Thursday, May 21, 2020

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

Welcome to the summer, and our first monthly Student Activities update. These updates will continue to include information and guidance to help you lead your organizations moving forward. We encourage you to follow Student Activities on its social media platforms @tamustuact, and keep checking our Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website as we will continue to provide helpful content there.

KEY UPDATES

• Congratulations to all spring graduates! Whoop!
• Many of you who are receiving this update are getting a message like this for the first time, as you have recently stepped into a new leadership role within your organization. To get up-to-speed on information that has been shared in prior updates, we encourage you to review our archive of Student Activities Updates available on the Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website.
• On Monday, May 18, Governor Abbott provided updates to statewide guidance for Texas businesses and activities. An overview and links to details of that guidance can be found here.
• The following camps will not occur as originally planned: Fish Camp, originally scheduled to hold seven sessions July 25-Aug. 15 at Lakeview in Palestine, TX; T-Camp, two sessions Aug. 3-9 at Trinity Pines Conference Center in Trinity, TX; and Venture Camp: Base Camp July 13-17 in the Texas Hill Country. These student organizations are working with university administrators on future plans. Interested parties are encouraged to check the student organization websites for updated information.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER (SOFC) UPDATES

• Beginning June 2, 2020 organization mail may be picked up on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 8:00-11:00 A.M. by appointment only. Email sofc@stuact.tamu.edu to schedule a time.
• Deposits and Cash Advance Reconciliations will continue to be accepted in the Koldus Night Depository on Tuesdays from 8:00-11:00 A.M, with non-cash deposits accepted by mail at 235 John J Koldus Student Services Building, 1236 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1236.
• The SOFC will continue to operate remotely through the month of June with a gradual expansion of services. Schedule Virtual Office Hours with an SOFC Team Member to discuss the financial needs of your organization at tx.ag/SOFCVirtualOfficeHours, or contact sofc@stuact.tamu.edu for assistance with any other organization financial matters. SOFC eForms are still available at studentactivities.tamu.edu/resources/forms/.

ORGANIZATION MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

• When considering organization event planning in the weeks ahead, please refer to all Texas A&M University guidance, as well as state and federal guidelines and recommendations. Event and activity guidance continues to recommend social distancing practices, also called physical distancing. To practice social or physical distancing:
  o Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms length) from other people
  o Do not gather in groups of more than 10
  o Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings
  o Conduct meetings virtually whenever possible. If a virtual meeting is not possible, meeting settings should accommodate appropriate distance between participants.
• We strongly recommend that, if not already initiated, organizations plan for virtual and/or hybrid options for fall programs to allow for maximum flexibility and compliance with federal, state, and university guidelines.

NOTABLE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

• We understand the rapid change of information at the national and state level, please consider Texas A&M University your primary source of information as it relates to university updates, academics, and campus life.
• Summer 2020 New Student Conferences have moved to a completely virtual experience. For more information visit newaggie.tamu.edu/.
• Howdy Week: Aggieland’s Official Week of Welcome is traditionally the week before classes start in August. New Student & Family Programs (NSFP) is exploring several contingency plans for Howdy Week 2020, including delayed experience, virtual experience, hybrid experience, and fully in-person with social distancing guidelines. NSFP will release additional Howdy Week 2020 information by June 15th.
TECHNOLOGICAL UPDATES

- As of May 13, the Division of Information Technology changed the name and SSID of the campus wireless internet from tamulink-wpa to TAMU_WiFi. If on campus you will now see the option to connect to TAMU_WiFi from your wireless devices. Once selected, log in with your NetID and password as usual. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Help Desk Central at 979.845.8300 or email helpdesk@tamu.edu.
- Updated learning resources can be accessed at provost.tamu.edu/keep-learning, where you can find open campus labs, best practices, and much more.

As a reminder, you will continue to receive monthly Student Activities Updates during the summer months. Although the physical offices of the Department of Student Activities will remain closed to the public through June 30, our staff are still working to support you and your organization, so please continue to contact us at soda@stuact.tamu.edu for direct student organization assistance or info@stuact.tamu.edu for general Student Activities questions.

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