Welcome to the Aggie Family!

Tools to Support You as an Aggie Family Member

New Student & Family Programs

New Student & Family Programs

Welcome to the Aggie Family!
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Learn an Aggie Yell:

**Locomotive**

(slow)
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
T-A-M-C

(faster)
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
T-A-M-C

(very fast)
Aaaaaaa
Rah! Rah! Rah! Team!

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Safety Resources

**Tell Somebody**

Tell Somebody is a resource that allows members of the University community to report concerning behaviors for review by the appropriate officials. As an Aggie family member, you are a part of this community.

If you are concerned about the behavior of your student or any student at Texas A&M, submitting a Tell Somebody report will ensure that representatives review the report and determine appropriate action.

To report a concerning behavior to a staff member for review and follow-up:

Tell Somebody
tellsomebody.tamu.edu
(979) 845-3111

Tell Somebody is not to be used in an emergency situation. Call 911 if an immediate medical, psychological, or police response is required.

**Code Maroon**

In the event of a campus-related emergency, Code Maroon sends health and safety information to members of the campus community via text message. If you choose to subscribe to Code Maroon, you will only receive official notification of critical emergencies.

Sign up for Code Maroon to receive text message alerts from Texas A&M's emergency notification system. Public access to Code Maroon is available for family members via codemaroon.tamu.edu.

**Fast Follow**

Twitter’s “fast follow” feature allows you to receive Code Maroon text message alerts without signing up for a Twitter account. Just text “follow TAMUCodeMaroon” to 40404. You will receive a text message confirming your request.

If you have a Twitter account follow @TAMUCodeMaroon to see alerts on your Twitter timeline. You also have the option to receive alerts via text message through your Twitter account.

If you need help subscribing to Code Maroon, please call Help Desk Central at 979-845-8300.
Health & Safety

Texas A&M has trained professionals available to support student mental health and well-being in a variety of situations.

For students who are exhibiting concerning behavior or need referrals to the appropriate campus resources:

**Student Assistance Services**  (979) 845-3113

For routine, urgent, and crisis counseling:

**Student Counseling Service**  (979) 845-4427

For referral, support, and crisis assessment and intervention services during evening and weekend hours:

**Student Counseling HelpLine**  (979) 845-2700
HelpLine is available from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends

**WellTrack**
A free online platform and mobile app that provides Texas A&M students tools and resources to address stress, anxiety, and depression. [scs.tamu.edu/welltrack](scs.tamu.edu/welltrack)

**Therapist Assisted Online (TAO)**
A program that allows students facing anxiety and depression to meet with a counselor in a videoconferencing format. [scs.tamu.edu/TAO](scs.tamu.edu/TAO)

**Academic Success Center (ASC)**
If your student seeks tutoring resources, is struggling academically, or wants to identify their preferred learning style:

Academic Success Center
Rudder Tower, 9th Floor
(979) 485-4900
successcenter.tamu.edu

Medical Resources

**Medical Resources**

### On-Campus

**Student Health Services**
If your student is in need of medical attention on campus they can go to Student Health Services (SHS). SHS provides multiple services including, chronic care, allergy treatment, sprains, anxiety, and women's health related issues.

- **Location:** A.P. Beutel Health Center
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 p.m.

**Health Promotion**
Health Promotion provides education for students on many health-related issues. Resources and education are available through Health Promotion on topics such as alcohol, sex and relationships, stress and relaxation, and sleep.

- **Location:** Student Services at White Creek, Building #0070
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 p.m.

