

TCNJ
LION ROYALTY
Homecoming Court
2025



APPLICANT INFORMATION PACKET

All Materials Due: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 12PM

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lion Royalty Coordinator, Shirley Celi-Landeo at celilans@tcnj.edu

studentlife.tcnj.edu/lion-royalty/

[@roartcnj](https://twitter.com/roartcnj)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lion Royalty Homecoming Court	3
Changes in Titles	3
Lion Royalty Requirements	3
The Process, Explained	4
THE APPLICATION	4
THE CAMPAIGN, INTERVIEW, AND VOTING PROCESS	4
SELECTION/ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS	5
Timeline At-A-Glance	6
Post Court Opportunities	7
Frequently Asked Questions	7
THE APPLICATION PROCESS	7
THE INTERVIEW PROCESS	8
THE CEREMONY	9

Lion Royalty Homecoming Court

Being selected to represent The College of New Jersey on the Lion Royalty Homecoming Court is an honored tradition that showcases a few of the many outstanding students at TCNJ. Candidates compete annually for this honor, which recognizes two TCNJ seniors who exemplify the qualities of leadership, spirit, integrity, and achievement through their academic success, contributions, and involvement at The College. These students are a representation of our student body, are role models to others, and embody TCNJ's core values of excellence, engagement, integrity, inclusiveness, and self-reflection.

Changes in Titles

In 2021, with significant input from the student body and leaders within Student Government, eliminated the gendered titles of “Homecoming King and Queen”. In an effort to embrace diversity and gender inclusivity within our community, we look for candidates who embody TCNJ values and are dedicated members of our campus community regardless of their gender, gender identity, or gender expression. Historically, the top two members who were once known as “King and Queen” will further be recognized as “Lion Royalty.”

Lion Royalty Requirements

- Must be an **undergraduate student**, currently enrolled in a minimum of 3 credit units
- Must have **senior status** (24.0+ earned credit units)
- Must have a **minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75**
- Must undergo a **Disciplinary History check** through the Office of Student Conduct and Off-Campus Services and the Office of Title IX & Sexual Misconduct
- Submit the **online application** via Google Forms
- Must have a **recommendation form** submitted from a **TCNJ faculty or staff member** via Google Forms
- Must have a **recommendation form** submitted from a **sponsoring student organization** via Google Forms

The Process, Explained

THE APPLICATION

All TCNJ Seniors will receive an email with details about the application process, but can also find all information on the Office of Student Life [Website](#). Any senior who meets the eligibility requirements can apply!

The application itself will collect some basic demographics such as your preferred name and academic information. You will also be able to select your crown and flower preference. Most importantly, there are a few essay questions that will help our committee get to know you better. Your responses should be no more than 250 words each, and will center around your TCNJ experience and why you are interested in running for Lion Royalty. Please take your time and answer thoughtfully, as some of your responses will be displayed on the Lion Royalty website and voting form.

You will also upload a picture of yourself. This picture will be featured on the website, voting form, and any marketing materials Student Life publishes. Many students take pictures around campus, which is acceptable. We prefer that all pictures submitted are clean, display some TCNJ spirit, and feature just you (no cropped/blurry photos or selfies!) Most importantly, we want the headshot to showcase the essence of who YOU are!

Finally, there will be two additional forms that need to be submitted to complete your application: the Faculty/Staff Recommendation Form and the Sponsoring Organization Recommendation Form. More information on who should complete those forms can be found in the FAQ section.

The application will close on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 12PM NOON. After reviewing application materials and disciplinary history checks are verified with the Office of Conduct and Off-Campus Services and the Office of Title IX and Sexual Misconduct, candidates will be notified if they will move into the First Round.

THE CAMPAIGN, INTERVIEW, AND VOTING PROCESS

After First Round candidates are notified, they will be able to begin campaigning to advertise their candidacy. All advertising must receive approval from the Lion Royalty Coordinator before it is posted. All publicity must adhere to the TCNJ posting policy. If students wish to post flyers in various buildings, it must be approved and stamped by OSL. More information about this can be found here: <https://studentlife.tcnj.edu/posting-process/>

During the First Round of voting, every TCNJ student will have the opportunity to vote for the top 10 students they would like to see move forward in the process. All current students

will receive an email with information about the candidates and a link to vote. They must use their TCNJ email and can only submit 1 vote.

