

08.02.99.S1 TEXAS A&M RELLIS Expressive Activity on Campus

Revised: February 12, 2026

Next Scheduled Review: February 12, 2031

Rule Summary

System Policy *08.02, Expressive Activity on Campus*, requires adoption of a policy for Texas A&M-RELLIS (RELLIS) as it relates to the facilities and grounds that support the Academic Alliance. This rule identifies common outdoor areas that are not considered public forums, designates public forums on RELLIS, 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 RELLIS Academic Alliance areas on the RELLIS Campus (Academic Alliance Areas) 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, System members and community members are encouraged to review the regulation to understand their rights and responsibilities while in Academic Alliance Areas.

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. Areas identified in Academic Alliance Student Code of Conduct.
 - 2.2.2. Areas within 50 ft of an occupied building.
 - 2.2.3. All other areas of the RELLIS campus located more than 150 feet from Academic Alliance buildings.

3. RESERVABLE DESIGNATED PUBLIC FORUMS

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

3.1.1. Any area not described in 2.2 of this section.

4. ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

To ensure safety and 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. Anyone wanting to reserve an outdoor forum on RELLIS must submit a Reservation Request, as outlined below, to RELLIS Administration.

5.2. RELLIS Administration reserves the right to locate or relocate any assembly to ensure the activity does not interfere with the normal operation on RELLIS 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, compliance with applicable requirements, and availability of space. For reservation request, email operations@rellis.tamus.edu.

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 Deputy Director of Texas A&M-RELLIS.

A reservation request must contain the following information required:

5.4.1 Name of person or organization sponsoring the event. Contact information for one individual who will be present during the course of the event.

5.4.2 Location, date, and time requested for the event.

5.4.3 General purpose of the event.

5.4.4 List of planned activities (i.e. speech or rally, march with signs, distribution of literature, sit-in).

5.4.5 Any special equipment being utilized in the activity.

5.4.6 Anticipated attendance.

5.4.7 For students and faculty reference [Academic Alliance website](#) for additional information.

5.5 For recognized student organizations, the university faculty sponsor must approve the reservation request and provide contact information prior to submitting the request to RELLIS Administration. A member of the leadership team for the student 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 Sponsorship Requirement: External to The Texas A&M University System (System) or third parties wishing to use campus facilities for events must generally be sponsored by a Texas A&M academic or administrative unit, a recognized student organization, or another System member entity.
- 6.2 Commercial Activity/Sales: Unaffiliated third-party vendors are not permitted to conduct sales or solicit donations on campus without an eligible sponsor and an approved contract.
- 6.3 Expressive Activity: Common outdoor areas, subject to Section 2.2, are considered traditional public forums where any person (including third parties) can engage in expressive activities subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. These activities should not materially and substantially disrupt RELLIS operations, classes, or business.
- 6.4 Insurance and Liability: Third-party groups using campus facilities are required to provide proof of liability insurance (Certificate of Insurance) naming The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and the System as additionally insured during the event.
- 6.5 Compliance with rules and procedures: Third parties must comply with all applicable federal and state laws, municipal ordinances, System rules and RELLIS rules, standards and procedures, including those related to civil rights compliance (discrimination/harassment) and acceptable use of information resources.

7. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 7.1. Any person who believes that their 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 System employee has the right to file a grievance.
- 7.2. Students may file a grievance with their affiliated institution (Regional university, Academic Alliance, Blinn and Texas A&M University). Students may refer to the [Academic Alliance website](#) for questions on procedures to file. System member employees may file a grievance with the System or System member Human Resources (HR). Third parties may file a grievance with System HR.
- 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 RELLIS, including classes, System member business, Research or that invade the rights of others will not be tolerated. Any individual (student, staff, faculty or System member employee) who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this procedure, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with their System or System member HR, or university's applicable student code of conduct. Any participant in a disruptive activity may also face criminal charges. The offices listed in section 7.2 of this rule are

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 RELLIS website.
- 8.3. A link to this rule must be included in academic and workforce development student and employee handbooks, if maintained by the System member or 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*](#)

[RELLIS Academic Alliance Safety and Rights](#)

Contact Office

RELLIS Administration (Operations)
979-341-1000