**Student Health Services**
[shs.tamu.edu](shs.tamu.edu)

**StudentLife.TAMU.EDU/HP**
[studentlife.tamu.edu/hp](studentlife.tamu.edu/hp)

### Off-Campus

**Hospitals:**
**College Station Medical Center**
- **Location:** 1604 Rock Prairie College Station, TX 77845
- **Phone:** (979) 764-5100

**Baylor Scott & White Medical Center**
- **Location:** 800 Scott & White Dr. College Station, TX 77845
- **Phone:** (979) 207-4000

**CHI St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital**
- **Location:** 2801 Franciscan St. Bryan, TX 77802
- **Phone:** (979) 776-3777

**Urgent Care:**
**College Station MedPlus**
- **Location:** Barron Rd. College Station, TX 77845
- **Phone:** (979) 703-1902
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Location:** Northgate: 711 Church Ave., Suite 101 College Station, TX 77840
- **Phone:** (979) 485-2827
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Brazos Valley Urgent Care**
- **Location:** 2911 Texas Avenue South #103 College Station, TX 77845
- **Phone:** (979) 763-2882
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Integrity Urgent Care**
- **Location:** 3201 University Dr. #135 Bryan, TX 77802
- **Phone:** (979) 703-1832
- **Hours of Operation:** Everyday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Emergency Room:**
**CapRock ER**
- **Location:** 948 William D. Fitch Parkway College Station, TX 77845
- **Phone:** (979) 314-2323
- **Hours of Operation:** Everyday 24 hours
Family Resources

Learn an Aggie Yell:

Horse Laugh
Riffety, riffety, riff-raff!
Chiffity, chiffity, chiff-chaff!
Riff-raff! Chiff-chaff!
Let’s give ’em a horse laugh: Sssss!

It is a tradition at A&M that the twelfth man does not boo. This helps the students and university maintain class and a positive mindset. So instead of showing our disagreements by booing, Aggies choose to hiss. Many times this yell is used at sporting events whenever we disagree with a call or play. The yell is more commonly recognized by the hissing sound made at the end. The horse laugh yell has become a staple to Aggies and is commonly used outside of the sporting arena/stadium.

Travel Information

Staying in College Station:
The Bryan-College Station area offers no shortage of hotels and accommodations for visiting family members. Demand for many properties spikes on gameday weekends and Family Weekend, so be sure to book early for those events!

There are more than a dozen properties conveniently located along University Drive and Texas Avenue, two major roads along the edge of the university. These hotels provide especially easy access to campus. Search properties at experiencebcs.com.

Flying to College Station:
College Station’s Easterwood Airport is less than three miles from the center of Texas A&M’s campus and offers daily flights to and from Houston George Bush Intercontinental and Dallas-Fort Worth International airports.

For transportation from Easterwood and within Bryan-College Station, Lyft and Uber are available. Several taxi services also operate in the area. A full list is available at flyeasterwood.com/transportation.

Flying into Houston George Bush Intercontinental:
Driving to College Station from Houston George Bush takes approximately one hour and 30 minutes. Ground Shuttle offers daily transportation between George Bush Airport and College Station, with up to 10 daily departure times on weekdays and four to five departure times on weekends. Ground Shuttle service is $35 each direction (transportation is also available from Houston Hobby Airport for an additional $10 each direction.) View schedules and make reservations at www.groundshuttle.com.

Driving to College Station from Austin Bergstrom takes approximately one hour and 45 minutes. Ground Shuttle offers daily transportation between George Bush Airport and College Station, with up to six daily departure times on weekdays and three to five departure times on weekends. Ground Shuttle service is $50 each direction. View schedules and make reservations at www.groundshuttle.com.

Additional transportation services to Easterwood Airport are available at transport.tamu.edu/transit/service.
Discussing Expectations

On behalf of the entire Texas A&M Community, welcome to the Aggie Family! You and your student are about to embark on an exciting journey. Along the way, several potential challenges may arise as you and your student adjust to their life in Aggieland. While every student will have different priorities with their family, we encourage you to use this worksheet as a starting point for discussing their first semester at Texas A&M.

**Communication:**
We agree to talk _________ (number of times) per ________.
We will communicate using the following methods:

It is important to discuss the following when we speak:

During an emergency we will communicate by:

**Transportation:**
The student will get around campus & Aggieland in the following ways:
- Car
- Bike
- Bus System
- Ride from friends

**Visits:**
We agree that the student should come home at the following times:

We agree that the family should visit during:

**Access to Information:**
The student will provide the following access to family members:
- Bill Payment Suite
- Howdy Portal

**Other Topics to Consider:**
Does your student know how to:
- Grocery Shop/Meal Plan
- Do Laundry
- Cook Simple Meals
- Maintain a budget

Have you talked to your student about utilizing medical services and health insurance?

