

DARTMOUTH

Structural and Programmatic Changes to Homecoming Bonfire

In response to the town of Hanover's concerns, the following changes will be made to reduce the risk of harm. ([See related story.](#))

- The bonfire will be lit before the first-year "sweep" arrives at the Green.
- Once the first-year "sweep" arrives at the Green, those who choose to participate will take a single lap around the fire, following a path ending on the lawn in front of Dartmouth Hall for an official class homecoming photo.
- Students will not be permitted to take more than one lap around the bonfire. The former practice of first-year students running around the fire as many times as their class year (and, in recent years, that number plus 100), will no longer be permitted.
- No one will be allowed to attempt to touch the fire. Students who attempt to touch the fire—one of the town of Hanover's most serious concerns—or violate the new event requirements will be subject to disciplinary action. In recent years, this action has included suspension for as much as a full year.
- The redesigned bonfire will look much like past bonfire structures and will use the same amount of wood, but in a squatter design, several feet shorter. This will lower its center of gravity to improve stability and increase the chances that the structure will collapse inward.
- The College will no longer use diesel or other hazardous fuels to ignite the bonfire.
- Several changes will be made to make the evening's events visible and audible to more of the crowd than in the past.
- The continuation of the bonfire in future years depends on the successful implementation of these changes.