



AGGIE PARENT GUIDEBOOK

shared by

BAYTOWN AGGIE MOMS' CLUB

BAYTOWN AGGIE MOMS' CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTACT INFO



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<http://baytownmoms.aggienetwork.com>



Baytown Aggie Moms



@baytownaggiemom

**BAYTOWN AGGIE MOMS MEET
ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
FROM 6:00-8:00 PM.
LOCATIONS WILL VARY.**

*Watch for announcements about upcoming events
on our website, Facebook group page & by email.*

HOWDY, AGGIE MOM!



You have just joined an elite group of people. You are now among the loudest and proudest Fightin' Texas Aggie parents! Welcome to the family. Enjoy the privileges that come with membership in this exclusive club. This network of parents and Aggies will see you through the next four years as your Aggie navigates their journey to a degree from the greatest university in the state and (in our opinion) the world.

The much-fabled Aggie Network supports Aggies in many ways before, during, and after their time in Aggieland. Many Aggies benefit from the vast connections that being an Aggie brings. The bottom line is....Aggies help Aggies. You only need to connect to the community and become involved.

There are many ways to tap into the resources and opportunities the university offers. Here are a few ways to connect to the Aggie Network:

- **Join your local Aggie Mothers' Club.** The Baytown Aggie Moms meet the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-8:00 pm. Meeting locations will vary, so watch our Facebook page and emails for announcements. We would LOVE to see you join us for a meeting or a social. We have a variety of activities throughout the year meant to help moms navigate the college years. Others are for having fun with fellow Aggie Moms. You will quickly learn Aggies are always willing to pitch in and share their experiences to help others.
- The **Baytown Aggie Moms' Club website** provides club information and links to campus info and resources our moms have found helpful. There is info for both College Station and Galveston campuses.
- Become very familiar with the **Texas A&M website**. It is very helpful for all things you or your Aggie may need.
- **Aggie One Stop** is a "one stop shop" for everything related to financial, billing, registration, and records.
- Follow any of the various **Facebook pages for parents and Aggies**. There are MANY to pick from. Some are very specific to a graduating class or major, while others are just for parents or Aggies in general. These groups can be VERY helpful and provide great info, news, and updates. (Our page is called BAYTOWN AGGIE MOMS. Please answer the quick questions to ensure a quick approval for the group.)



A FEW AGGIE TRADITIONS



Aggie Ring - Dating back to 1889, the Aggie Ring is one of the greatest moments in an Aggie's years at Texas A&M. Aggies are allowed to order their ring only after they successfully complete 90 hours with a minimum of 45 hours taken at Texas A&M.

Century Tree - One of the first trees planted on the TAMU campus and well over 100 years old. It is said that a couple who walks beneath the branches will have a happy marriage. Friends who walk together will have an everlasting bond.

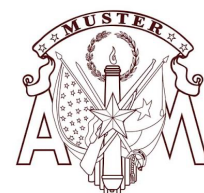
12th Man - In 1922, the Aggies were playing in the Dixie Classic and had suffered many injuries, causing the team to be shorthanded. E. King Gill, a student-athlete, came out of the stands to put on an Aggie uniform of an injured player and stood ready for the rest of the game to go in if needed. He never went in to play, but the Aggies pulled off a huge upset. Today, the Texas A&M student body stands during the entire football game as a symbol of their willingness to stand behind their team.

Midnight Yell Practice - The night before every home game, Aggies hold a Midnight Yell at Kyle Field where they practice the traditional yells, hand motions, and enjoy Aggie Spirit. Often there are more than 25,000 people in attendance.

Memorial Student Center - This building serves as the TAMU student union and is a living memorial to honor Aggies lost in battle past and present. Since the MSC is a living memorial, students and visitors entering the building are asked to remove their hats. Those walking outside the building are asked not to walk on the grass surrounding the facility as a sign of respect to fallen Aggies, which the building and grounds memorialize.

Put a Penny on Sully - The statue of Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, President of the university from 1891-1898, is located in the Academic Plaza. "Sully" was known for greeting students with the phrase "Penny for your thoughts." Today, the statue is a site where students leave a penny or other tokens in hopes of good luck on exams.

Muster - Texas A&M's most solemn and visible tradition held on April 21st each year. The on-campus ceremony held at Reed Area is the largest Muster in the world. Aggies, current and former, gather together in groups all over the world to remember and call roll for those Aggies lost during the past year. A candle is lit by a family member or friend who answers "Here" to show the Aggie is present in spirit.



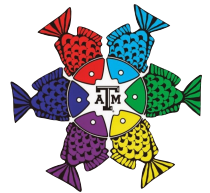
Maroon Out - In 1998, "Maroon Out" began as an effort to fill Kyle Field with maroon for the TAMU vs. Nebraska game. The Aggie response was so much that a shortage of maroon shirts was felt nation wide. The overwhelming success led "Maroon Out" to become an annual tradition at one Fighting Texas Aggie football game in October.



