026!  
The tent is up and the fun begins — competitions, spirit, and Lander pride  
all week long.

The tent is open, the lights are shining, and the greatest show on campus  
is ready to roll. Get ready for a week packed with spirit, competition, and  
all the fun of the circus — with that signature Lander pride.

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# Schedule of Events

Date/Time/Location	Event Title	Event Description
<b>Monday - Friday</b> <b>February 2-6</b> <b>8 A.M. - 3 P.M.</b> <b>Across Campus</b>	<b>Medallion Hunt</b>	A campus-wide scavenger hunt! Follow @landerstudents on Instagram for daily clues, posted Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 3 PM. Find the hidden medallion and win points for your team.
<b>Monday-Friday</b> <b>February 2-6</b> <b>CC Commons</b>	<b>Bear Necessities Food Drive</b>	Join the effort to fight food insecurity on campus! Donate nonperishable food to help stock the Bearcat Necessities Pantry for students in need.
<b>Monday</b> <b>February 2,</b> <b>9 A.M. - 3 P.M.</b> <b>CC Commons</b>	<b>Flag Decorating</b>	Teams will decorate their Homecoming flags using provided materials. Completed flags will be used throughout Homecoming week.
<b>Monday</b> <b>February 2,</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>Auditorium</b>	<b>Banner Reveal &amp; Opening Ceremony</b>	Start the week strong! Celebrate the official kickoff and see each team reveal their creative banners for this year's theme.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 3,</b> <b>5 PM</b> <b>Back Lawn of Centennial Hall</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bearcat Vow Renewal</b>	Come watch Lander's beloved mascots, Mr. and Mrs. Bearcat, renew their vows in a fun campus celebration you won't want to miss!
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 3,</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>PEE'S Gym</b>	<b>Dodgeball Game</b>	Teams compete in a bracket-style dodgeball tournament. Fast-paced matches decide who moves on until one team takes the title.

Date/Time/Location	Event Title	Event Description
<p><b>Wednesday February 4, 5 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Front Fountain</b></p>	<p><b>Bring Your Own Big Wheels</b></p>	<p>Teams may use one of the provided tricycles or bring their own big wheels to compete. All tricycles (provided or personal) may be decorated, as long as decorations are safe, secure, and do not affect functionality. Participants will race within their division for the fastest overall time.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday February 4, 8 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Finis Horne Arena</b></p>	<p><b>Showcase</b></p>	<p>The spotlight is yours—bring the energy, the choreography, and the wow-factor! This high-spirited showcase lets teams shine while rallying the crowd for an unforgettable Homecoming moment.</p>
<p><b>Thursday February 5, 7:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Good Times Brewing</b></p>	<p><b>Trivia Night</b></p>	<p>Join us at Good Times in Uptown for a night of trivia, teamwork, and friendly competition. Test your knowledge and see which team comes out on top!</p>
<p><b>Friday February 6, 5 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Lander Pool</b></p>	<p><b>Polar Plunge</b></p>	<p>Teams earn participation points by having members take a quick jump into the cold pool. It's a fast, spirited event focused on fun and school spirit, with on-site safety guidelines in place.</p>
<p><b>Friday February 6, 8 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Centennial Firepit</b></p>	<p><b>Mascot Burn</b></p>	<p>Teams close out the week with a spirited tradition! We will be symbolically burning North Georgia's mascot to celebrate the end of the competition and rally together as we get ready to take on our Saturday basketball opponents.</p>

Date/Time/Location	Event Title	Event Description
<b>Saturday February 7, 10 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Front of Campus</b>	<b>Family Day</b>	<p>Bring your loved ones to campus for a day of fun and celebration! Enjoy activities, meet the community, and experience what makes being a Bearcat special.</p>
<b>Saturday February 7, 10 A.M. Front of Campus</b>	<b>Tailgate</b>	<p>Join us before the game for food, music, and community! Enjoy time with friends, show your Bearcat spirit, and get ready to cheer on Lander.</p>
<b>Saturday February 7, 1:30 P.M. Finis Horne Arena</b>	<b>Basketball Game</b>	<p>Basketball Game vs. North Georgia — Pack the stands to cheer on the Bearcats! Don't miss the Homecoming winners and King &amp; Queen coronation between games.</p>

# HOMECOMING RULES

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All Lander University-affiliated individuals—including students, faculty, staff, and alumni—are expected to uphold the Bearcat Creed and follow the Lander Student Handbook throughout all Homecoming events. Participation is a privilege, and any behavior that violates these standards may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

All competition and event rules are outlined in the “Event Details” section of this packet. Failure to follow these rules, along with university policies, may result in event disqualification and/or disciplinary referral.

