

Students gather in Troves for Squishmallo Lego Bingo Night

By Jack Byers, on October 4th, 2023.



The Bingo Prizes displayed for students, showing what they could win with a successful bingo.

TAMPA, FL. A large crowd of students gather in the Vaughn Courtyard Wednesday evening for one purpose, to win bingo.

On October 4th, student productions hosted Squishmallow Lego bingo, one of the many events hosted at University of Tampa. The evening saw the Vaughn courtyard swarm with students, with a line almost stretching almost out to the road. All there were eager to win prizes, beat their friends, and meet some new faces.

“Everyone is sitting in the grass, I feel like they definitely need a lot more tables, probably a lot more cards too” said Kenzie, a senior at the University of Tampa and a participant in bingo. “With how long the line is, I think my chances to win are pretty slim.”

When the crowd finally settled and everyone was signed in, it was time for bingo to begin. The night started without a hitch, with the first few prizes quickly being taken as players got lucky.

“Our bingos are usually a pretty good turnout, but I’d say this is probably the largest amount of people we’ve ever had.” Said Ashley, a junior at the University of Tampa and one of the hosts for bingo. “It’s really good for our organization, ‘cause that shows we’re spreading word about us.”

The crowd was very expressive, with players screaming with delight when they won, as well as being met with collective groans as they went up to claim their prize. Some bingos had multiple claimants, so a rock, paper scissors match was held to determine the true winner. The crowd got tense as the tiebreakers went on, holding their breath to see who would walk away fruitfully.

One of the main draws of Bingo Night is undoubtedly the chance to win incredible prizes. Squishmallows and Legos are the stars of the show, and they capture the hearts of every participant, whether they're bingo veterans or first-timers. These prizes are more than just tokens of victory; they represent the spirit of the event itself - fun, creativity, and community.

Squishmallow is a brand of stuffed animals popular with girls for their round shape and cute aesthetics. Lego is a brand of building block toys, usually coming in themed sets, which appeal to all ages but mostly young boys.

“We’ve done Squishmallow bingo in the past and it had one of our biggest crowds ever, so we kind of pulled that back in since we had a really good turnout for it,” said Ashley.

When asked for her reason for being there, Kenzie said “I really want a Squishmallow, to be honest they are really cute. I don’t have a ton, but I do have one that’s a little snowman and he’s really cute so I kind of want a giant one now.”

The team behind bingo were experienced, as this was not their first rodeo. “We had a bingo night probably about a month ago, it was a back-to-school bingo, we also had Squishmallow bingo last year as well as a beach themed bingo,” said Ashley.

This was one of many events put on by Student Productions, a student organization that plans most of the late-night entertainment on campus. Along with the tables to display the prizes, the staff also had a projector to display previously called numbers, as well as refreshments.

“On the student production’s executive board, we have to complete a run-of-show spreadsheet, all of the details and all of the setup requirements and everything like that were listed on the document for us to follow like a process or protocol,” said Ashley. “Prizes had to be ordered, facilities and media services had to be ordered, and the whole team shows up early to our events to set everything up and make sure everything runs smoothly.”

Student Productions holds other events besides bingo as well. If you attend any late-night University event on campus, chances are it was organized by Student Productions. SP has a mission to “intentionally promote and foster collaboration, equity, inclusion and creativity among students and student organizations and clubs.” Student Productions operates under the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.

Funded by the Student Government, Student Productions hosts more than 50 events every year. The events are planned by an executive board made up of nine students. The board represents seven production committees, including the marketing committee and the general committee. The committees collectively holds about 70 members total.

Bingo Night at the University of Tampa, hosted by Student Productions, is an event that encapsulates the essence of campus life. It's a showcase of creativity and a testament to the bonds that form among students. The allure of Squishmallows and Legos adds an extra layer of excitement to the game, making this event a must-attend for Spartans of all backgrounds and interests.

Along with Bingo, Student Productions also hosts tournaments, activity nights, movie nights, and special holiday events. To find out more about upcoming events, follow Student Productions on Instagram, Facebook, or TikTok.

Interested in joining Student Productions? You can find more information on InvolveUT, found on the student dashboard. They do have prerequisites, so don't slack on your schoolwork.