



## Reference Points 2024

### Mission

The Association of Former Students provides value to the Aggie Network through our mission:

*(Listed below are several examples of how we accomplish our mission.)*

- ***Strengthen The Association of Former Students***
  - Attract and retain a staff dedicated to a culture of service and excellence
  - Provide an inspiring and welcoming home for the Aggie Network in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center
  - Provide career resources for former students
  - Host AggieNetwork.com, a central site to locate information on Texas A&M
  - Coordinate bi-annual Leadership Council meetings for The Association's governing body
- ***Promote the Interests and Welfare of Texas A&M***
  - Raise the Annual Fund on behalf of Texas A&M University
  - Publish the *Texas Aggie* magazine
  - Distribute *AggieNews*, a monthly electronic newsletter
  - Collaborate with Texas Exes on Orange and Maroon Legislative Day
  - Host the biennial Aggies on the Hill event
  - Present annual faculty and staff awards
- ***Perpetuate the Ties of Affection and Esteem Formed During University or College Days***
  - Operate and coordinate the:
    - Aggie Ring Program
    - Traveling Aggies Program
    - Annual Class Reunions
    - Annual Sul Ross Group Reunion
  - Coordinate off-campus Musters
  - Publish Class Newsletters
  - Charter A&M Clubs across the state, nation and world
  - Charter Constituent Networks

- ***Serve the Student Body***
  - Engage with students through our Campus Programs Office
  - Provide support for student events, programs and awards
  - Host welcome events for freshmen during Howdy Week

### **Quick Facts and Figures**

- The Association of Former Students' origins trace back to **1879** with the formation of the Ex-Cadets Association.
- Total Number of Former Students – **593,324** (*as of Dec. 31, 2023*)
- Total Living Former Students – **541,243** (*as of Dec. 31, 2023*)
- Graduates from Texas A&M University in 2023 – **18,326** (*includes Texas A&M at College Station, Texas A&M at Galveston, Texas A&M at Qatar, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Texas A&M School of Law*)

### **Impact on Texas A&M University**

- Total projected financial impact on Texas A&M in 2024 – \$15.65 million

### **The Association of Former Students Budget**

- 2024 Operating Budget – \$20,287,250

### **Annual Fund**

- Annual Fund gifts in 2023 - \$11,289,939
- Annual Fund donors in 2023 – 57,981
- Average gift in 2022 – \$14.66/month or \$175.93/year

### **A&M Clubs**

- Currently, **253** active A&M Clubs have been chartered by The Association.
- There are currently four chartered Corporate A&M Clubs: Deloitte, ExxonMobil, General Motors and Salesforce A&M Clubs.
- While chartered by The Association, A&M Clubs are independent of The Association in organizational and financial structure.
- A&M Clubs promote camaraderie among Aggies in their area. Most raise scholarships for Texas A&M students from their area.

### **Chartered Constituent Networks**

A constituent network is an affiliate network of The Association, representing a group of individuals, other than Classes and A&M Clubs, which are officially recognized by The Association through a defined chartering process. The Association currently recognizes the following groups as chartered constituent networks:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Aggie Educator Network             | • The Federation of Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs |
| • Aggie Pride LGBTQ Network          | • First-Generation Former Student Network    |
| • Aggie Real Estate Network          | • Greek Former Student Network               |
| • Aggie Women Network                | • Industrial Distribution Aggies             |
| • Black Former Student Network       |  |
| • Bush School Former Student Network |  |

- Sea Aggie Former Student Network
- Texas A&M Hispanic Network
- Texas A&M Student Government Former Student Network
- Texas Aggie Bar Association

### **Former Student Demographics**

- 405,864 or 75% of all living Former Students make their home in the State of Texas.
- 36% of all living Former Students have graduated in the last 12 years.
- Top 5 Aggie-populated states outside of Texas:
  - California – 11,777
  - Colorado – 6,683
  - Florida – 6,043
  - Virginia – 4,988
  - Washington – 3,912

### **Career Resources for Former Students**

From time to time, Aggies may find themselves in career transition. The Association of Former Students partners with the Texas A&M Career Center to provide career resources for former students. These resources include on-line assessment tools to align your strengths with career options; assistance with resume writing, interview skills, and networking; and job listings. In addition, The Association partners with Marsh Affinity Group Services to make short-term medical insurance available to former students. For a complete list of these services, please visit [www.AggieNetwork.com](http://www.AggieNetwork.com) and follow the Career Resources link.

