

2021 Mr. & Miss Tennessee Tech Election Rules

I. Candidate Requirements

- A. Candidates must have at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA and 60 hours of earned college credit (Junior Status) to run. Candidates must sign a FERPA release allowing the SGA Advisor the ability to verify the candidates' grade requirement and classification
- B. Candidates must be full-time students of Tennessee Technological University at the time of election in order to be qualified to run
- C. Candidates must be sponsored by a student organization registered with the Office of Student Activities and Campus Life or an athletic team

II. Candidate Application, Headshot, Entry Fee, and Acknowledgement of Rules

All candidates must submit the following by 11:00 am on Thursday, October 28.

- A. Candidate Application
- B. Headshot (for voting ballot and election promotions)
- C. Acknowledgement of these rules

III. Mandatory Candidate Information Session

The official Mr. & Miss Tennessee Tech University Candidate Information Session will be **Thursday, October 28 at 11:00 am** via Microsoft Teams. Candidates must be present or have a representative present during the Information Session. The candidates must sign and initial a copy of the election rules, and complete the candidate application in order to run.

III. Active Campaigning

- A. Active campaigning shall begin after the Candidate Information Session on **Thursday, October 28 at 11:00 am** has been completed
- B. Active campaigning shall not interfere with the academic life or integrity of the student body or the individual students
- C. Active campaigning includes the distribution of campaign material (handouts, posters, letters, cards, etc.), advertisement in campus news and/or radio, attending an organization's meeting to promote oneself, social media, and/or the setting up of tables/booths on campus to promote the candidate

IV. Approval of Campaign Material

- A. All material must be approved by the Department Head(s)/Building Coordinators of the particular building in which the candidate wishes to place any campaign material
- B. Tape shall not be used to adhere any material to any surface on campus
- C. Candidates may submit Digital Signage ads to SGA@tntech.edu. Image sizes should be 1920 x 900 pixels for horizontal screens, 1080 x 1740 pixels for vertical screens
- D. SGA will print posters for each candidate and hang them in the bookstore windows
- E. Sidewalk art/chalk is permitted on concrete walkways. (Please do not chalk on any brick surfaces)
- F. No signs, posters, or any other materials may be placed on any painted surface, wall, door, or window
- G. No mass emailing and/or messaging is permitted for campaigning
- D. **All campaign material must be removed within 24 hours following the conclusion of the election**

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V. Residence Hall Campaigning

- A. Door-to-door campaigning is **not allowed** in the Residence Halls. Residence Hall entry is currently limited to residents only. **Outside visitors are not permitted** in general common areas or residence hall rooms
- B. All information to be posted in the Residence Halls must be approved by the Office of Residential Life. For approval and additional submission instructions, please email ResLife@tnitech.edu with the **subject as "Atten: Josh Edmonds, Mr. & Miss Tennessee Tech Advertising Approval"**. In your email, indicate if you plan to make use of bulletin boards in the upper floors of the halls and/or digital signage. Also, be sure to include a copy of your advertisement(s)
- C. Bulletin board postings may be no greater than 8½" x 11". Candidates must provide 17 printed copies to the Office of Residential Life for general board postings (in lobbies)
- D. Candidates may also submit digital signage advertisements that meet the size guidelines previously provided

VI. Election Day

- A. Election Day will occur on **Thursday, November 4 from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**
- B. Elections will be held online. The link to the voting server will be posted on the SGA website and social media on the day of the election
- C. Polls will close at 4:30 pm and counting will begin immediately following
- D. The Student Government Association will post the Mr. & Miss Tennessee Tech Court election results outside the SGA Office and on the SGA social media accounts as soon as results are finalized

VII. Budget

Campaign funds shall be limited to \$750.00. **Itemized budget with original or printed receipts must be turned into the SGA President via email by November 4 at 4:30 pm following the conclusion of the election. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**

- 1. Each budget should itemize all purchases and donations in connection with the candidate's campaign. This budget should not exceed \$750.00
- 2. Budgets should be prepared for each candidate. No pairs or groups of candidates may combine budgets or campaign material, unless the candidates agree to a combined budget that does not exceed \$750.00
- 3. Candidates, or any organization of the candidates, shall not apply for SOLO funding for the purpose of promoting a candidate or the promotion of Mr. & Miss Tennessee Tech election

VIII. Prohibited Conduct

- A. Vulgar or disparaging remarks directed towards another candidate will not be tolerated
- B. No flyers may be put on cars; however, you may use window paint on cars (with approval of car owner)
- C. No table tent advertising for a candidate will be allowed in the Cafeteria, Swoops, Which-Wich, Starbucks, Au Bon Pain, or any additional Dining Services location. It will also not be allowed in front of the library
- D. No candidate, nor agents of candidates, shall bribe or coerce students into voting on or off campus. Bribes include but are not limited to: the promise or exchange of goods, favors, and/or drawing entries for raffles for promised votes
 - a. Social media giveaways for purposes of increased followers are permitted

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- E. The collection of T-Numbers and/or PIN numbers will be strictly prohibited. With proof of the collection of any student voter login information, the candidate will be immediately disqualified from the election and referred to the Dean of Students
- F. No endorsements from colleges, academic departments, campus departments, employees or contractors of the University
 - a. Endorsements include but are not limited to distributing campaign material, posting on social media, and/ or taking part in photo ops with any candidate

VII. Campaign Violations

The SGA Election Commission Committee shall determine and enforce all rules regarding elections. If an alleged violation is filed against a candidate, the candidate will be notified and have an opportunity to appear before the commission or submit a short statement/explanation regarding alleged violation prior to a ruling by the Election Commission. Any campaign violations not listed below will be decided on by the SGA Election Commission Committee. This committee has full authority to decide the outcome of the violation. The Election Commission Committee will follow strict guidelines to ensure fair and ethical rulings are made based on the violation.

Possible consequences for being found in violation of the rules are as follows:

- A. Probation:
 - a. A probationary period means that if the candidate is found violating the rules again before the final budgets and receipts are approved, the candidate is disqualified
- B. Subtraction of Votes
 - a. The Election Commission may find that a candidate has given themselves an illegal or unfair advantage in the election and may choose to take away that advantage by the subtraction of votes based on the severity of the violation. No more than two-hundred and fifty (250) votes may be subtracted
- C. Disqualification

It is the responsibility of the candidate to inform their respective organizations of the Homecoming election rules. If you have any questions please contact the SGA President at SGAPresident@tnitech.edu.

My signature below certifies that I understand and will comply with the Election Rules stated above. As a candidate for Mr. or Miss Tennessee Tech University, I will conduct myself and my campaign in an ethical manner that best represents Tennessee Tech University.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Print Name