After voting closes, the top 10 finalists will be announced to the campus community by visiting @roartcnj on Instagram or via the [Lion Royalty website](#). *The 10 finalists will be invited to participate in an interview committee.* The Committee will consist of representatives of The College's faculty and staff. To ensure impartiality, the names of the judges will not be released until the interview. Each judge will score the applications and interviews based on the following criteria:

- Involvement in activities and organizations
- Academic pursuits, interests, and achievements
- Demonstration of leadership skills and abilities
- Commitment to TCNJ values
- Service to the community
- Thoughtfulness, professionalism, sincerity, and enthusiasm shown in responses

The Final Round of voting will begin on the Wednesday of Homecoming Spirit Week, and will close the next day.

SELECTION/ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Selection of the two Lion Royalty Winners will be based on 50% popular vote and 50% judges' selection. All Finalists will participate in the ceremony during halftime of the Homecoming Football game, with the two winners announced at the end of the brief program!

Campaigning and Publicity Guidelines

-The selected Homecoming Court shall be allowed to campaign starting the day that the court is announced pending approval from the Lion Royalty Coordinator.

-Candidates are expected to run a fair, truthful, and respectable campaign.

-All materials must include the **name of the candidate's sponsoring organization** and **Lion Royalty Homecoming Court 2025**

-All publicity must adhere to the TCNJ posting policy. If candidates wish to post flyers in various buildings, it must be approved and stamped by OSL. More information about this can be found here: <https://studentlife.tcnj.edu/posting-process/>

-If a candidate wishes to post their campaign material on social media ONLY, they do not need to get approval from OSL, but they must still receive approval from the Lion Royalty Coordinator.

Timeline At-A-Glance

August 25, 2025	Lion Royalty Homecoming Court Application will be available.
Thursday, September 11	Application, Faculty/Staff Recommendation, Sponsoring Organization Recommendation, and Resume are due by 12:00PM.
Monday, September 15	First Round Candidates will be notified and given further information.
Wednesday, September 17	All first round candidates will take professional headshots to be used for marketing. More information will be communicated to candidates.
Monday, September 22	Pending approval from Lion Royalty Coordinator, candidates may begin advertising on this date. All publicity must adhere to the TCNJ posting policy. If students wish to post flyers in various buildings, it must be approved and stamped by OSL. https://studentlife.tcnj.edu/posting-process/
Wednesday, September 24	First Round Voting <u>OPENS</u> at 9:00AM. All TCNJ students will be sent an email with information and a voting link.
Thursday, September 25	First Round Voting <u>CLOSES</u> at 9:00AM.
Friday, September 26	The top 10 candidates will be announced and invited to schedule an interview with the committee.
Monday, September 29	Court candidates can begin campaigning pending approval from the Lion Royalty Coordinator. All publicity must adhere to the TCNJ posting policy. If students wish to post flyers in various buildings, it must be approved and stamped by OSL. https://studentlife.tcnj.edu/posting-process/
Tuesday, September 30 - Thursday October 2	Court Interviews
Wednesday, October 8	Final Round Voting <u>OPENS</u> at 9:00AM. All TCNJ students will be sent an email with information and a voting link.
Thursday, October 9	Final Round Voting <u>CLOSES</u> at 9:00AM.
Wednesday, October 8	Court Walk Through Rehearsal on the Football Field.
Saturday, October 11	Winners announced at halftime at the football game!

****Dates are subject to change. Any updates will be communicated to all applicants.***

Last updated: July 23, 2025

Post Court Opportunities

The winners of Lion Royalty will have the opportunity to volunteer with the Office of Alumni Engagement after they graduate, sharing upcoming Alumni opportunities with their peers. More information will be provided to the winners.

Frequently Asked Questions

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

I meet all of the qualifications and requirements! How can I apply?

The following links will be needed to complete your application requirements:

- **Application Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/25LionRoyalty>
- **Faculty/Staff Recommendation Link:**
- tinyurl.com/LionRoyaltyFS
- **Sponsoring Organization Recommendation Link:**
<https://tinyurl.com/LionRoyaltyRSO>

As I was filling out the application, I had to enter my Escort's name and information.

What is an escort?

Your escort will be the person who walks out on the field with you during the ceremony. This person can be anyone you chose, from a close friend, a partner, or even a parent or family member. If you are unsure of who your escort will be or if that information changes after submitting your application, you can update it by contacting the Lion Royalty Coordinator.

Who can submit my recommendation forms?

