Friday, June 19, 2020

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

On this day of recognition and reflection, as our nation and our campus celebrates Juneteenth, we hope that this monthly student organization update finds you healthy and well. Following the last several weeks of increased intensity and spotlight of racial discrimination, violence, and inequalities, we also want to share a special word of support and care with all of our recognized student organizations. Balancing student leader roles with academics and life events is never easy, but it is especially challenging right now. The Department of Student Activities cares deeply about you and your members, and would like to offer our support.

If your organization is facing any specific challenges, our Student Organization Development & Administration (SODA) team is available for Zoom meetings or email consultations with you as organization leaders. This team frequently meets with student leaders on topics like organizational communication, member engagement, event planning, and conflict. We would be honored to help you process through challenges and figure out a path forward. Please email soda@stuact.tamu.edu for support. In the meantime, please know that you are in our thoughts. The diversity of and within our student organizations at Texas A&M brings great value to our campus community.

The rest of this update includes some new information and guidance to help you lead your organizations moving forward, as well as some reminders of previously shared topics. We encourage you to follow Student Activities on its social media platforms @tamustuact, and don’t forget to check out our Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website as we will continue to provide helpful content there.

KEY UPDATES
● If you are receiving a message like this for the first time after recently stepping into a new leadership role within your organization, get up-to-speed on information that has been shared in prior messages by reviewing our archive of Student Activities Updates available on the Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website. Also continue to monitor the Texas A&M University COVID-19 website for guidance and updates at www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/.
● Texas A&M University recently released plans for Fall Semester Classes and Scheduling, with courses beginning on Wednesday, August 19. Note that some graduate, professional, and clinical programs may have different start dates.
● Effective Monday, June 15, 2020, all individuals (faculty, staff, students and visitors) on Texas A&M University campuses must wear face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.). To learn more about the university face-covering policy, visit https://bit.ly/3ejrtHK.
● Texas A&M has also released updates on a phased approach for the return of visitors to campus and business travel. To learn more click here. As a reminder, in all circumstances federal, state, and university guidance for physical distancing and personal hygiene must be followed.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER (SOFC) UPDATES
● The SOFC continues to operate remotely, with some in-person service options.
● Deposits and Cash Advance Reconciliations are being accepted in the Koldus Night Depository on Tuesdays from 8:00-11:00 A.M. Non-cash deposits will continue to be accepted by mail.
● 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.
● SOFC eForms can be found at studentactivities.tamu.edu/resources/forms/.
● Schedule Virtual Office Hours with an SOFC Team Member to discuss your organization financial needs at tx.ag/SOFCVirtualOfficeHours, or contact sofc@stuact.tamu.edu for assistance.
ORGANIZATION MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

● The Student Organization Development & Administration (SODA) team is working remotely to support student organizations. Set up a Zoom meeting with a SODA staff member by visiting the SODA tab on the Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website, or email soda@stuact.tamu.edu for assistance.
● It is strongly recommended that student organizations continue to utilize virtual meeting and program options wherever possible. If not already initiated, organizations should also plan for virtual and/or hybrid options for fall programs to allow for maximum flexibility and compliance with federal, state, and university guidelines.
● Chancellor Sharp recently released TAMU System guidance for campus re-openings and activities. This guidance states that student organization activities that occur face-to-face will be expected to observe both limitations on the size of gatherings and precautions recommended by local health authorities at the time to limit the spread of, and exposure to, COVID-19 (e.g. physical distancing, face coverings).
● In light of current policies regarding physical distancing and gathering guidelines, the Department of Student Activities will not allow student organizations to reserve our rooms in the Koldus Building before August 19. Beginning with the start of the fall semester, our spaces will be available only at 50% capacity, in order to continue to observe physical distancing. Access to Zoom conferencing is available in our spaces and should be requested in advance. To make a reservation for the fall semester only, please contact Susan Mičulká at smiculk@stuact.tamu.edu after July 1. Reservations for spring will open as usual through EMS in October.
● Please update your student organization information on MaroonLink by logging into maroonlink.tamu.edu.

NOTABLE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

● Howdy Week: Aggieland’s Official Week of Welcome will be held August 10-18, 2020. For more information on Howdy Week, visit howdyweek.tamu.edu.
● The following camps will occur in Aggieland: Fish Camp will host seven sessions July 19-August 2 on campus. Aggie Transition Camps (T-Camp) will have three sessions starting July 22-30 with virtual programming on July 24, 27, and 30 in Aggieland. Registration for Fish Camp and T-Camp is now open. Venture Camp is currently altering its program to include virtual and in-person interactions for participants during the summer and fall semester, culminating in a trip at the end of the fall. Venture Camp plans to open registration on July 6.
● The Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC) has announced its Fall 2020 Primary Recruitment with registration now underway until Friday, July 31, 2020. To learn more about CPC recruitment, please visit cpc.tamu.edu.
● The Interfraternity Council (IFC) has announced its Fall 2020 recruitment plan. Recruitment is now open, and students may register for a Campus Director account at tamuifc.mycampusdirector2.com.

TECHNOLOGICAL UPDATES

● As a reminder, the Division of Information Technology changed the name and SSID of Texas A&M’s wireless internet from tamulink-wpa to TAMU_WiFi. Upon returning to campus, students will now see the option to connect to TAMU_WiFi from 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.

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 July 6th, 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.