

08.02.99.D1 Expressive Activity on Campus



Approved: May 14, 2020
Revised: June 25, 2024
February 12, 2026
Next Scheduled Review: February 12, 2031

Rule Summary

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 Texas A&M University-Central Texas 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.

Definitions

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

Rule

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.
- 2.2. The following common outdoor spaces are not to be considered public forums:
 - 2.2.1. Col. Don Higginbotham ROTC Obstacle Course
 - 2.2.2. Area Immediately surrounding the fenced in area of the CORE Building

3. RESERVABLE DESIGNATED PUBLIC FORUMS

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

- 3.1.1. Beck Family Heritage Hall Amphitheater
- 3.1.2. Whitis Field

4. ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to ensure safety and to promote an environment conducive to study, advanced reservation for expressive activity is required for events or activities that are near intersections, and/or near academic buildings anytime classes, study activities, and/or research are taking place.

5. RESERVATION PROCEDURES

5.1. Individuals or groups who are either required to make advance reservation (see Section 4) or those individuals or groups who otherwise wish to make advance reservations on campus must request use of the space via email to events@tamuct.edu then complete the Events Request Form. Student Organizations must submit an Event Registration through Warrior Connect after the Event Request is approved.

5.1.1. Requests to reserve Whitis Field must go through Campus Recreation by completion of form Appendix A and returning to the Associate Director of Campus Recreation.

5.2. **The university reserves the right to locate or relocate any assembly to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the normal 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 Event 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 Chief of Staff or designee.

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 during the course of 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. THIRD PARTY EVENTS

6.1. Follow the same process for reservation in 5.1 for all reservable spaces to include Whitis Field.

6.1.1. Email events@tamuct.edu with a request and once you receive the confirmation number, use this number to complete the Event Request Form.

7. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

7.1. 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.

7.2. Grievances should be filed with Institutional Compliance at compliance@tamuct.edu.

7.3. 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 office listed in section [7.2] of this rule is responsible for the complaint according to its normal procedures. Grievances may be referred to another office for review and further action, when appropriate.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

8.1. A copy of this rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* must be provided to students during New Student Conferences and other new student orientation programs.

8.2. This rule and System Regulation *08.02.01* must be posted on the university's website.

8.3. A link to this rule must be included in student and employee handbooks, if maintained by the university.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[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*](#)

Appendix

[Event Request Form](#)

Contact Office

Institutional Compliance
254-519-5763



Whitis Recreation Field - Use Agreement

Name of TAMU-CT Organization/Group/Person (User(s)): _____

Contact Person Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Details (description of activity) (Activity): _____

_____ (Attach additional pages if needed)

Campus Rec Equipment Requested: _____

_____ (Attach additional pages if needed)

Dates & Times: _____

(Attach schedule if more than three dates)

Rules & Regulations Governing Use of Whitis Recreation Field and its Environs (Whitis)

1. All Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) User(s) will assume liability for its own members and invitees and the actions thereof. Any damage resulting to Whitis, equipment, or other TAMUCT property will be billed to the User(s). If additional costs are required to return Whitis to its original condition, an invoice for costs of same will be sent to the User(s) at the above contact information provided above.
2. User(s) are responsible for the safety and actions of their own members and invitees at all times. TAMUCT is released from any and all liability for personal injury and/or property damage as a result of the User(s)' and their invitees use of Whitis. User(s) and their invitees must not use Whitis if there appears to be an unsafe condition, and User(s) must immediately report all unsafe conditions to Campus Recreation as well as . User(s)' inability to sue Whitis for same.
3. Campus Recreation reserves the right to close Whitis, in its sole discretion, when the weather conditions or other concerns have created hazardous field conditions. Campus Recreation, at any time, in its sole discretion, may restrict or revoke User(s)' permission to use Whitis.
4. Whitis is a "Carry-in, Carry-Out" facility. All trash must be removed and properly disposed of by User(s). Glass containers are prohibited. Campus Recreation will not be responsible for any personal property left at or on the field. The User(s) is responsible for all costs associated with the removal, disposal, and storage of the abandoned personal property as well as the cost of remediating any unsafe, unsanitary, or odiferous condition of Whitis due to the User(s)' failure to remove or dispose of the personal property.
5. Any equipment provided by Campus Recreation must be returned to the front desk of the Fitness Center during normal Fitness Center hours. If the Campus Recreation equipment that is provided