How will your student stay safe on campus?

**Money & Budgeting:**
We agree that the student will get money in the following ways:
- Job
- Monthly Allowance (amount: $___ )
- Financial Aid

And spend it in the following ways:
- Meal Plan
- Spending Money
- Rent
- Bills
- Other: __________________________

Limitations for spending money are:

We will handle financial emergencies in the following ways:

**Packages & Shipment**

Care packages are always a fun way to encourage or show your support for your student. It can be as simple as a card or something more intricate. If you’re looking for inspiration, below are some student-recommended favorites to include in a care package.

**Snacks:** Homemade baked goods are always welcome.

**School Supplies:** These make all the difference in a student's studying habits.

**Gift Cards:** These are a huge help when students are trying to save money.

**Toiletries/Cleaning Supplies:** For example, laundry detergent or toothpaste.

**Games:** A deck of cards, board games, or outdoor games like cornhole.

**Socks:** Every student could use more socks.

**Residence Hall/Apartment Decorations:** Lights, candles (where allowed), or holiday decor can make a residence feel more like home.

**Coffee or Tea:** This will help during early classes or evenings in the library.

**Mailing & Shipping Information**

Mailboxes are not provided to students living in on-campus residence halls or Corps of Cadets residences. These students have two options for renting* mailboxes:

- **Northgate U.S. Post Office**
  University Dr. and Houston St. (next to Hotard Hall)
  9:30 am to 4 pm, Monday-Friday
- **Student Mailing Services**
  Hullabaloo Hall Room 136 & Southside Commons Room 126

*Upon renting a mailbox, students will be provided with a mailing address.

Students living in University Apartments (Gardens and White Creek) will be provided a mailbox.

Questions about mail delivery can be directed to the following locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps &amp; Res. Halls</th>
<th>Gardens</th>
<th>White Creek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Mail Services</td>
<td>Northgate U.S. Post Office</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University Mail Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(979) 268-7727</td>
<td>(979) 846-5716</td>
<td>(979) 845-4624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:studentmailservice@gmail.com">studentmailservice@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Northgate U.S. Post Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mail@tamu.edu">mail@tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northgate U.S. Post Office</td>
<td>(979) 845-4624</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can receive deliveries from FedEx and UPS at their residence hall rooms or apartments. The offices of residence halls and apartments cannot accept packages for residences. Packages should be addressed as follows:

- **Student's First & Last Name**
- Hall Name & Room #
- Texas A&M University
- College Station, TX 77840

**Student's First & Last Name**
- Gardens Apartments
- Building Letter and Apt #
- Texas A&M University
- College Station, TX 77840

**Student's First & Last Name**
- White Creek Apartments
- Building Letter and Apt #
- Texas A&M University
- College Station, TX 77840
Learn an Aggie Yell:

**Beat the Hell Outta...**
(whoever we are playing!)

This particular yell is performed at sporting events to help intimidate the opposing team. Often written as BTHO, this particular yell has been adopted by students to relate to everyday life. For example, instead of putting a school or team name at the end, it can be replaced with things like “finals” to help boost spirits during the strenuous process of final exams.

**Calculating a GPA**

GPA is calculated by dividing the total amount of grade points earned by the total amount of credit hours taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 104</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 199</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 142</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 101</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 10

You then divide 33 grade points by the 10 credit hours and you get a GPA of 3.3.

**Tools for Success**

**Common Phrases on the Academic Calendar**

**Late Drop & Add:** Students may drop and add courses via Howdy through the fifth class day of fall/spring semesters, and through the fourth class day of a summer semester.

**Q-Drop:** Q-Drop allows students to drop a course without recording a grade on their transcript. However, courses that are Q-Dropped are not eligible for financial refunds. Students must submit a Q-Drop Request Form, available on the Office of the Registrar’s website. Undergraduate students will normally be permitted four Q-drops during their undergraduate studies.

