

## UNIVERSITY RULE

**08.02.99.M1**      **Expressive Activity on Campus**  
*Approved May 14, 2020*  
*Revised November 12, 2021*  
*Revised June 25, 2024*  
*Revised March 19, 2026*  
*Next Scheduled Review: March 19, 2031*

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### Rule Summary

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The Texas A&M University System (System) Policy *08.02, Expressive Activity on Campus*, requires adoption of a member rule. This rule identifies common outdoor areas that are not considered public forums, designates other public forums on Texas A&M University campuses, including reservable designated public forums, provides reservation requirements and procedures, and provides a grievance process for addressing complaints for violations of an individual's expressive activity rights.

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### Definitions

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Definitions from System Regulation *08.02.01, Expressive Activity on Campus*, are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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### Official Rule

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#### 1. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY

The rights and responsibilities related to expressive activities on campus are set forth in System Regulation *08.02.01*. Nothing in this rule will be construed to amend or alter the rights and responsibilities outlined in that regulation. Students, staff, faculty, and community members are encouraged to review the regulation to understand their rights and responsibilities while on campus.

#### 2. DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC FORUMS

2.1 As outlined in System Regulation *08.02.01*, all common outdoor areas are deemed traditional public forums unless otherwise designated by this rule.

- 2.2 The following common outdoor spaces are not to be considered public forums:
- 2.2.1 Memorial Student Center Lawn
  - 2.2.2 Nuclear Reactor Facility
  - 2.2.3 Easterwood Airport
  - 2.2.4 Brayton Fire Training School
  - 2.2.5 Research Facilities
  - 2.2.6 Bush Library and its grounds, including the walking path and green space east of the Library, as well as the family cemetery.
  - 2.2.7 Reveille Gravesite
  - 2.2.8 Athletic event spaces and plazas that would impact the safety and security of ingress and egress

2.3 The following indoor spaces are not considered public forums

- 2.3.1 Classrooms
- 2.3.2 Residence Hall Rooms
- 2.3.3 Faculty and Staff offices
- 2.3.4 Academic buildings
- 2.3.5 Medical treatment facilities
- 2.3.6 Libraries
- 2.3.7 Research and Computer Laboratories
- 2.3.8 Memorial Student Center Flag room

### 3. RESERVABLE DESIGNATED PUBLIC FORUMS

- 3.1. The following public forums are reservable designated public forums and may be reserved at the request of students and non-students for expressive activity. The act of confirming a reservation will ensure the availability of space. A reservation is not required, except as described in Section 4.
- 3.1.1 *Rudder Fountain Area* – space between Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower. Sound equipment is allowed and is available for use in this area at a small fee. The volume of any sound equipment must be kept at a level that would not interfere with any academic or other program taking place in nearby buildings.
  - 3.1.2 *West Academic Plaza* – space west of the Academic Building and near the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. No sound equipment is permitted in this area. (This area is not available for expressive activity during Silver Taps and/or during the Ross Volunteer practice for Silver Taps.)
  - 3.1.3 *West Campus Mall Area* – space east of the Heep Center and marked by flagpoles and plantings. No sound equipment is permitted in this area
- 3.2 Texas A&M University branch campuses and remote locations may identify reservable designated public forums on their respective campuses.

#### 4. ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to ensure safety and to promote an environment conducive to study, advanced reservation for expressive activity is required (in the form of an approved Reservation Request for Space) for activities near intersections, and/or in close proximity to academic buildings anytime classes, and/or study activities, and/or research are taking place.

#### 5. RESERVATION PROCEDURES

- 5.1. Individuals or groups who are either required to make advance reservation (see Section 4) or those individuals or groups who otherwise wish to make advance reservations on main campus in College Station must request use of the space through the Event Services Office on the second floor of Rudder Tower. Individuals or groups who are either required to make advance reservation (see Section 4) or those individuals or groups who otherwise wish to make advance reservations at branch campuses or remote locations should contact the designate administrator at that location. If advance reservation is required (see Section 4), requests must be made at least five business days in advance of the event. Additional collaboration and coordination may be required from a building/space proctor. Usually, use of the space will be assigned to the person or organization that requests the area first. University sponsored events have first priority on the use of campus facilities.
- 5.2. The university reserves the right to locate any assembly so as to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the normal operation of the university or interfere with the rights of others.
- 5.3. The decision to confirm a request for space will be based on proper and timely completion of the Reservation Request form, compliance with applicable sound and sign requirements, and availability of space. The decision to confirm will be based on the foregoing criteria, and in no circumstance will any decision be based on the content or viewpoint of the expressive activity or upon the expected reaction of others. If a request is denied, the rationale for the decision will be provided in writing. The denial of a reservation request can be appealed to the Vice President for Student Affairs or a designee.