Silver Taps - A solemn and sacred ceremony held on the first Tuesday of the month following the death of a student. That morning, flags are flown at half-mast, and names of the fallen are on display on Academic Plaza where students can write letters to the families of fallen Aggies. At 10:15 pm, all lights on campus are extinguished, hymns are played on the bell tower, and students silently gather on the plaza. The Ross Volunteer Company delivers a three-volley salute and buglers play “Silver Taps,” a version of “Taps” special to Texas A&M. The buglers play three times: once each to the north, south, west, but never to the east, because it is said the sun will never rise on that fallen Aggie again.

Bonfire Memorial - An on-campus memorial at the site of the bonfire collapse that took the lives of 12 Aggies and injured 27 others on November 18, 1999, at 2:42 am. *The History Walk* is a symbol of 90 years of bonfire history and leads to *The Spirit Ring* built on the exact location of the fallen structure. The ring holds 12 portals oriented toward the hometown of each fallen Aggie. The portals are connected by 27 stones, making a complete circle. Each year on the anniversary, Aggies gather at the memorial at 2:42 am to remember and honor those who were lost.

Fish Camp - A four-day orientation led entirely by Aggies at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas, where freshmen are given opportunities to learn Aggie traditions, make friends, and learn what it means to be an Aggie.



AGGIE TERMINOLOGY

- **Whoop** - A term used ONLY by Aggie upperclassmen and an expression of sincere approval or excitement. Often heard after an Aggie yell.
- **Gig ‘em** - Phrase dating back to a 1930 game against TCU where P.L. “Pinkie” Downs referenced a frog hunting tool when he asked Aggies, “What are we going to do to those frogs?” and the term GIG ‘EM was born.
- **Good Bull** - A term of approval and the embracing of the Spirit or traditions of Aggieland. “That win in 7 overtimes over LSU was GOOD BULL!”



- **Howdy** - The official greeting of A&M and hallmark of the Aggie friendliness A&M has come to be known for across the world.
- **Former Student** - The preferred term for a person who is no longer a current TAMU student (not an ex-Aggie). Aggies firmly believe “Once an Aggie, always an Aggie!”
- **Two-Percenter** - One who does not participate in A&M traditions. “My roommate never stands at the football games. He is a two-percenter.”

ADVICE FROM EXPERIENCED AGGIE MOMS...

FOR PARENTS:

1. Your Aggie can help you set up your own “Howdy” login account. It will allow you access for bill paying as well as access to grades. Parents are not encouraged to use a student’s login as it can cause accessibility issues for both parents and students. (More about this was shared at NSC.)
2. Sign up for Code Maroon notices on Twitter and by text. This is the first way students and parents are notified in the case of a dangerous situation, such as hazardous weather conditions or a campus emergency.
3. Take time to talk to your Aggie regularly and ask how things are going. They may need to talk more than they let on. Don’t be afraid to ask. It is better to ask early in the semester and help guide them through a learning situation than to learn about it too late. Give them space to figure out their own way, but your support and guidance are often still needed and ok.
4. Consider looking into local doctors, dentists, and urgent care centers that are in your insurance network. Make a list for you and for your Aggie **before** they are needed. This will potentially save you a lot of stress and worry.
5. Join the Baytown Aggie Moms’ Club and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow moms (and dads). The best part of being in the organization is the support we can give each other and the friendships we gain while supporting our Aggies and Texas A&M University.

FOR AGGIES:

1. Receiving a “B” is not the end of the world. Most of you are accustomed to making A’s, and it would be awesome if it happens throughout your time at A&M, but don’t panic if it doesn’t.
2. Talk to your professors. Ask questions. Ask what resources are available to you in all of your classes. Go to office hours BEFORE you panic about your grade. Face-to-face interaction makes a big difference.
3. Get the number of at least one person in each class you have. Find some study partners. Don’t try to do it all alone. Aggies are always willing to help other Aggies.
4. Being a student is your job. Ideally, you should dedicate 40 hours per week to it. If you are in class 15 hours, make sure you spend 25 hours studying and working on your assignments. Divide the hours however you must, but get them in.
5. In the world of technology and AI, it is tempting to allow the tech to do all the work of note-taking and studying. Remember that it is vital to take the info and notes you gather and process them. Revisiting and reworking your notes is still the most reliable way to put the knowledge into your long-term memory rather than short-term memory. It also relieves stress when preparing for tests.

AGGIE IN NEED - BRAZOS VALLEY AGGIE MOMS

Aggies in Need is a unique service of the Brazos County Aggie Moms.

If your Aggie has an emergency such as a health issue or death in the family, local Brazos County Aggie Moms are available to help. The Brazos County Aggie Moms offer this service at no charge to the student or mom.

You can reach out between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM to any of the following numbers:



- Julie Diggins - 979-595-3595
- Cynthia Funderburk - 214-695-3656
- Robin Hamilton - 972-345-0536

AGGIES IN NEED



HEALTHCARE INFO TO KNOW:

A.P. BEUTEL STUDENT HEALTH CENTER: 979-458-4584 - <https://uhs.tamu.edu/index.html>

Located at 311 Houston St Bldg. 520, College Station, TX 77843 (near Military Walk off of Academic Plaza). Beutel offers different services for students. It is recommended to make an appointment in advance. Look at the website for details about services, appointments, and fees.