### **Aggies in the Military**

- Aggies lost in all military conflicts – **1,110** (*estimated, based on known records*)
- Medal of Honor Recipients – **8** Aggies have been recognized with our nation's highest award for valor.
  - Seven were recognized for actions during World War II:
    - Lt. Lloyd H. Hughes '43
    - Lt. Thomas W. Fowler '43
    - Sgt. George D. Keathly '37
    - Lt. Turney W. Leonard '42
    - Lt. Eli Whiteley '41
    - Sgt. William G. Harrell '43
    - Major Horace S. Carswell, Jr. '38
  - One, Spc. Clarence Sasser '73, was recognized for his actions during the Vietnam Conflict.
  - All eight of these Medal of Honor recipients are recognized in the Hall of Honor in the Memorial Student Center.

## **Texas A&M University Facts**

- First public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas
  - Opened October 2, 1876
  - Dedicated October 4, 1876
- President – Gen. (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III
- Enrollment
  - Fall 2023, all campuses – **77,491** (includes Texas A&M campus at College Station, Galveston, McAllen, Qatar, A&M School of Law, Health Science Center and Distance Education students)
  - Fall 2023, College Station campus – **70,777**
- 16 academic colleges and schools, including Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University School of Law and two branch campuses
- 416 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs offered
- More than \$1.153 billion invested in research in FY 2022, and the first university in the state to surpass the \$1 billion mark.
- Top Colleges by percent enrolled (Fall 2023):
  - Dwight Look College of Engineering – 23,595
  - College of Arts and Sciences – 19,205
  - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences – 8,339
  - Mays Business School – 6,484
  - College of Education and Human Development – 4,652
- Corps of Cadets Fall 2023 enrollment – approximately 2,300
- 22% of Texas A&M undergraduates are first generation college students.

## **The Aggie Ring**

For well over half a century, Texas A&M University has entrusted The Association of Former Students to protect and promote the cherished Aggie Ring tradition. The Association considers this a sacred responsibility and honor.

- The Aggie Ring has remained mostly unchanged since 1935. The only significant change occurred in 1963 when the lettering around the crest was changed from A&M College of Texas to Texas A&M University.
- In 2023, **15,724** Aggie Rings were delivered.
- The Association's Ring Collection contains Aggie Rings dating back to 1890.
- The first known Aggie Ring was created in 1889.
- Students in good standing, who have completed 90 cumulative undergraduate hours, including 45 resident hours, and have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPR, are eligible to order an Aggie Ring.
- Depending on their specific program, graduate students in good standing are eligible to order an Aggie Ring upon defending their thesis, upon the completion of 75% of coursework, or upon acceptance as a Ph.D. candidate.
- Specifics on the Ring Policy can be found at [tx.ag/AggieRingQualifications](https://tx.ag/AggieRingQualifications).
- Symbolism of the Aggie Ring
  - The Ring's shield symbolizes protection of the good reputation of the alma mater.
    - The 13 stripes in the shield refer to the 13 original states and signify the intense patriotism of Aggies.

- The five stars in the shield refer to phases of development of the student: mind or intellect, body, spiritual attainment, emotional poise, and integrity of character.
- The eagle represents agility and power, and the ability to reach great heights.
- The right shank of the Ring includes the Seal of the State of Texas, authorized by the Texas Constitution in 1845. The five-pointed star is encircled with a wreath of live oak leaves, symbolizing the strength to fight, and olive and laurel leaves, symbolizing achievement and the desire for peace. The leaves are joined at the bottom by an encircling ribbon to show the necessity of joining these two traits to accomplish one's ambition to serve.
- The left shank, with its ancient cannon, saber and rifle, symbolizes the fight of Texans for their land and their determination to defend their homeland. The saber itself represents valor and confidence, while the rifle and cannon symbolize preparedness and defense. The crossed flags of the United States and Texas recognize the dual allegiance to the nation and state.