The Office of Campus Engagement reserves the right to update Homecoming rules at any time during the week. Any changes will be communicated to team captains and organization leaders via their Lander email.

If questions or disputes arise, final decisions will be made by the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life (Darby White – [darby.white@lander.edu](mailto:darby.white@lander.edu)), the Coordinator of Campus Involvement (Molly Sutton – [msutton@lander.edu](mailto:msutton@lander.edu)), and/or the Assistant Director of Campus Engagement (Ariel Wingard – [awingard@lander.edu](mailto:awingard@lander.edu)).

# HOMECOMING RULES

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## Team Registration and Divisions

- Registered Student Organizations may compete in Homecoming with their entire roster and may use the name of their club/organization.
- **Registered Student Organizations:**
  - Any organization with fewer than 30 members listed on Involve will compete in the Blue Division.
  - Any organization with 30 members or more listed on Involve will compete in the Gold Division.
- **Independent Teams:**
  - You may form a team that is not a registered student organization.
  - The same size-based division rules apply:
    - Teams with fewer than 30 members compete in Blue Division.
    - Teams with 30 or more members compete in Gold Division.
- **Partnerships:**
  - Teams and organizations may partner together for Homecoming.
  - For each event, equal participation between the partners must be maintained.
  - For events with participation points, at least 80% of each partnering team or organization's members must be present to receive credit.

# EVENT DETAILS

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## **Medallion Hunt**

- No property destruction (digging up ground, breaking things, leaving a mess etc.)
- No physical altercations (pushing, shoving etc.).
- Be respectful/mindful of campus space (no screaming, running etc.).
- You may not enter classrooms, offices, and/or staff spaces. Clues will be in open areas where all students can access them at all times.
- Medallions must be found and turned in by a registered team member only.

**Attendance matters – If a professor reports that a student skipped class to participate in Homecoming activities, that student will be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the week.**

**Failure to abide by these rules, as well as the Bearcat Creed and the Student Handbook, will result in Student Conduct Disciplinary action and team disqualification**

Medallions will be hidden somewhere on Lander's Main Campus between 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Once a medallion is placed, the official clue for its location will be posted to @landerstudents on Instagram.

Once a medallion is found, please turn it into Darby, Molly, or Ariel, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the CC (**Room S349**). **Each medallion is worth 10 points** for the organization that finds it. A post will be made when the medallion is found, announcing which organization found it.

# Bear Necessities Food Drive

The Bearcat Necessities Food Drive runs from 8:00 A.M. on Monday through 5:00 P.M. on Friday. Throughout the week, teams will collect nonperishable

food items to support the Bearcat Necessities Pantry. Each team will be assigned a designated, roped-off space in the CC to build a themed structure entirely out of cans. Teams may begin gathering cans on their own and bring them to campus throughout the week.

Teams are responsible for organizing, stacking, and maintaining their structures within their assigned space. Creativity and presentation are encouraged, but structures must remain within the ropes, be safe and stable, and respect the CC environment.

At the end of the event, totals will be calculated by the number of physical cans collected. The team with the highest total number of cans by Friday at 5:00 P.M. will be declared the winner. All collected items will be donated directly to the Bearcat Necessities Pantry to support students in need.



## Flag Decorating

Come decorate your team's Homecoming flag! We will provide the flag along with basic decorating materials, but teams are encouraged to bring extra supplies to make their design stand out. After decorating, you will take your flag with you and use it throughout the week at Homecoming competitions and events.

## Banner Reveal

Kick off Homecoming Week with our Banner Reveal competition, where each team will design a **twin-sheet** banner inspired by this year's circus theme, "Under the Blue & Gold Top." Teams are encouraged to **get creative, incorporate strong ties to Lander, and put their own spin on the theme to showcase their spirit.** All banners must be turned in to the Campus Engagement Office by **Monday at 12:00 PM.** Late submissions won't be included in the competition.

Once banners are revealed, they'll be displayed for the campus community, and **voting will open Monday evening. Only Lander students will be able to vote, and the ballot will remain open until Friday at 5:00 PM.** The team with the most student votes will be named the Banner Reveal winner. Winner will be announced at the Basketball Game on Saturday.

