



First Time Guest Tent Weather Guidelines

Our First Time Guest (FTG) Tents serve as a visual “pull” for our guests. For those arriving on campus for the first time, a tent provides a neutral, “We’re-here-for-you” space before a guest has to walk into an unfamiliar building. For that reason, our highest priority should be putting the tent outside every weekend, year-round. Putting the tents in the most visible spot ensures a higher FTG card capture (this has been proven over and over).

But what about inclement weather?

“Inclement weather” is somewhat subjective. 55 degrees and sunny and 55 degrees and overcast provide two vastly different measures of comfort. For that reason, we simply ask that good judgment be employed. Here are some rules of thumb (and here’s the short version: *if it's at all possible to remain outside, do so.*)

- Sandbags should always be used on all four legs of the tent, even when the wind is not blowing.
- When temps are in the mid-50's or higher, the tent should remain outside as normal.
- When the temperatures are between 50-55 degrees, the Campus Director or Shift Leader will need to make the call based on current wind conditions and other factors in consideration.
- When temperatures drop to 50 degrees or lower, **we will set the tent outside**, but maintain a rotation protocol in the lobby. (1-2 FTG vols stationed at the tent outside, other FTG vols inside, tent person encounters guests and immediately moves them inside, keeping the conversation going, another FTG vol rotates back outside). We will use a heater under the tent to help keep the outside volunteers as warm as possible.
- Cold Inside Set Up: tent is outside. 1 table under that tent. Black covered table, bins, bags, other tables, FTG sign all inside in their lobby locations.
- When temperatures rise to 90 degrees or higher, we will set the tent outside, but maintain a rotation protocol into the lobby (the FTG team leader has the freedom to make the call once the temps are over 85 degrees).
- If it warms up / cools down during the service, we can move back outside.