

GUIDELINES FOR A "CLASSIC" MOUNTAINEER GRADUATION

TO: TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL 2016 Graduating Seniors and Parents
FROM: Travis Collins, Principal
Carol Fox, Assistant Principal
Alex Masciarelli, Assistant Principal
John Sanderson, Assistant Principal
Sherri Christopher, Graduation Director
SUBJECT: Important Dates / End of the Year Schedule / Graduation and Baccalaureate Exercises
DATE: March 28, 2016

The following information will be both helpful and necessary as we conclude your last year in high school. Please note the following schedule and details of upcoming events.

Monday, April 25: Pickup Senior Supplies Cafeteria lobby during lunches

May 9: Senior Class Picture 10:45 Be in the gymnasium dressed and ready in graduation cap and gown.

Monday, May 30: Holiday No School

June 7 through 10: Exams (pending weather)

June 13: Make-up Exams (pending weather)

Sun., June 12: Baccalaureate Service – 2:00 PM
This year's service will be held at Long's Chapel United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. CAP and GOWN with appropriate dress are required. While you are not required to attend this service, members of your senior class have worked extremely hard to provide a service that will be meaningful to all who attend. This service is an opportunity to reflect on the past 13 years of school and express appreciation to those who have helped you along the way. This event has always been special for our seniors.

Monday, June 13: Graduation Rehearsal for Seniors and Junior Marshals – 9:00 A.M.
Seniors will be seated in the Gym for Graduation Rehearsal. This rehearsal will last until Mr. Collins is completely satisfied that everything has been rehearsed properly and in a manner that is appropriate. Be prepared to stay as late as needed.

Anyone absent from this rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in the **GRADUATION EXERCISE** that night. Anyone late for this rehearsal will be required to work assigned hours/days at school this summer before receiving your diploma.

Monday, June 13: GRADUATION – 7:00 PM – WCU Ramsey Center
Seniors are to report to the **AUXILIARY GYM AREA** in the **Ramsey Center** no later than 6:00 PM and should line up alphabetically, as practiced. Enter the **Auxiliary Gym** from the Lower Level. Look for the **AUXILIARY GYM** signs at the outside entrance doors.
GRADUATION Ceremony begins at 7:00 PM.

PROPER DRESS FOR BACCALAUREATE AND GRADUATION

MEN: **Must wear ...** White shirt
 Dark Tie
 Dark Dress Pants
 Dark Dress Shoes
 Dark Socks

WOMEN: **Must wear ...** Black Dress **OR** Skirt **OR** Dress Slacks and Black Top
 Black Dress Shoes/Sandals – ***NO FLIP-FLOPS***

NO Jeans, NO Shorts, NO Patches or other items on **CAPS** or **GOWNS**. NO Sunglasses, NO Gum allowed. NO beach balls. NO air horns.

If you have any doubt about what is appropriate dress, ask before **GRADUATION**. If you have difficulty acquiring any of the above items, please contact an administrator.

Seniors who fail to follow established guidelines will not be permitted to participate in the **GRADUATION EXERCISE**.

Diplomas Covers only will be given out during the **GRADUATION EXERCISE**. Diplomas, transcripts, and report cards will be in a packet to be **picked up at THS starting on Wednesday, June 22 and throughout the summer office hours.**

SPECIAL NOTE TO SENIORS:

This is a graduation exercise of Tuscola High School in which you have been invited to attend and take part. We are committed to making it a **VERY SPECIAL CEREMONY**. We need **EACH** Senior's **TOTAL** cooperation in making it **AN EVENT YOU WILL BE PROUD OF!!!**

DIRECTIONS TO WCU – RAMSEY CENTER

[HTTP://WWW.WCU.EDU/RAMSEY/](http://www.wcu.edu/ramsey/) FOR DRIVING AND PARKING INFORMATION

LEAVING WAYNESVILLE, FOLLOW 19-23 UNTIL YOU GET TO SYLVA AND TAKE EXIT 85 TO WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY. GO TO THE 3RD STOPLIGHT AND TURN LEFT. THIS WILL BE HIGHWAY 107. FOLLOW 107 FOR APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES. WHEN YOU COME TO THE STOPLIGHT WHERE WCU IS ON YOUR LEFT, CONTINUE ON HIGHWAY 107 THROUGH THE STOPLIGHT, THEN TAKE THE NEXT LEFT-HAND TURN. THE RAMSEY CENTER WILL BE DIRECTLY ON YOUR LEFT.