**Redefined Day:** Students follow a class schedule from a different day of the week.

**Reading Day:** No classes are held, but the University remains open.

**Preregistration:** A window of dates when currently enrolled students can register for courses for the upcoming semester. Preregistration times are determined by the number of credit hours a student has earned. Open registration begins following the preregistration period. A full preregistration schedule is available on the Office of the Registrar’s website.

**Academic Success Center (ASC):** provides all Aggies with the resources and support to achieve academic success. For more information about the ASC and the resources they offer visit: successcenter.tamu.edu
Important Dates

**January**
- Jan. 12: 5 p.m., Last day to register for spring classes.
- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Faculty and staff holiday)
- Jan. 16: First day of spring classes.
- Jan. 22: Last day for adding/dropping courses for the spring semester.

**March**
- March 12-16: Spring Break.
- March 14-16: Faculty and staff holiday.
- March 30: Reading day, no classes.

**April**
- April 5-20: Preregistration for the 2018 fall and summer semesters.
- April 17: Last day to withdraw from University & Q-drop.
- April 21: Muster, Campus ceremony.

**May**
- May 1: Last day of classes for spring semester classes.
- May 1: Redefined day, students attend their Friday classes.
- May 2: Reading day, no classes.
- May 3-8: Spring semester final exams for all students.
- May 10-12: Commencement and Commissioning.

**Summer 2018**
- May 28: Memorial Day. Faculty and staff holiday.
- May 29: First day of first term and 10-week semester classes.
- June 1: Last day for adding/dropping courses for the first term and 10-week semester.
- July 2: Last day to register for second term classes.
- July 3: First day of second term classes.
- July 4: Independence day. Faculty and staff holiday.
- July 9: Last day for adding/dropping courses for the second term.
- August 6: Last day of second summer term and 10-week classes.
- August 10-11: Commencement and Commissioning.

**Accessing Information**

Students must request access in Howdy for parents/guardians to view financial information and make payments. Your student can follow these steps to grant access:

1. Log onto Howdy.
2. Go to the My Finances tab.
4. Students will select Add Authorized User.
5. Parent/guardian will log in through billpay.tamu.edu.
6. Parent/guardian will receive activation email.

Parent/guardian will log in through billpay.tamu.edu.
Scholarships & Financial Aid

To apply for federal, state, and institutional financial aid, your student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Completing the FAFSA is:
- Free
- Easy to complete
- Provides access to the largest sources of financial aid to pay for college

Include the Texas A&M University School Code of 003632 so the University gets your information.

Encourage your student to submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible when the form becomes available, as funds are limited. Remember: the FAFSA must be completed each year in order for your student to receive financial aid.

The FAFSA for the 2018-2019 academic year opened on October 1, 2017.

Here are some recommended submission dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Aid Needed</th>
<th>FAFSA</th>
<th>Recommended Submission Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>September 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2018</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>February 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>December 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>September 30, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>February 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarships & Financial Aid

How to Maintain Eligibility

In order to maintain eligibility to receive financial aid, your student must meet the following requirements:
- Be a degree-seeking student.
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
- Be enrolled at least half-time (except for the Pell or TEACH Grant).

Full information on these criteria is available at financialaid.tamu.edu.

Financial Aid Advisors

Your student may schedule an appointment with a Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisor by calling (979) 845-3236 at least 24 hours in advance. College Station advisors are also available for in-person advising without an appointment, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on a walk-in basis.

Mailing Address
Texas A&M University Scholarships & Financial Aid P.O. Box 30016 College Station, TX 77842-3016

Overnight Mailing Address
Texas A&M University Scholarships & Financial Aid TAMU 1252 College Station, TX 77843-1252

Physical Location
The Pavilion, 2nd Floor
Phone: (979) 845-3236
Telephone Service Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fax: (979) 847-9061
financialaid@tamu.edu
**Learn an Aggie Yell:**

**TEAM**  
**Aaaaaaa, team, team, team!**

This yell is how Aggies show their sportsmanship. Whenever the opposite team scores in a game, the 12th man uses this yell to congratulate them.

