March 12, 2021

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

The spring semester is passing along quickly, and we know that many organizations are wanting to move forward with annual events. We hope that this email provides you with updates to assist in your planning of events and gatherings. Given Texas A&M’s recent commitment to the existing COVID-19 guidelines that have been outlined for our campus, all student leaders are expected to work with their respective members to ensure compliance with this 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.

As announced on March 5, 2021, on-campus COVID-19 guidance for the remainder of the semester will not change. There are, however, some updates regarding our student organization event guidelines, so please see a summary of those below or visit the Student Activities COVID Guidance website for more info.

**STUDENT ORGANIZATION GUIDANCE ON GATHERINGS - UPDATED**

If your organization is planning to host an on- or off-campus gathering, please ensure that a request via the MaroonLink event form is submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance for review and approval by the Department of Student Activities. Beginning Monday, March 15, any on- or off-campus gathering with 100 or more attendees must also receive final approval by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs prior to the gathering. Please note that event forms submitted less than 2 weeks in advance will not be reviewed.

**OFF-CAMPUS ORGANIZATION GUIDANCE ON GATHERINGS - UPDATED**

As of March 10, 2021, student organizations will no longer need to get mayoral or county approval for outdoor off-campus events. This policy has been rescinded with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-34. However, some protocols will remain in place for large events in terms of seating in pods, number in attendance, and limiting large food and drink areas. Additionally, some organizations may need a special event permit, depending on the type of event and its location, and this will be determined through the city’s or county’s special event process.

**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, 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. 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.

SPRING BREAK REMINDERS
Spring Break is next Friday, March 19. Please be mindful if you plan to travel and reference the Texas A&M travel guidance page. Student travel as part of a student organization must be routed and approved through Student Affairs via the MaroonLink Event Form at least 2 weeks prior to travel.

Finally, the CDC continues to provide tips on how to protect yourself, as well as other useful information about the virus. Be aware that COVID-19 and newer, more transmissible variants are present and prevalent throughout the country, including our community. Please continue to help us stop the further spread of the virus and protect your friends and loved ones.

THE INAUGURAL ADVISOR SUMMIT
All student organization advisors are invited to participate in the first-ever Advisor Summit on Wednesday, March 31st, from 8:30-10am. This virtual gathering will focus on advisor training, education, and networking. Attendance will count for credit toward annual training requirements, specifically the Advisor Essentials I module and an Elective Training module. Great prizes will also be awarded to members of Texas A&M’s incredible advisor community. Save the date and we hope to see you there! Feel free to email shelbyhearn@tamu.edu with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for being a part of our active student organization community. We appreciate 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.

Thanks and Gig ‘Em!

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