For the **Faculty/Staff** recommendation, you should identify someone who can comment on your academic, personal, and or professional growth during your time here at TCNJ. They should be able to provide our committee with examples of how you have made positive contributions at TCNJ, whether in the classroom, in an organization, or elsewhere on campus/in the community. You only need one (1) Faculty/Staff member to complete the form for you. **You can find the link for the Faculty/Staff member to complete here:** tinyurl.com/LionRoyaltyFS

For the **Sponsoring Organization** letter of support, this must come from the organization who is sponsoring your candidacy. This letter should be completed by the organization's leadership, and should provide examples of how you embody the organization's mission and values. **You can find the link for the organization to complete here:** <https://tinyurl.com/LionRoyaltyRSO>

I have a friend in the same organization who wants to run for Lion Royalty, too. Can we both run and be sponsored by the same organization?

Yes, *but* each organization should not sponsor more than two (2) students for Lion Royalty.

What should be included in my resume?

The Lion Royalty Selection Committee should be able to look at your resume and clearly understand what kind of involvement you've had as a TCNJ student. This includes academics, leadership, community involvement, employment, achievements, and anything you feel is important to share. You can include both on and off campus activities.

Will I get any updates about the process and the status of my application?

Yes. You will receive an update when all of your application materials have been received. As the due date gets closer, if your application is not complete, you should receive an email that lists your remaining requirements. It is your responsibility to ensure that all materials are submitted by the deadline. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Will I receive notification even if I am not selected to move forward in the process?

Yes, you will receive an email notifying you of your status in the process either way.

I made it to the first round of voting and I want to hang up flyers for my campaign around campus. When can that start and how do I go about getting approval?

All postings must adhere to OSL's guidelines. If you are solely posting on social media, you do not need to get approval. If you want to post anywhere on campus, you can find all requirements and the link to submit your request here:

<https://studentlife.tcnj.edu/posting-process/>

THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

How do I sign up for interviews? When will they take place?

You will first receive an email from the LR Coordinator confirming that you are in the top 10 - which means you're a member of the Homecoming Court! That email will also contain a link where you can sign up for interviews. After your interview date/time is set, you will receive a confirmation email that will include details such as the location and any other important updates.

Do I need to bring anything to the interview?

No, you do not need to do so! The committee will have all of your information already.

Who is on the selection committee? How are they picked?

The selection committee is a group of TCNJ faculty and staff across campus. They work in a variety of roles and capacities across campus and understand what qualities to look for when selecting students that truly represent our community. The committee members change every year to ensure fairness and that there is a variety of perspectives across the board.

What kind of questions will be asked? How long is the interview?

The committee will ask questions to learn more about you and your time at TCNJ. Be prepared to share your experiences and answer some questions about your TCNJ Spirit and involvement. Typically, the interview will be about 30 minutes.

What should I wear to the interview?

Just like any interview, professional attire is encouraged. Treat this as you would any other interview – it's great practice! When in doubt, Blue and/or Gold are always great colors to wear.

Can I receive feedback about my interview afterwards?

Absolutely! Please email the LR Coordinator any time **after** Homecoming Weekend. The feedback will include an overview of the committee's thoughts, as well as a summary of what you did well and areas of improvement.

THE CEREMONY

Will I have the opportunity to practice on the field before the day of?

Yes! We will have a run through during the week leading up to the ceremony on Saturday. During that run through, we will practice how to line up, how to walk on and off the field, and where you will be standing. Be sure to ask any questions that you may have!

What time should we arrive on the day of the ceremony?

The official call time will be communicated as we get closer to the date, but you should plan to get to campus early! There will be traffic and it may take you some time to find parking. You will meet in the FSL Office (in the BSC, Room 208) with your escort to receive your sash, flowers, and any final updates. We will also be taking a picture of you with your escort. You will be able to hang out in the office until we head to the field to prepare for the ceremony. If you bring any items, you can leave them in the office and it will be locked until the ceremony is over. After the ceremony you will be able to retrieve your items. When the ceremony is over, you are free to enjoy the Homecoming festivities!

What should I wear for the ceremony?

It is recommended that you dress a bit more formal for the ceremony. When in doubt, wearing Blue and/or Gold is the way to go. We recommend not wearing heels or open-toed shoes, as heels will sink into the turf and turf will get into your open-toed shoes. Be prepared to smile as the media team will be present and taking pictures!

***Have a question that wasn't answered here?
Email Shirley Celi-Landeo at celilans@tcnj.edu!***