At the time of the request, the following information will be required:

- Name information of the person or organization sponsoring the event. Contact information for one individual who will be present during the course of the event.
- Location, date and time requested for the event.
- General purpose of the event.
- List of planned activities (i.e. speech or rally, march with signs, distribution of literature, sit-in).
- Special equipment requested.
- Anticipated attendance.

For recognized student organizations, an officer of the sponsoring organization must be present at the event, and during the entire course of the event in order to hold the reservation.

## 6. SPECIAL EVENT RESTRICTIONS - LIMITED PUBLIC FORUMS

### 6.1. Reasonable Restrictions

- 6.1.1. The university reserves the right to set reasonable restrictions to preserve university hosted, sponsored, or approved events and activities, including but not limited to athletic competitions; concerts, performances, and other ticketed events; University traditions; and commencement and convocation events. Restrictions will be established as necessary to enable events and activities to proceed for their intended purpose and to maintain public safety, traffic flow, crowd management, and other substantial university interests.

### 6.2. Special Events at Kyle Field

- 6.2.1. On the day of athletic events or other special events at Kyle Field, the following areas are operated by the university as Game Day areas or special event areas. These areas, typically delineated by road closures, the presence of university-approved vendors or licensees, or other event-specific activities, are not considered public forums during event operations:

- Joe Routh Boulevard, including the sidewalks on either side of the street, from Wellborn Road to Coke Street;
- Houston Street, including the sidewalks on either side of the street, from Joe Routh Boulevard to John David Crow Drive;
- All other areas on the Kyle Field side of Joe Routh Boulevard, Houston, Street, John David Crow Drive, and Wellborn Road; and in the vicinity of drop off/pick up areas.
- Gene Stallings Boulevard, including the sidewalks on either side of the street;
- Aggie Park

- 6.2.2. The university reserves the right to place reasonable restrictions, including, but not limited to, restrictions on amplified sound, in order to preserve these spaces for their intended purposes during Game Day and special event operations.

- 6.2.3. The university reserves the right to establish other limited forums on campus through individualized written-use policies.

## 7. EXTERNAL CLIENT EVENTS

Events organized by an external party but held on the Texas A&M University campuses must be sponsored by a recognized student organization, university academic or administrative unit, or a System member (see [University Standard Administrative Procedure 24.99.99.M0.02, External Client Events](#) for applicable procedures).

## 8. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 8.1. Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule and System Regulation 08.02.01, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a grievance.

- 8.2. Students may file a grievance with the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. Faculty may file a grievance with Faculty Affairs at [grievances.tamu.edu](http://grievances.tamu.edu). Staff may file a grievance with Human Resources. Third parties may file a grievance with the [Division of Risk, Ethics, & Compliance](#).
- 8.3. Those who choose to observe and/or listen to expressive activities, bear the responsibility of recognizing and honoring the right of free speech. Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the university, including classes and university business, or that invade the rights of others will not be tolerated. A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the university's applicable rules and procedures. Any participant in a disruptive activity may also face criminal charges. The offices listed in section 8.2 of this rule are responsible for the complaint according to its normal procedures. Grievances may be referred to another office for review and further action, when appropriate.

## 9. IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1. A copy of this rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* must be provided to students during New Student Conferences and other new student orientation programs.
- 9.2. This rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* must be posted on the university's website.
- 9.3. A link to this rule must be included in student and employee handbooks, if maintained by the university

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### Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Texas Education Code § 51.9315, \*Protected Expression on Campus\*](#).  
[Texas Government Code § 448.001](#)  
[Executive Order GA-44 \(March 27, 2024\)](#)  
[System Policy 08.02, \*Expressive Activity on Campus\*](#)  
[System Regulation 08.02.01, \*Expressive Activity on Campus\*](#)  
[University SAP 24.99.99.M0.02, \*External Client Events\*](#)  
[Student Rule 27, \*Sanctions\*](#)  
[Expressive Activities Resources](#)  
[Aggie Park Guidelines](#)

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### Contact Office

[Division of Risk, Ethics, & Compliance](#)  
Texas A&M University  
(979) 458-8191