HANDICAPPED GUESTS CAN ENTER FROM THE LOWER LEVEL AND TAKE AN ELEVATOR TO THE MAIN ARENA **OR** DRIVE TO THE UPPER LEVEL (FRONT) WHERE HANDICAP PARKING IS AVAILABLE, AND THERE IS EASY ACCESS TO THE MAIN ARENA.

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EXPECTATIONS FOR BEHAVIOR OF SENIORS DURING THE CEREMONY:

- Seniors will walk into the ceremony, across the stage, and upon leaving the Ramsey Center in a dignified manner.
 - Any senior who attempts to carry themselves in an "undignified" way will be excused from the graduation ceremony.
 - The use of cell phones is prohibited by seniors during the graduation ceremony.
 - Students will be expected to walk to Mr. Collins, once their name has been called, and he will hand them their diploma and shake hands, while a photo will be captured by a professional photographer, and then the student will exit the stage.
 - If a student does not adhere to these standards they will be escorted out of the Ramsey Center and they will not receive their diploma cover.
- This is a very special occasion for our seniors and their families. Our graduation will include a carefully crafted slideshow of each of our seniors. In light of this special time and out of respect of very young children and the elderly – NO AIR HORNS OR BEACH BALLS WILL BE PERMITTED. Anyone that possesses either of these items, (or other items which may detract from the graduation ceremony), will be escorted out of the Ramsey Center.

Ramsey Regional Activity Center - Cullowhee, NC

High School Graduation FAQs:

(for parking map please visit ramseycenter.wcu.edu)

- ***How do I get to the Ramsey Center?***

The Ramsey Center is located at 92 Catamount Road, Cullowhee NC 28723

From Asheville, Greensboro, Raleigh, N.C.: Take I-40 west to Exit 27 (Hwys. 19/23/74). Go 21.5 miles to Exit 85 (Sylva, Cullowhee, Western Carolina University). At the third traffic light (bottom of the hill), turn left on Hwy. 107. Go approximately seven miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Atlanta: Take I-85 north to I-985 north (towards Gainesville). I-985 will eventually become Hwy. 23/441. Follow this highway to Franklin, N.C. where you'll need to take a right to stay on Hwy. 23/441. Continue on this route until you come to the intersection at Dillsboro, N.C. Take a right at the light (Hwy. 107) and go through downtown Dillsboro and then downtown Sylva. Continue past Sylva for approximately seven more miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Knoxville, Tenn.: Take I-40 east to Exit 20 (Maggie Valley, N.C. and Hwy. 276). Follow Hwy. 276 toward Waynesville, N.C. At overpass, get on Hwy. 23/74 south, towards Sylva. Take Exit 85 (Sylva, Cullowhee, Western Carolina University). At third traffic light (bottom of the hill), turn left on Hwy. 107. Go approximately seven miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Greenville, Spartanburg, S.C.: Take I-26 west to I-40 west. Follow directions from Asheville (above).

- ***I have a family member who is disabled and cannot walk from the parking lot. Where should they park?***
 - Parking for patrons with mobile disabilities is available on a first come-first served basis and is located in Lots 9A & 10 on the ground level of the Ramsey Center. An official disabled parking tag will be required in order to park in these lots. There is also a drop-off area on Forrest Hills Rd. For patrons who are being driven by a family member, the drop-off area allows for entrance into the concourse level of the Ramsey Center without the need for use of any stairs. This drop-off area is the most convenient to visitors in a wheel chair and provides the quickest, most simple route into the building. Drivers may drop off their guests and then park in one of the parking lots closest to this area. For patrons arriving in a vehicle that utilizes a wheelchair assist ramp or lift, the North East drop-off area is the most convenient location that allows space for accessible, vehicle mounted assist devices.

