

For Immediate Release:

Homecoming 2016 events announced; theme is “Falling for Carolina”

Columbia, S.C. – June 15, 2016 – The events for Homecoming 2016 at the University of South Carolina, which runs Oct. 30-Nov. 5, are set. The theme, “Falling for Carolina,” encourages students, faculty and staff to remember and appreciate the many reasons we’ve fallen for this amazing university.

The Homecoming Executive Commission has taken every effort to make sure that all members of the Carolina community feel welcome and encouraged to participate in the events. The commission’s vision is to “promote an environment that caters to the diversity of the Carolina family with the engagement of students, alumni and the surrounding community in an inclusive, positive and fun week of events.” The events chosen for this year were selected based on an ability to promote an inclusive and exciting environment for our students.

In addition to the events listed below, there will be an opportunity for students to showcase their Carolina pride through participation in our Paint the Town and Banner Decorating events held throughout the week.

As a student-run organization, the Homecoming Executive Commission hosts a variety of entertaining events designed to enhance the student experience at Carolina. This organization is made up of students who volunteer their time, effort and creativity to transform one week each year into a memorable tradition for students, alumni, faculty and staff. Students who are interested in serving as a general commission member should contact sahc@mailbox.sc.edu or attend an interest session, which will be held on Aug. 23 at 3 p.m., Aug. 24 at 1 p.m. and Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. Details will be posted on the homecoming website closer to the start of the fall semester.

The Homecoming Executive Commission invites all students, alumni, faculty and staff to participate in this week of events that showcase our pride in Carolina. More information about Homecoming 2016 along with the official participation guidebook will be available in July at www.homecoming.sc.edu. For questions, please contact the Homecoming Commission at 803-777-7130 or sahc@mailbox.sc.edu.

HOMECOMING 2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 30

Field Day – “For the Kids” Play Day

Field Day is a collaboration between Dance Marathon and the Homecoming Commission to raise money for local charities while having fun. Lots of exciting games await! Details about how to sign-up will be posted on the Homecoming website in July.

Kick-Off

Join us on “Halloween Eve” for a night of activities, music and movies to kick off our week of events and to celebrate Halloween. Beware of some spooky happenings that also may take place!

Monday, October 31

NEW: USC’s Choice

USC’s Choice is the first ever Homecoming event where YOU will choose what happens! A student poll will go out via Twitter at the beginning of the fall semester, and students will have two weeks to decide on an event they’d like us to host. Make sure to cast your vote!

Tuesday, November 1

Carolina Crowning

This year’s Carolina Crowning will showcase the talent and experience of exemplary student leaders who are passionate about their university community. Students interested in participating will go through an application and interview process, and the finalists will be part of this event. The winners will represent the university during Homecoming and throughout the year! If being on stage isn’t for you, make sure to attend and support the students participating in this night of tradition and Carolinian pride! This event is open to members of the Carolina community, and a CarolinaCard is required to gain entry.

Wednesday, November 2

NEW: Cockchella

A new event this year, Cockchella was created to mimic Coachella, a musical celebration held in California each year, and will showcase the extraordinary talent of the USC student body. Auditions will be held to select performances for the event. Sign up to participate or simply show up and enjoy this mini-festival as one, big Gamecock family!

Trivia Night

Back by popular demand, the ThinkFast Trivia Company will provide an interactive game show atmosphere for the evening, and all students are invited to participate! This event gives students the chance to team up in groups of 2-5 and prove their knowledge about USC, pop culture, sports and much more. Get ready to put your brain to the test! Winners get a \$200 cash prize, so you don’t want to miss out! This event is open to students, and a CarolinaCard is required to gain entry.

Thursday, November 3

NEW: USC Penny Wars

A new service event this year, USC Penny Wars will give students and student organizations the opportunity to compete to raise the most donations, all of which will be donated to Harvest Hope – a great way to help our community right before the holidays. Stay tuned for more details!

NEW: USC Rave

Our NEW USC Rave will feature fun music, free giveaways and lots of dancing! Don't miss your chance to let loose and live your night like a rock star!

Friday, November 4

Parade

Students, faculty, staff and the Columbia community are invited to watch the annual Homecoming parade! This year's parade will feature several key community members and alumni and the Carolina Band, and it will give student organizations the opportunity to compete in a float competition by showcasing their "Falling for Carolina" themed floats that they will build during the week. View the parade at one of many great spots along the parade route!