Big Event 2014 Attendance Policy Changes

Over the previous several years, participating organizations have enrolled significantly more members than have actually participated in the service on the day of Big Event.

In 2012 this behavior was particularly evident, as the enrolled memberships of some participating organizations were completely absent. This ultimately put members of the Big Event executive team in a position to communicate to jobsites that promised volunteers were not coming.

In conjunction with our parent office Leadership Development & Volunteerism, we believe that this is a detriment both to the organizing of Big Event as well as the image of the University community. While we want to continue to include as many members of the OU community as possible, for planning purposes our executive team needs a more solid and definitive count.

Enforcement Mechanism:

A system of OU OneCard swipes and with many additional laptops will be implemented at the North Oval Ceremony, with additional check-in sheets at the jobsites. This information will be collected by the Big Event executive team and distributed to participating organizations and the offices of Student Affairs and Leadership Development and Volunteerism.

New Proposed Policy:

Upon enrolling membership, participating organization must have 50% of their registered* membership present and checked-in at the North Oval Ceremony.

Organizations that fail to meet the 50% participation threshold or fail to notify the Big Event executive team of their absence with at least 48 hours before the opening ceremony of Big Event will be subject to the following conditions:

1) Organization will be banned for the following year with the stipulation that individual members will be allowed to participate as individual volunteers or as volunteers with another group/organization.

2) At the discretion of the Big Event Chair, representatives of organizations will write apologies to affected jobsites.

3) After year absence and fulfillment of apology requirement, organizations will be allowed to participate in following year’s Big Event and receive credit towards on-campus awards.

*Registered for Big Event
Further Attendance Policy Notes

• Before the opening ceremony of Big Event, volunteers will be instructed to check in at a site with a One Card scanner. Individuals who forget their IDs will proceed to a check-in station where a representative of the Big Event Executive Team will manually check them into the Big Event Database.

• An organization will be deemed to fail the participation threshold when 50% of its registered membership fails to attend Big Event 2014 or fails to notify the Big Event executive team of their absence with at least 48 hours before the Opening Ceremony.

• At conclusion of Big Event, the Executive Team will process the OneCard data and notify offices of Student Affairs and LD&V of participation numbers. Representatives of participating organizations will also be notified of their participation numbers.

• The Executive Team understands that organizations will oftentimes “partner” with an additional organization during the day of Big Event. **Membership for these organizations will be counted separately from one another.**
  
  ○ Therefore an organization will not be penalized if a majority of its registered membership participates in Big Event while participating in a group that overall fails to meet the 50% threshold.

• Participating organizations will have two weeks to appeal decisions of the Executive Team and the office of LD&V by scheduling an appointment with representatives of Big Event Executive Team, Head of LD&V, and Big Event Advisor to discuss extenuating circumstances surrounding absences. These individuals will issue a joint, final decision regarding delinquent organization’s participation status for the following year’s Big Event.