

## 08.02.99.R1 Expressive Activity on Campus



Revised April 13, 2026  
Next Scheduled Review: April 13, 2031

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### Rule Summary

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The Texas A&M University System (System) Policy *08.02, Expressive Activity on Campus*, requires adoption of a member rule. This rule identifies common outdoor areas that are not considered public forums, designates other public forums on East Texas A&M University (University) campus, including reservable designated public forums, provides reservation requirements and procedures, and provides a grievance process for addressing complaints for violations of an individual's expressive activity rights.

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### Procedures and Responsibilities

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#### 1 EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY

The rights and responsibilities related to expressive activities on campus are set forth in System Regulation *08.02.01*. Nothing in this rule will be construed to amend or alter the rights and responsibilities outlined in that regulation. Students, staff, faculty, and community members are encouraged to review the regulation to understand their rights and responsibilities while on campus.

#### 2 DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC FORUMS

2.1 As outlined in System Regulation *08.02.01*, all common outdoor areas are deemed traditional public forums unless otherwise designated by this rule.

#### 3 RESERVABLE DESIGNATED PUBLIC FORUMS

3.1 The following public forums may be reserved with advance notice and subject to availability:

- 3.1.1 Lakeside Pavilion
- 3.1.2 Amphitheater
- 3.1.3 Dr. Jones Garden
- 3.1.4 Mayo Grave Site

#### 4 ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to ensure safety and promote an environment conducive to study, reservations for expressive activities are required for events or activities near intersections and/or academic buildings when classes, study activities, and/or research are taking place.

## 5 RESERVATION PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Any person may to engage in expressive activities in the areas identified in Section 3 in accordance with the Scheduling Office [requirements](#).
- 5.2 The University reserves the right to locate or relocate any assembly to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the regular operation of the University or interfere with the rights of others.
- 5.3 The decision to confirm a request for space will be based on proper and timely completion of the Reservation Request form, compliance with applicable requirements, and availability of space.
- 5.4 The decision to confirm will be based on the foregoing criteria, and in no circumstance will any decision be based on the content or viewpoint of the expressive activity or upon the expected reaction of others. If a request is denied, the rationale for the decision will be provided in writing. The denial of a reservation request can be appealed to the Vice President of the requested facilities.

At the time of the request, the following information will be required:

- Name information of the person or organization sponsoring the event. Contact information for one individual who will be present throughout the event.
  - Location, date, and time requested for the event.
  - General purpose of the event.
  - List of planned activities (i.e., speech or rally, march with signs, distribution of literature, sit-in).
  - Special equipment requested.
  - Anticipated attendance.
- 5.5 For recognized student organizations, a member of the sponsoring organization must be present at the event and during the entire course of the event to retain the reservation.

## 6 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 6.1 Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule and System Regulation *08.02.01*, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a grievance.
- 6.2 Students may file a grievance with the Dean of Students. Faculty may file a grievance with the Provost's Office. Staff may file a grievance with Human Resources. Third parties may file a grievance with Human Resources.
- 6.3 Those who choose to observe and/or listen to expressive activities bear the responsibility of recognizing and honoring the right of free speech. Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the University, including classes and University business, or that invade the rights of others, will not be tolerated. A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the University's applicable rules and procedures. Any participant in a disruptive activity may

also face criminal charges. The offices listed in section 6.2 of this rule are responsible for handling the complaint in accordance with their normal procedures. Grievances may be referred to another office for review and further action when appropriate.

## 7 IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 A copy of this rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* will be provided to students during all new student orientation programs.

7.2 This rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* will be posted on the University's website.

7.3 A link to this rule will be included in the student code of conduct and faculty handbook.

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## Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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[Texas Education Code §51.9315 Protected Expression on Campus](#)

[Texas Government Code § 448.001](#)

[Executive Order GA-44 \(March 27, 2024\)](#)

System Policy [08.02, Expressive Activity on Campus](#)

System Regulation [08.02.01, Expressive Activity on Campus](#)

[University Procedure 08.02.99.R1.01 Invited Speakers](#)

Suspends University Rule *08.99.99.R1 Expressive Activity on Campus*

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## Definitions

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Definitions from System Regulation *08.02.01, Expressive Activity on Campus*, are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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## Appendix

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Security Fee Protocol

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## Contact Office

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University Ethics & Compliance Office

903.886.5996

[Compliance@etamu.edu](mailto:Compliance@etamu.edu)

## SECURITY COST PROTOCOL

The University may only require security costs (including a pre-event security deposit) to be paid by the event sponsor when a proposed event presents a specific, substantial, and objectively identifiable risk to the health and safety of the applicant, the university community, or the public. In determining whether such costs will be imposed, the Chief of Police, with input from campus stakeholders, will objectively consider, *in consultation with the event sponsor*, the following factors:

- The facility or outdoor space to be used for the event.
- The number of anticipated participants.
- Any anticipated need for campus law enforcement and/or security.
- Any necessary accommodations.
- Compliance history of the requesting party with university rules and/or risk assessment(s).
- Maximum occupancy of the location.
- Whether the event is open to the entire university community or restricted to a guest list of the event sponsor.
- The time of day during which the event will occur.
- Whether the proposed event involves an activity that poses an inherent risk of personal injury or property damage.
- Whether alcoholic beverages will be served.
- Duration of the event.
- Presence of mechanical devices or vehicles at the event.
- Whether sales or cash transactions are conducted on site.

In determining whether security costs will be imposed, and the amount of any such costs, the University may not consider the content or viewpoint of the speech expressed or intended to be expressed by the event sponsor, speakers, guests, or attendees. **Costs associated with or incurred as a result of anticipated or actual reactions to the event by non-participants must not be imposed on the event sponsor.**

The university will notify the event sponsor of any decision to impose security costs for an event in writing. The notification must clearly state and explain the reasons that such costs have been imposed.