DOC IS HERE: 979-571-1967 - www.docishere.com

Years ago, Dr. Joel Richards served the BCS area by making house calls for Aggies who were sick and had no primary care doctor in town. Since then, he has expanded to an on-demand physician service that is 100% mobile. Check their site for details about their services.

EMERGENCY CARE:

There are a variety of clinics, ERs, and urgent cares in the BCS area. Most will provide wonderful care, but the bills can be quite shocking afterward if you aren't vigilant about coverage. We suggest you research which ones accept your insurance AHEAD of your Aggie falling sick. This applies to dentists/specialists for Aggies who need care in Aggieland rather than using their hometown doctors.

***PARENTS*:** Consider getting a HIPAA authorization and a medical power of attorney. Once your child turns 18, doctors and nurses are limited in what they can share with parents. Take steps to prepare yourself legally BEFORE you have a crisis. (See the Baytown Aggie Moms website for more links.)

- TAMU Legal Services - <https://studentlife.tamu.edu/support/>
- Mama Bear Legal Forms - <https://www.mamabearlegalforms.com/>

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

- Keep a digital copy of an insurance card on your phone. A picture saved in your favorites or an "emergency info" album in your camera roll might make it easier when checking in to the ER.
- Have the names and dosages of meds you take saved in your phone. Take a picture of bottles.
- Make sure your roommates/friends know your parents' contact info, so they can reach out to them if you can't. Tip: Sharing locations with a trusted roomie can be helpful.

STUDENT SERVICES:

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

When you need help, go to your professor's office hours. You should do this early in the semester anyway. Build a relationship with them and show them you are willing to go the extra mile. Every school provides some kind of resources for students who need help with academics. You will be paying good prices for tuition and fees that provide the services the school offers, so take advantage of what they have.

Sometimes Aggies need a little help getting through some of the challenging coursework at TAMU. The university offers assistance through the ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER. This is a service provided by the university, so all students should take advantage of the variety of assistance it offers. ASC provides Supplemental Instruction, Academic Coaching, Tutoring Hub, and more. These are all accessible through the website and on campus. For more information, go to <https://asc.tamu.edu/>.

There are local paid tutoring services in town such as TutorJohn, 4.0-and-Go, Aggieland Tutoring. These services vary in price and availability. Do your research on these services before spending time or money on them. Make sure they will offer the course you need and at a time you can attend.

Texas A&M University has the University Writing Center: <https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/>, where students can get assistance with a variety of writing tasks.



STUDYING:

Your room can be a good place to study, but it isn't the only place to go. The library, MSC, classroom buildings, and coffee houses all offer free wifi or other perks for students.

Make sure you have the right materials. Some majors require specific technology specs. BEFORE you buy a laptop, make sure you get the right kind with the right software. You can also check out or borrow items from the campus libraries.

SOME TAMU SERVICES TO EXPLORE:

- University Health Services: <https://uhs.tamu.edu/index.html>
- Career Center: <https://careercenter.tamu.edu/>
- Student Assistance Services: <https://studentlife.tamu.edu/sas/>
- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentlife.tamu.edu/> (Explore this site!)
- Campus Safety: <https://www.tamu.edu/campus-community/campus-safety.html>
- Parking & Transportation: <https://www.tamu.edu/campus-community/parking-transportation.html>
- Disabilities Resources: <https://disability.tamu.edu/>

****A complete list of TAMU Student Services can be found at <https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/services/>**

THINGS TO DO IN AGGIELAND

OFF CAMPUS:

- The Warehouse & Maroon U - t-shirts and TAMU gear
- Aggieland Outfitters - TAMU gear and gifts
- The Dixie Chicken - bar and restaurant ay Northgate
- Downtown Bryan
- Messina Hof Winery
- Museum of the American GI
- Santa's Wonderland (late fall and winter season)

ON CAMPUS:

- The Association of Former Students
- George H. W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum
- Howdy Garden
- Bonfire Memorial
- Cushing Library
- Sanders Corps of Cadets Center



MEMORABLE EVENTS TO ATTEND:

- Any Aggie sporting event
- Midnight Yell Practice - midnight before every football game
- '99 Bonfire Remembrance - November 18th at 2:42 am
- *The BIG Event* - community-wide service day held each spring
- Muster - April 21st at Reed Arena
- Silver Taps - first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 pm at Academic Plaza
- Pull Out Day (end of soph year) - Aggies becoming upperclassmen who can WHOOP!
- Elephant Walk (end of senior year) - Seniors walk the campus for one last time together.
- Ring Day - 4 times per year

Links for Activities:

- Visit College Station - <https://visit.cstx.gov/food-drink/>
- KBTX News Station - <https://www.kbtx.com/>
- Things to Do - <https://www.thegeorgetexas.com/things-to-do-in-college-station.htm>
- Family Fun - <https://www.texasamhotelcc.com/experience/family-fun-1/>
- Destination Bryan - <https://www.destinationbryan.com/things-to-do/family/>

****The TAMU website is VERY informative and provides access to all the services, programs, departments, and activities Texas A&M University has to offer.****

<https://www.tamu.edu/>