- ***I am a graduating student. Where do I need to be for line up?***
 - Students should report to the Auxiliary Gym on the first floor for line up prior to your graduation ceremony. Please contact your school officials for exact times for your class line up.
- ***I am the parent of a graduating student. Where do I need to go?***
 - If you are driving your graduate to the ceremony, you may drop them off near the Auxiliary Gym entrance on the first floor (nearest the Creek Parking Lot). The Ramsey Center concourse will open for parents and spectators at 5:00pm on graduation day. The concourse area is on the 3rd floor of the building. Doors to the arena where the ceremony takes place will open at 6:00pm.
- ***I am faculty from the school and will be participating in the ceremony. Where do I line up?***
 - Faculty line up is in the truck tunnel on the first floor of the building.
- ***Can I come down to the arena floor to wish my son or daughter good luck?***
 - Due to security concerns and Ramsey Center policy, there will be no access to the arena floor prior to or during the graduation ceremony. This is a no-exceptions policy that will be enforced.
- ***Will concessions be available during the ceremony?***
 - Concession stands will not be open prior to or during the graduation ceremony. No outside food or drink is allowed inside the building.
- ***Do I need a ticket for this event? Is seating reserved?***
 - Graduation ceremonies are non-ticketed events. You do not need a ticket to attend. Seating is on a first-come/first-served basis and there is no reserved seating for the ceremony. Visitors reserving or marking off rows of seating is discouraged in order for everyone in attendance to have the opportunity to sit where they please.
- ***Can I bring my camera into the arena?***
 - Yes, cameras and video recorders will be permitted in the arena during the ceremony. Camera tripods will not be allowed, however, due to creating a tripping hazard and obstructed access in and out of seating sections.
- ***I want to get a good photo of my student walking across the stage. Can I get closer for a good photo?***
 - You may walk to the bottom of your seating section to take photos while your son or daughter is walking across the stage, but you will be expected to return to your seat as quickly as possible in order to keep the aisles unobstructed. Not returning to your seat after being asked to do so by event staff may result in being escorted out of the facility.
- ***I want everyone to know how proud I am of my graduate. Can I cheer when they walk across the stage?***

