The Traditions of Texas A&M
Traditions Council

Mission: “to preserve and promote the traditions of Texas A&M through outreach and education”
What makes Texas A&M so special?
OUR TRADITIONS!
Texas A&M University

• The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas – October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1876.
• Texas’ 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!

Whoop!

• Aggie expression of approval or excitement
• Junior/Senior privilege
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
Midnight Yell Practice

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

Bonfire History

• First bonfire was made of trash – 1907
• Evolved to be held before t.u. game.
• Two years bonfire did not burn:
  • 1963, following assassination of JFK
  • November 18, 1999 when stack collapsed

Bonfire Remembrance

- Bonfire Remembrance takes place every year on November 18th at 2:42am, at the Bonfire Memorial. The ceremony and memorial honors the 12 who lost their lives in the collapse.

- Components of the Bonfire Memorial:
  - The Traditions Plaza
  - The History Walk
  - The Spirit Ring
    - 27 Stones
    - 12 Portals

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Silver Taps

- One of the final tributes held for any current student who passes away during the year.
- First Silver Taps – 1898, for AMC President Lawrence Sullivan Ross.
- Held on the first Tuesday of any month following a student’s death.
  - Flags are lowered to half-staff, names are posted at the bottom of the flagpole and on the Silver Taps memorial.
  - 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

By Melanie Sarzynski (April 21, 2007), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muster_(Texas_A&M_University)#/media/File:AggieMuster.jpg. [CC BY-SA 2.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons. “The 2007 Aggie Muster at Reed Arena: The Ross Volunteers stand at attention as candles are lit for the deceased”. 
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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