

# MSU, city of East Lansing offer celebration guidelines

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – It's nearly spring, and with that a young man's fancy – and woman's too – often turns to NCAA basketball.

With the Michigan State University basketball teams poised to make a run in this year's NCAA Basketball Tournament, the MSU/City of East Lansing Celebrations Committee is urging fans to celebrate safely and responsibly.

"We certainly don't want to discourage anyone from celebrating a Spartan victory," said Ginny Haas, MSU's director of community relations and co-chairperson of the committee. "But we do want people to celebrate in a way that reflects the MSU core values of responsibility and civility."

The Celebrations Committee was created in 2003. Composed of MSU representatives, including faculty, staff and students; officials and staff with the city of East Lansing; and community members, the committee's mission is to promote safe and responsible celebrations, especially as they pertain to various events, including sporting events such as the NCAA tournament.

Working with the East Lansing and MSU police departments, the committee has developed a series of "need-to-know" messages that will not only help to assure public safety, but could also keep celebrants from being arrested.

The messages include:

- Don't block streets or sidewalks.
- Keep moving and avoid large crowds.
- A gathering on public or private property can be declared an unlawful assembly. If declared as such, leave the area immediately.

·People who assault others, destroy property or incite a riot are breaking the law and may be arrested. Students could also be expelled or suspended from their university, college or high school.

·Cooperate with the police, as they do have the legal authority to tell you what to do.

·If you believe your rights have been violated by a police officer, obtain the officer's badge number and consider filing a formal complaint later.

“The safest place to celebrate is in your own residence or private residence to which you have been invited or a public establishment designed to entertain sports-related celebrations,” said Kelly Beck of the MSU Police Department and member of the committee. “If you decide to go outside, you may celebrate on public property so long as you do not violate the law and do not obstruct vehicle or pedestrian traffic.”

“Safety is our main priority each year during the NCAA tournament,” said East Lansing Police Chief Tom Wibert. “We at the East Lansing Police Department urge everyone to be responsible when celebrating. We ask everyone to call upon a designated driver when getting from point A to point B and to abide by the laws of our community.”

For additional information, please visit the Web at [www.msu.edu/celebrations](http://www.msu.edu/celebrations).