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**Dining & Transportation**

**Dining & Meal Plans**

Texas A&M’s campus has over 40 dining concepts with a variety of cuisines. Meal plans are a way to save money and are open to all Aggies! You can find a full list of meal plan options at dining.tamu.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meal Plans</th>
<th>Meal Trades</th>
<th>Dining Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional all-you-care-to-eat meal at Sbisa, Duncan, or the commons dining hall.</td>
<td>Can be used at select retail locations across campus. Typically this includes one entree, one side, and one beverage.</td>
<td>Used like a debit card, this balance can be used at any dining location. You can add to your balance within the Howdy portal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Freshmen:**

On-campus freshmen are required to purchase a meal plan for the duration of their first year. On-campus residents are automatically enrolled into the Block 125 with 300 Dining Dollars. Changes to the auto-enrollment can be made by calling (979) 845-3005 during the first four weeks of the academic semester.

**Corps of Cadets:**

Members of the Corps of Cadets are required to purchase a minimum meal plan according to the requirements set out by the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets. Meals required for march-in formations will be removed at the beginning of the academic semester. Cadets should consider the number of march-in meals when making a meal plan selection.

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**Riding the Aggie Spirit Bus**

Bus service provided by Transportation Services at Texas A&M offers on-campus and off-campus bus service to students and guests on campus and in the community. On-campus service shuttle transports riders between various academic buildings and areas of campus.

Off-campus service shuttles students, faculty, and staff from campus to various locations off-campus such as residential and shopping areas.

Night & Weekend Service is provided during the fall and spring semester.

Exact times and detailed information on bus routes can be found on the Transportation Services website. Real-time bus tracking and complete maps are available in the TAMU mobile app and at transport.tamu.edu/busroutes.

Read more at transport.tamu.edu.
### Living Essentials

#### Bedding

**On-Campus:** A&M mattresses slightly longer than a traditional twin and shorter than a twin XL. Your student's personal preference can guide bedding size choice.

**Off-Campus:** Most apartment complexes use a full or queen mattress. Make sure to check before making a purchase.

#### Alarm Clock

No matter if your student lives on or off campus, an alarm clock is an essential to pack so they can wake up for morning classes.

#### Mini Fridge & Microwave

**On-Campus:** Make sure to check and see if these items are allowed inside residence.

**Off-Campus:** Most apartments in the College Station area are equipped with a fridge and microwave, but some may require tenants to supply their own.

#### Printer

**On-Campus:** Students have the ability to print on campus, so those who live on campus likely won't need to bring a printer.

**Off-Campus:** To avoid last-minute trips to campus, students living off campus should consider bringing a printer.

#### Dishes

**On-Campus:** Because your student will be living in a residence hall, few dishes and utensils are needed.

**Off-Campus:** Living off-campus, students might find they need more dishes and utensils for themselves and their roommates.

#### Power Strip

For safety reasons, it is smart to have one or more power strips on hand no matter where your student is living.

#### Towels

#### Toiletries

#### School Supplies

#### Water Bottle

#### Water Filter

#### Flashlight

#### Broom/Vacuum

#### Chargers/Batteries

#### Desk & Room Lamp

#### Shower Caddy

#### Room/Apartment Decorations

#### Trashcans

#### Personal Tech (ie. TV, laptop, DVD player & associated cords)
Aggie Traditions

Aggie Ring

The Aggie Ring is rich in symbolism and tradition and is perhaps the most recognizable and enduring symbol of the Aggie Network. The Association of Former Students has the distinct privilege of protecting the spirit and integrity of the Aggie Ring. The highly cherished Aggie Ring can only be obtained through The Association of Former Students. Students must meet eligibility requirements before they can order their Aggie Ring. Please visit AggieNetwork.com/Ring to learn more about the Aggie Ring requirements.

