Welcome to Aggieland

Traditions Council --
New Graduate Student Orientation
Texas A&M University

- The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas – October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1876.
- Texas’ \textit{first} public institute of higher learning.
- Became Texas A&M University -- August 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 1963.

- 1963 – President James Earl Rudder allowed women to attend under his discretion.
  - Eight years later, women were admitted equally.
- 1965 – Corps of Cadets became voluntary.

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Howdy!

• Official greeting of A&M – makes us the friendliest campus!
• Origins of Howdy are unknown

Gig ‘Em!

• Midnight Yell before TCU game, 1930.
• P.L. “Pinkie” Downs ’06
  • “What are we going to do to those horned frogs? Gig ‘em, Aggies!”
• Now, used to motivate and encourage one another, and to show our school spirit!
Midnight Yell Practice

• Friday night before every home football game in Kyle Field. For away games, Midnight Yell is held near the location of the game.
• Practice yells, the War Hymn, and the Spirit of Aggieland.
• Tell two fables about how we are going to beat the other team.
• At the end of Yell Practice, the lights are cut and you “mug down”, or kiss your date.

Yell Leaders

• 5 Yell Leaders – 2 Juniors, 3 Seniors
• Elected by the Student Body
The 12th Man

• Dixie Classic, 1922
• E. King Gill:
  • The Aggies were “completely exhausted, both physically and mentally” – Head Yell Leader Red Thompson
  • By halftime, every player but the 11 on the field were injured.
  • Coach Bible remembered E. King Gill, who was in the press box.
  • E. King Gill stood ready to play, but was never called in.
  • Aggies won 22-14!

  “I wish I could say that I went in and ran for the winning touchdown, but I did not. I simply stood by in case my team needed me”.
  – E. King Gill
Reveille

• The First Lady of Aggieland
• Mascot Corporal -- Sophomore from Company E-2
• She and her handler go everywhere together! To class, home for breaks, on dates, etc.

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Silver Taps

• One of the final tributes held for any current student who passes away.

• First Silver Taps – 1898, for Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

• Held on the first Tuesday of any month following a student’s death.
  • At 10:15PM, the student body gathers in Academic Plaza.
  • The Albritton Bell Tower chimes hymns and the families of the fallen are guided in. The Ross Volunteers perform a Three Volley Salute and buglers play a special rendition of Taps called, “Silver Taps”, three times – to the North, the South, and the West.
Muster

• April 21st – A day to celebrate what it means to be an Aggie

• April 21st, 1899 – San Jacinto Day Field Day

• Evolved to include a remembrance during the World Wars
  • WWI: Aggies met all across Europe and the U.S.
  • April 21st, 1942 – Roll Call held on Corregidor
  • April 21st, 1946 – A true Aggie Muster on Corregidor was held to honor all who were lost.

• Over 300 Musters held worldwide each year.
• 50 Year Class Reunion
• Muster Ceremony and the Roll Call for the Absent

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Texas A&M’s traditions are your traditions.
Thanks and Gig ‘Em!

For more information on Texas A&M Traditions, visit tamu.edu/traditions.

Follow Traditions Council on social media for updates on Silver Taps, Bonfire Remembrance, and more!

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