



FIGHT SONG RULES

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

IMPORTANT DATES

June 22th, 12 PM-
Mandatory Meeting

July 6th, 8 AM- entry form
opens

July 6th, 8 AM- groups may
begin submitting song list
and lyrics

July 20th, 4:30 PM- entry
form closes

July 20th, 4:30 PM- groups
no longer able to submit
song list and lyrics

August 21st 4:30 PM-
Equipment request closes

August 21st 4:30 PM- Notify
of any instruments being
used by this date.

August 21st, 4:30 PM-
Music, Lighting Cues, and a
Script of your group's
performance must be
submitted

August 30th, 3-8 PM-
Rehearsal at Murphy Center
(each group will have a set
time of 30 minutes)

August 31st, 3 PM- All props
due to Murphy Center

August 31st, 6 PM- Groups
must be checked in at aux
gym in Murphy. Doors open
for attendees.

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.)
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.

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.