



# VENDOR NEGOTIATION TIPS FOR HOMECOMING

Hiring and coordinating with vendors is a key part of the Homecoming process. These individuals and organizations provide key services that help make the event successful and in order to ensure you receive the best possible service while also sticking to your budget, it's important to know the best strategies for negotiating with vendors. Here are 18 helpful tips to use in negotiating with vendors for your Homecoming.

## 1. Research multiple vendors

Don't settle for the first vendor you find. Research and contact multiple vendors in the relevant categories (e.g., catering, decoration, photography) to compare prices and services.

## 2. Establish clear budget limits

Before you begin negotiations, determine your budget limits for each vendor category. This will give you a clear idea of what you can afford.

## 3. Prioritize your needs

Identify the most important aspects of your Homecoming, such as quality of food, decorations or photographic. Focus your negotiation efforts on these priorities.

## 4. Request detailed quotes

Ask vendors to provide detailed quotes that include all costs, fees and taxes. This will help you avoid unexpected expenses.

## 5. Negotiate package deals

Many vendors offer package deals that can save you money. Inquire about all-inclusive packages that cover multiple services.

## 6. Ask for discounts

Don't be afraid to ask for discounts, especially if you're working with multiple vendors. They may offer reduced rates to secure your business.

## 7. Discuss payment terms

Negotiate flexible payment terms, such as a deposit followed by installments, to ease your budget constraints.

## 8. Review cancellation policies

Understand the vendor's cancellation policies and negotiate terms that are favorable to your school in case of unforeseen circumstances.

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## 9. Seek references and reviews

Ask vendors for references and read online reviews. A good reputation and positive feedback from past clients can be powerful leverage.

## 10. Clarify inclusions and exclusions

Make sure you understand what is included and excluded in the vendor's services. Request any necessary additions or changes in writing.

## 11. Leverage competition

Let vendors know that you're considering multiple options. This can motivate them to offer better deals to win your business.

## 12. Request sample work

For services like photography and decoration, ask to see samples of their previous work to ensure it meets your standards.

## 13. Negotiate timing

If your Homecoming date is flexible, discuss off-peak or weekday options, as vendors may offer better rates for non-peak days.

## 14. Discuss backup plans

Ensure vendors have backup plans in case of unexpected issues, such as equipment failure or staffing problems.

## 15. Read contracts carefully

Before signing any contract, read it thoroughly and seek legal advice if necessary. Ensure all negotiated terms are included.

## 16. Be professional and respectful

Maintain a professional and respectful demeanor throughout negotiations. Building a positive working relationship with vendors can be beneficial in both the short and long term.

## 17. Consider non-monetary benefits

Vendors may offer additional services or perks, such as free setup or extended hours, which can add value to your package.

## 18. Follow up in writing

After verbal negotiations, summarize the agreed-upon terms in writing and ask the vendor to confirm them.

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