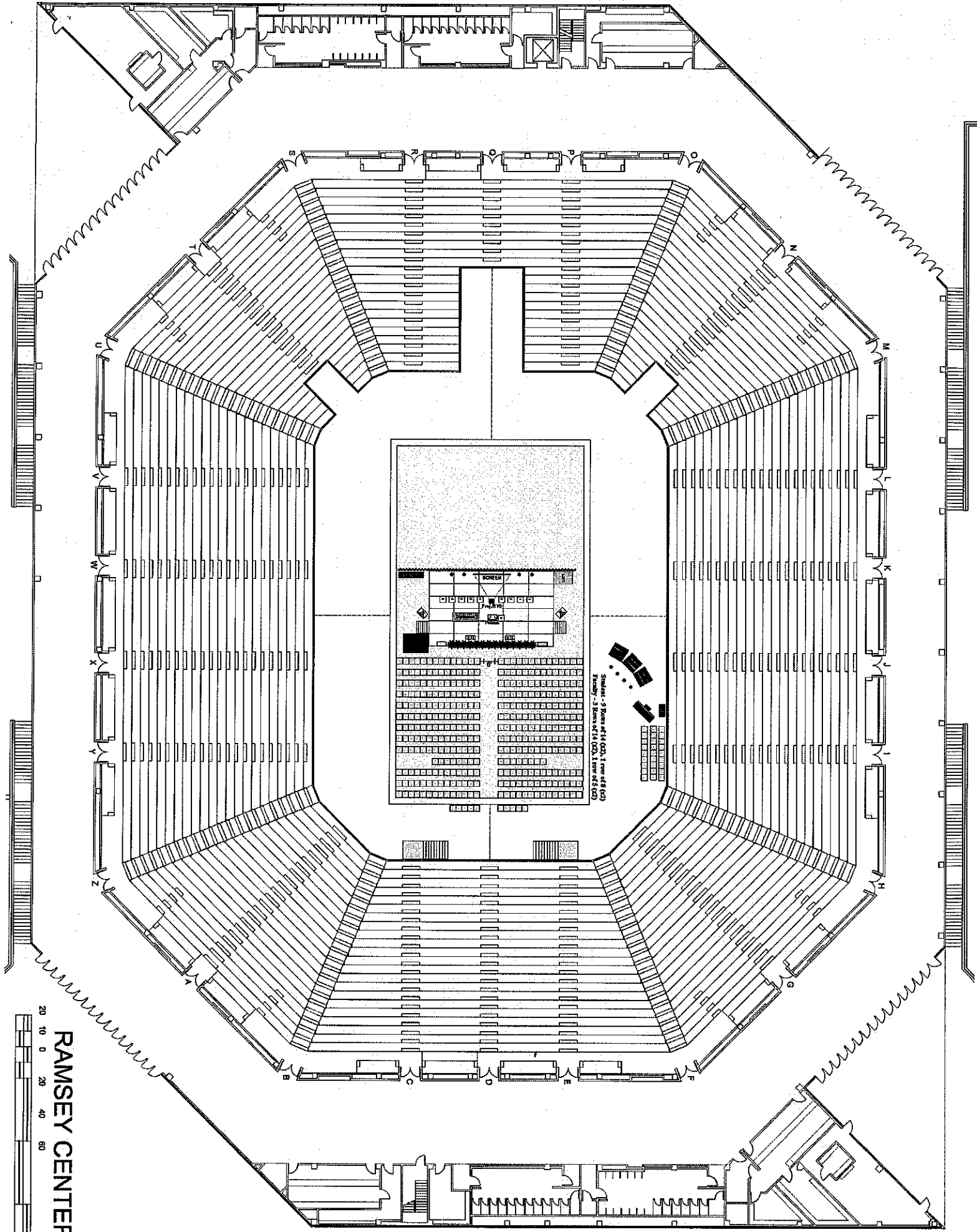
- Of course you can! You've got a lot to be proud of! Remember that this is a very big event in your life and the lives of everyone in attendance. We ask that you be respectful of the people around you and the students who are graduating. Air horns, cowbells or any other kind of noise makers will NOT be allowed inside the building. This policy will be strictly enforced by event staff and your school's law enforcement agency.

RAMSEY CENTER POLICIES

- No outside food or drinks, including bottles or cans of any kind will be allowed inside the Ramsey Center.
- No alcohol allowed on premises.
- No air horns, fireworks, cowbells or any other kinds of noise makers will be allowed inside the building. This policy will be strictly enforced by event staff and school law enforcement.
- No weapons of any kind.
- No smoking in the Ramsey Center. Signs will direct patrons toward designated smoking areas outside of the building.
- Patrons and their belongings are subject to search prior to entering the building.
- Standing or sitting in aisles or entryways is strictly prohibited.

The following security enhancements are now in place for guests attending Ramsey Center events.

- Guests should be prepared for enhanced screening of persons and belongings, including opening coats/outerwear and emptying pockets. Guests should also be prepared for pat downs or screening by metal detectors operated by security personnel.
- Backpacks are NOT permitted at Ramsey Center events. Guests will be asked to empty their pockets during enhanced screening procedures. Items not allowed inside the Ramsey Center include but are not limited to: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, knives, outside food/beverages or containers.
- One clear plastic bag per person will be permitted for medical or child care needs.

