Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors!

Here in Student Activities, we continue to adjust and adapt to the ever-changing landscape of our circumstances as our campus, community, nation, and world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. Knowing that you are working to adapt as well, we will continue to provide regular updates to assist you with student organization planning. Please check our Student Organization Resources (COVID-19) page regularly for updates.

KEY UPDATES

● Student Activities has created a special Student Organization Resources (COVID-19) webpage to support our student organization community. Please be sure to visit this page to find targeted updates, recommendations, and resources for student organizations and leaders navigating the changing landscape of organizational operations in the current context, as well as an archive of all Student Activities COVID Update emails.

● Student Activities will be offering virtual services only until further notice. Virtual services include organization consultations via phone, email, or zoom; electronic routing and signing of SOFC documents; online organizational training; and more. Please check the Student Organization Resources (COVID-19) website for more information or email soda@stuact.tamu.edu with any questions.

● Student organization travel (any activities beyond 25 miles from campus) is prohibited indefinitely, as per the Texas A&M suspension of all University Travel.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER (SOFC) UPDATES

● The SOFC is operating virtually to manage your organization’s financial needs. For any questions or concerns, please email sofc@stuact.tamu.edu and the appropriate team member will contact you.

● Virtual Office Hours will be available beginning next week.

● To see available services for the SOFC, visit the Student Organization Resources (COVID-19).

ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES UPDATE

● The Texas A&M Foundation recommends that each organization ceases or postpones any fundraising campaigns or general asks for donations until further notice. This is a time to be sensitive to what our community of supporters is living through, as the implications surrounding the economy are having a large effect on the stock market, employment, and how families are protecting themselves during this time.

● Sending updates of cancelations, postponements, and rescheduling of events and activities should become part of your process. These updates can also serve as a stewardship check-in with those who are passionate about your organization.

● For assistance, please reach out to Allie McConnell (amcconnell@stuact.tamu.edu) in Student Activities.

ORGANIZATION MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

● If you are planning an event or meeting on or off-campus, please remember to follow TAMU Guidelines related to meeting size, social distancing, remote access for participants, and travel restrictions.

● Check-in with key organizational stakeholders to address outstanding payments, orders, or refunds, including:
  o Vendors you may have purchased items from, specifically apparel and registrations
  o Reservations your organization has in place for meetings, events, and/or travel
  o Individuals who have paid your organization through dues, purchased items, etc.
  o Work with the Department of Student Activities and your advisor if you have questions or concerns

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

● Use Zoom Videoconferencing to facilitate remote organization meetings.

● Access Google Drive to provide shared access to organizations’ documents.

● MaroonLink Messaging is also available for communicating within your student organization membership.
The Department of Student Activities staff is here to support you and your organization! We will continue to provide regular updates over the next few weeks, and our staff is still working to assist student organizations as needed. Please do not hesitate to contact us by email at soda@stuact.tamu.edu to ask a question or to schedule a virtual appointment.

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