

Hey Mustangs!

Apply Now



2026
Stampede
Guide

2026 Stampede Guide Job Description

Stampede Guides play a vital role in shaping the first impression of our newest students at SMU. Led by our Summer Orientation Leaders, this team is made up of enthusiastic, passionate student leaders who aren't afraid to get hyped, lean into the silly, and bring energy to every moment of the welcome experience. Stampede Guides serve as mentors and trusted resources—answering questions, easing nerves, and helping new students feel confident and prepared for their first day of classes. **As a critical part of the welcome team, Stampede Guides help ensure incoming students feel supported, excited, and assured in their decision to attend SMU.**



Essential Qualifications

- Must be a non-graduating Undergraduate Student, Graduate students acceptable on case-by-case basis
- Must have and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Comfortable engaging with large groups and willing to bring high energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit
- Strong communication skills and ability to connect with students from all backgrounds
- Genuine interest in welcoming new students and helping them feel prepared for their transition to college
- Available to support during orientation period (week prior to start of fall semester)
- Able to maintain positive attitude in the midst of hot weather and physically demanding days

Job Responsibilities

The responsibilities of an Stampede Guide include, but are not limited to:

- Welcome new students, parents, and families to SMU
- Attend a 1-2 day in-person training
- Co-Lead a **Red**, **White**, and **Blue** group with other Stampede Guides
- Work an assigned shift during a Stampede marquee program such as Stampede Sundown, Hilltop Hold'Em, etc.
- Assist students with any questions that arise during Stampede
- Escort students to different Stampede events
- Attend all required Stampede events for Stampede Guides
- Communicate with Orientation Leaders and new students via GroupMe messaging
- Serve as a role model to new students by positively reflecting SMU's values and standards for leadership
- Attending 1:1s with professional staff
- Work irregular hours during major orientation programming (but have tons of fun!)



What's New? **Red**, **White**, and **Blue** Groups!

As our entering classes continue to grow, we're evolving the way Stampede Guides connect with new students in an even bigger, bolder way. This year, instead of traditional crew meetings, we're introducing **Red**, **White**, and **Blue** Groups—a dynamic, high-energy experience co-led by all Stampede Guides.

These rotating groups will allow new students to engage with multiple Guides throughout Stampede Week while participating in a variety of interactive activities. Some sessions will focus on breaking the ice, leaning into the silly, and building connections, while others will create space for meaningful conversations about the excitement and nerves that come with starting college.

This new model allows us to maintain the heart of what makes Stampede special—connection, mentorship, and support. All while creating an inclusive, engaging experience that meets the needs of our growing community. We're excited for Stampede Guides to work together in a new way to help welcome new students to the Hilltop!

Our Ideal Candidate



- We're looking for students with a genuine interest in helping the new class of SMU students feel at home
- Many of our Stampede Guide activities are high-energy with an emphasis on FUN. Students who can lean into the silly and are not afraid to get rowdy are a must!
- High performing Stampede Guides have a great attitude and are eager to step in and help in whatever ways are required. They are constantly looking for ways to assist the Orientation event staff.
- Strong Stampede Guides can balance bringing the fun with our eager students while also comforting students that are more nervous to engage
- Ability to provide excellent customer service to all, including students, family members, faculty, and staff.
- Able to engage in conflict management, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to address any questions or problems presented by students and their families.
- Students who does not show preferential treatment of students based on major, program, or other designations.
- Abides at all times by the university code of conduct while employed by the Office of Orientation and Transitions

Time Commitments



- **Interviews:** All Candidates will participate in a group interview stage to ensure they are fit for the Stampede Guide position. Interviews will take place from April 27-29
- **Virtual Training:** All Stampede Guides are expected to review a 30 minutes virtual training sent by the Orientation Leader team midway through the summer. The virtual training covers the Stampede schedule and other major expectations for the role
- **Stampede Guide Training:** Stampede Guides are expected to participate in a 1-2 day in-person training that prepares them for the week ahead and allows for practice facilitating major Stampede events.
- **Assigned Stampede Programming Shift:** All Stampede Guides are assigned 1-2 shifts during a Stampede marquee program such as Stampede Sundown, Hilltop Hold'Em, etc. Shifts would include roles such as passing out t-shirts, food, etc.
- **Celebration Period:** Stampede Guides are requested to attend an end of Stampede celebration with all of the Orientation Leader staff. Details to be announced at a later date.

Benefits

Benefits of serving as a Stampede Guide include:

- Move-in early (date may vary by housing location, does not apply to Fraternity housing students)
- \$50 Flex
- Attend all fun events occurring during Stampede!
- Give back to future Mustangs and provide a major impact on their first-year experience
- Proficiency Credit for Oral Communication
- Free SMU swag!
- The best way to spend your first week back at SMU!



Ready to welcome our next class? Apply today!

Applications open from March 23-April 23

Interviews April 29-30

Offers released May 1

Contracts accepting the position due on May 6