Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! As the spring 2021 semester begins, the Department of Student Activities has updated guidance to share regarding organization events. We recognize that many have a desire to resume "normal" activities, but due to the high volume of COVID-19 cases in Brazos County, we highly discourage any in-person gatherings at this time. Any/all events that do occur must adhere to crowd limit guidance. Additionally, all student leaders are expected to work with their respective members to ensure compliance with current COVID-19 guidance. If your organization has hosted or intends to host in-person events that fall outside of these guidelines, please adjust your plans accordingly to ensure compliance and to protect the health and safety of all involved. Please see the sections below for more information.

SPRING 2021 ON-CAMPUS ORGANIZATION EVENT GUIDANCE
University policy limiting on-campus event size is still in effect through spring 2021. If your organization is planning to host any on-campus events with greater than ten attendees, you must submit a request via the MaroonLink event form at least two (2) weeks in advance. Final approval by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is required prior to the event. Please note that event forms submitted less than 2 weeks in advance will not be reviewed. Between now and February 2, events with an overnight component with shared lodging will not be approved, as data continues to show that activities like this, as well as shared meals together, are high exposure and high transmission events. For more information, visit the Student Activities COVID Guidance website.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION TRAVEL GUIDANCE
University policy limiting organization travel (domestic travel greater than 25 miles) is still in effect. International travel by recognized student organizations remains suspended. If your organization wishes to travel domestically during the spring semester, be sure to submit a MaroonLink event form at least two (2) weeks in advance of travel. Final approval by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is required prior to travel. For more information, visit the Student Activities COVID Guidance website. PLEASE NOTE: All faculty, staff and students returning from travel outside of the Brazos Valley should self-isolate for 72 hours to the greatest extent possible upon return, always wearing a mask, keeping six feet from others, and washing hands frequently.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST WITH COVID-19 TESTING
After each holiday and break we have experienced a subsequent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases both locally and nationally. Therefore, prior to the start of spring semester classes, Texas A&M University will require all employees and on-campus students to test for COVID-19. Individuals who know their own infection status can take important steps to prevent passing COVID-19 to others, reducing disruption to campus and potential spread within the community. To assist with this effort,
student organizations are invited to assist at testing sites, **January 14-22**. Volunteers will help with tasks including registration, directing traffic, and giving out instructions to participants. If interested in assisting with Phase 2 of this important testing initiative, please sign up [online](#). Please contact the COVID-19 Response team at [covidtest@tamu.edu](mailto:covidtest@tamu.edu) with additional questions.

**NOTABLE LIBRARY REMINDERS**

The University Libraries remains a resource to all students and looks forward to serving everyone with their e-resources and building spaces, including the Zoom Zone floor in Evans. Please visit the Library’s [microsite](#) to stay current on all services, hours, building access and occupancy. **Please note that the Libraries take the safety of their visitors and staff very seriously.** University Rules will be strictly enforced, including the proper wearing of a face covering (over mouth and nose) and social distancing at all times, even in spaces that may be empty at the time of occupancy. Library staff will monitor its spaces regularly for the safety of everyone and will require those who do not comply to leave the building. At its discretion and particularly for repeat offenders, the Library may report violators to the Student Conduct Office.

**SAVE THE DATE: 2021 ADVISOR SUMMIT**

This year, the Department of Student Activities is debuting our first-ever Advisor Summit on **Wednesday, March 31st, 2021 from 8 AM-10 AM** to deliver necessary training and live interaction for our student organization advisor community. Attendance at this summit will count towards the annual state-mandated "Essentials" training requirement. More information will be sent out soon!

Please remember that it is the responsibility of all Aggies to ensure the safety of our community, and it is imperative that we work together to preserve the Aggie experience. We thank you for your continued efforts toward limiting the impacts of COVID-19 and welcome your continued collaboration in the weeks and months to come. We are here to support you and your organization if you need any assistance.

Please continue to visit the [Student Activities website](#) for student organization specific updates. For any additional questions regarding organizational travel and events, you are welcome to email the Student Organization Development and Administration team at [soda@stuact.tamu.edu](mailto:soda@stuact.tamu.edu).

We hope you had a wonderful winter break and are excited to welcome you back for Spring 2021! Thanks and Gig 'Em!