## Opening Ceremony

Right after the Banner Reveal, join us in the auditorium for the official Opening Ceremony to kick off Homecoming Week. We'll walk through the full schedule, introduce the major events and competitions, and set expectations for the week under the Blue & Gold Top. Students can enjoy giveaways, music, and a fun, spirited atmosphere to get everyone energized for what's ahead.

Participation points do matter, so make sure your team shows up and shows out—this is your chance to start the week strong and get your momentum rolling early.

## **Mr. & Mrs. Bearcat Vow Renewal**

The Bearcat Vow Renewal is a new Homecoming event featuring a ceremony with Mr. and Mrs. Bearcat. Teams are encouraged to attend to support the mascots, enjoy the atmosphere, and earn participation points for the week.

This event provides a light, engaging way for teams to show spirit and be part of the Homecoming lineup.

## **Dodgeball Game**

The Dodgeball Tournament is a bracket-style competition where teams face off in fast-paced matches to determine who advances and who gets knocked out. **Both divisions will have their own separate brackets**, and teams will compete within their assigned division until a champion is crowned.

Each team will play with **6 players on the court at a time, with a recommended roster of 8-10 players to allow for substitutions** throughout the tournament. Matches move quickly, so teams should be prepared for back-to-back rounds as they progress.

Rules will be provided in advance, and **all players must be checked in before their division's bracket begins**. The last team standing in each division will earn the title, Homecoming points, and bragging rights for the rest of the week.

## Bring Your Own Big Wheels

Teams will race through a circus-themed obstacle course using big wheels or similar ride-on vehicles. Riders may use one of the provided tricycles, or they may bring their own. All wheels—provided or personal—**may be decorated, but decorations must be safe, securely attached, and must not interfere with steering or movement**. One rider from each team will complete the course, and the fastest overall time within each division will determine the winner.

Spectators must stay in designated areas so the course remains safe and clear. Safety is a priority even in circus chaos. **Helmets and closed-toe shoes are required.** Knee and elbow pads are recommended. Wheels cannot have exposed metal spokes, sharp attachments, or any parts that could injure a rider or spectator. **If a wheel or attachment is unsafe, the unsafe elements must be removed before racing — not taped over, not patched, removed.**

Teams may bring their own vehicle. Options are not limited to pedal-powered toys; Barbie Jeeps, kids' cars, plastic big-wheels, themed trikes, clown-style oversized trikes, character big-wheels, and similar vehicles are all acceptable, provided they are safe and can be steered.

Competitors must listen to event staff at all times. Circus costumes and flair are encouraged to bring spirit and showmanship—just make sure outfits are functional enough to complete the course.



# Showcase

The Homecoming Showcase gives each team the opportunity to put their talent on stage. Your **performance can be a skit, dance, step routine, musical piece, or any other creative presentation** that highlights your team and connects to this year's circus-inspired theme. Teams should use this event to bring energy, spirit, and strong representation of Lander.

**Performances will be judged by a panel, with scoring based on:**

- Creativity
- Connection to the Homecoming theme
- Connection to Lander
- Overall performance quality (execution, clarity, energy)

## **Performance Requirements**

- Maximum performance time: 5 minutes
- Set-up and clean-up time are NOT included in the 5-minute limit
- No water, liquids, or substances that create a mess on stage
- All music and audio must be appropriate — no profanity or explicit content is allowed
- **Music/audio files are due by January 30 at 5:00 PM to Darby, Molly, or Ariel**

## **Rehearsal Information**

Rehearsal sign-ups will be sent to team captains closer to the event. Dress rehearsal will take place on Sunday, February 1, from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, with each team receiving a 30-minute time slot.

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## **Trivia Night at Good Times Brewing**

Trivia Night will take place at Good Times, with each team **allowed to have three representatives** competing on their behalf. Trivia topics will include **pop culture, Lander history and facts, and this year's Homecoming theme, circus.**

Participants competing upstairs at Good Times must **arrive by 7:00 PM to check in and prepare for their rounds**. For spectators and additional team members, the **Uptown Market will be open with a livestream beginning at 7:30 PM, allowing everyone to watch the trivia action in real time.**

## **Polar Plunge**

The Polar Plunge invites teams to show their spirit with a quick jump into the cold pool. **Teams will earn 5 points for every participating member**, so everyone is encouraged to jump in and boost their team's total. The event is all about energy, excitement, and campus spirit, with on-site safety guidelines in place for all participants.

## **Mascot Burn**

The Mascot Burn will feature us burning North Georgia's mascot, **lighting this thing up to kick off the hype heading into Saturday's basketball game**. We're bringing the heat and getting wild as we fire up support for the Bearcats!