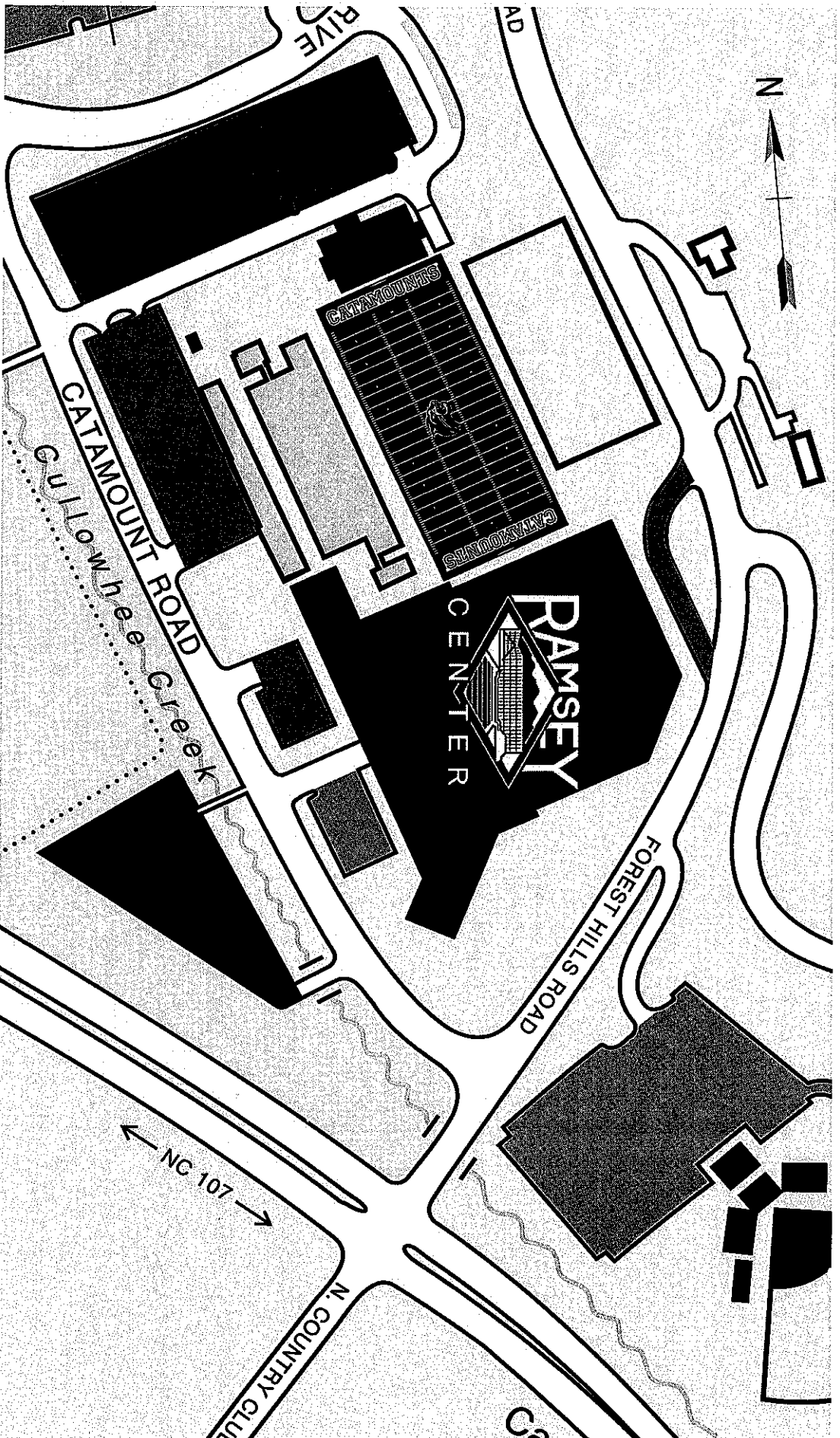


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RAMSEY CENTER

W Ramsey Regional U Activity Center

Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center
Special Event Parking
92 Catamount Road, Cullowhee NC 28723



- Ramsey Center
- Football Stadium Lot
- Ramsey Lots
- Creek Lot
- Baseball Lot
- Disabled Parking