Bonfire

For nearly a century, Bonfire was lit just prior to the annual football game with the University of Texas (referred to as “t.u.” by Aggies), representing the burning desire Aggies have to “beat the hell out of t.u.” Aggie Bonfire has been a testament to what Aggie leadership, teamwork, and motivation can accomplish. Since the tragic fall of the stack on November 18, 1999, the Aggie Bonfire is now remembered in a memorial on campus dedicated to those who were lost and injured that day and throughout Bonfire’s history.

Reveille

Reveille, the first lady of Aggieland, is the official mascot of Texas A&M University. As an honorary Cadet General, she wears 5 diamonds, making her the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets. During the 1931 football season, she was named the official mascot when she led the band onto the field during their half-time performance.

Muster

Muster began in June of 1883 as members of the Ex-Cadets Association came together to “live over again our college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon drill ground and classroom” and to “let every alumni answer a roll call.” Since then, April 21st has become the official day of Aggie Muster. Today, Aggie Muster is celebrated in more than 400 locations worldwide. Each year Muster is dedicated to the 50-year reunion class. The day closes with the roll call for the absent ceremony, when over 13,000 people come together to honor and remember those who are no longer with us. As each name is called, a candle is lit and a friend or family member answers “here” to remind us all that each Aggie, though no longer present in body, will always remain with us in spirit.

Gig ’Em

Pinky Downs, class of 1906, is credited with the “Gig ‘Em” hand sign. At the 1930 Yell Practice before the TCU football game, Downs shouted out, “Gig ‘Em, Pinky!” while making a fist with his thumb extended. Answering his own question, he replied, “Gig ‘Em, “What are we going to do to those Horned Frogs?” The gesture became known as the first hand sign of the Southwest Conference. Now Aggies use this sign to encourage and motivate each other.

Howdy

In true Aggie Spirit, “Howdy” is the official greeting of Texas A&M. The university is known for its welcoming attitude and for making sure no one who visits the campus feels like a stranger.

Corps of Cadets

The Texas &M University Corps of Cadets, known as “The Keepers of the Spirit,” has been preserving Aggie traditions and producing leaders of character for over 140 years. The over 2,450 member Corps provides a balanced, structured military lifestyle focused on academic excellence and offers a wide range of extracurricular activities. The Corps provides opportunities to master leadership and management skills that prepare cadets to become leaders in the military, private, and public sectors.

Yell Leaders

Over the years, the Yell Leaders have evolved into a team of five upperclassmen (three seniors and two juniors). Student body elections to choose the Yell Leaders are held annually. The Yell Leaders attend all home and away football games, all home basketball, volleyball, and soccer games, and most postseason games. They can always be found on the sidelines of the playing field in front of the student section.

Silver Taps

By far, one of Texas A&M’s most honored traditions is Silver Taps. Silver Taps is held for any graduate or undergraduate student who passes away while enrolled at A&M. This final tribute is held in Academic Plaza the first Tuesday of the month following the student’s passing. At 10:30 p.m. the Ross Volunteer Firing Squad marches into the plaza and fires a 21 gun salute. Buglers then play a special rendition of Taps, called Silver Taps, three times from the dome of the Academic Building: once to the north, south, and west. It is not played to the east because it is said that the sun will never rise on that Aggie’s life again. After the buglers play, those in attendance leave from Academic Plaza in complete silence.

Yell Practice

Where other schools have cheers, Aggies proudly (and loudly) show enthusiasm through their many yells. They shout these yells at Yell Practice to build motivation and spirit for an upcoming event, whether it is a football game or another competition. For home football games, Yell Practice occurs at midnight, Friday night before the game at Kyle Field. For an away game, a Yell Practice is held on Thursday evening at the Corps Quad arches and Friday at midnight in the town of the opponent. The purpose of Midnight Yell is to pump up the 12th Man for the next day’s big game!

The 12th Man

The tradition of the Twelfth Man was born on January 2, 1922 with E King Gill. Today, the entire student body at A&M is the “12th Man,” and they stand during the entire game to show their support. The “12th Man” is always in the stands waiting to be called upon if needed.

Please visit www.tamu.edu/traditions for more information on Aggie Traditions and their history.
New Student & Family Programs