All attendees must stay within marked areas and follow safety instructions provided by event staff.

## Family Day

Family Day invites students to bring their families to the Homecoming tailgate to participate in tailgate activities and enjoy the full Homecoming experience.

Special family-focused activities will be available throughout the event, including a **Tea & Tee Party** (a tea party paired with a golf simulator) and a **Dad Joke Off** beginning at 1:00 PM. Families are welcome to explore the tailgate, engage with the activities, and join in the campus spirit leading into game day.

## Tailgate

Get ready for an exciting Homecoming tailgate! Each team will be provided tables and chairs—just indicate how many you need on the entry form. **Setup begins at 8:00 AM.** Food trucks will be on site to keep the energy high all morning long.

Teams will tailgate on Wilson Street, in front of the front lawn. Greek organizations and their alumni tents will be located together in Lide Lot 6. Let's kick off the day with spirit, great food, and a whole lot of pride!

## Homecoming Game

Cheer on Lander at the Homecoming basketball games against North Georgia! The Homecoming Queen and King nominees will be introduced and the winners will be announced during the game. We will also reveal the overall Homecoming champions at the game. Bring the energy—this is where all the excitement comes together!

# HOMECOMING ENTRY FORM

Scan the QR code below to submit your Homecoming entry form! **Forms are due Monday, January 26 at midnight.** If you're teaming up with another group for the fun, each organization/team must still complete their own form to step into the ring. No exceptions—the show must go on!



## KING & QUEEN CANDIDATES

Submit your Homecoming King and Queen nominations using the form linked below. Each team may sponsor one nominee for King and one for Queen, even if they are not members of your organization/team. All nominations are due Monday, January 26 at midnight—no exceptions. All campaign posters put up must be stamped by Campus Engagement, and put in allowed posting areas.



# Participation Points

Participation points will be awarded to teams that have **at least 80% of their submitted roster present at designated events**. If your team is partnering with another organization, **both groups must meet the 80% attendance requirement in order to earn full participation points for the team**. This ensures fairness across all competitors and encourages full involvement throughout Homecoming week.

**Flag Decorating** - 25 points (for making a flag)

**Banner Reveal Spectators** - 25 points

**Opening Ceremony Spectators** - 25 points

**Mr. & Mrs. Bearcat Vow Renewal Spectators** - 50 points

**Dodgeball Game Spectators** - 25 points

**Tricycle Race Spectators** - 25 points

**Showcase Participants/Spectators** - 50 points

**Trivia Night Spectators** - 25 points

**Polar Plunge Participant** - 5 points (per member)

**Mascot Burn Spectators** - 50 points

**Homecoming King & Queen Candidates** - 25 points (for putting forth candidates)

# Points for 1st Place:

Events that determine a winner and will award points exclusively to the teams **placing first in both divisions**. These points are based solely on performance or votes and do not include participation points.

**Medallion Hunt** - 10 points per medallion found and turned in.

**Bear Necessities Food Drive** - 100 points to the Blue & Gold Division teams who donate the most cans.

**Banner Winner** - 100 points to the Blue & Gold Division teams with the most votes.

**Dodgeball Game Winner** - 100 points to the Blue & Gold Division teams who win their division's bracket.

**Tricycle Race Winner** - 50 points to the Blue & Gold Division teams whose participant wins their heat.

**Showcase Winner** - 100 points to the Blue & Gold Division team who score the highest.

**Trivia Night** - 50 points to the Blue & Gold Division teams with the most points.

# POINT BREAKDOWN

Event	Type	Amount
Medallion Hunt	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 per medallion
Bear Necessities Food Drive	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	100
Flag Decorating	Participation	25
Banner Winner	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	50
Banner Reveal Spectators	Participation	25
Opening Ceremony Spectators	Participation	25
Bearcat Vow Renewal Spectators	Participation	50
Dodgeball Game Winner	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	100
Dodgeball Game Spectators	Participation	25
Tricycle Race Winner	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	50
Tricycle Race Spectators	Participation	25
Showcase Participants/Spectators	Participation	50
Showcase Winner	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	100
Trivia Night Spectators	Participation	25
Trivia Night Winner	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	50
Polar Plunge Participant	Participation	5 per member
Mascot Burn Spectators	Participation	50
King & Queen Candidates	Participation	25
Sportsmanship	Judged all week	100

# CONTACT PAGE

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