Aggie Ring Day
Volunteer Training
Three times a year, The Association of Former Students helps distribute thousands of Aggie Rings at one of the most anticipated events in an Aggie’s life: **Aggie Ring Day!**
Volunteer Philosophy

You are an extension of The Association of Former Students’ staff when you are distributing Aggie Rings.

• Display a positive, customer-focused attitude and treat all individuals with courtesy and respect.

• Manage each experience with the highest level of service and enthusiasm. Seek opportunities to exceed expectations and develop lasting relationships.

• Lead with a positive example of living out the Aggie Core values.
Aggie Ring Tradition

• Every Aggie’s experience is different. Please don’t impart your personal preferences or interpretations of ways it “should be done” onto others.

• Be mindful of our diverse population and be sensitive to what may seem non-traditional to you. (Type of metal, which finger they choose to wear it on, female ordering a man’s Ring or vice versa)

• If someone asks what finger to wear their Aggie Ring on, you can respond by saying “most people will wear it on their right ring finger, but it is your Aggie Ring and be proud to wear it as you feel most comfortable.”
Volunteer Check-In

- Please arrive at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center approximately 15 minutes prior to your scheduled shift. (see slide #20 for parking information)
- Upon arrival, visit the Volunteer tent located on the veranda of the building (green box with star on the map).
- You will need the Volunteer Badge and station card to enter the building.
- Find more detailed info: tx.ag/AggieRingVolunteerMap
Donor Button?

• If you’re a current donor with The Association, don’t forget to pick up your donor button at check-in.
• Want a button? Become a donor!
  
  Visit tx.ag/give

• All funds raised towards the Annual Fund make a lasting impact on the Texas A&M community through academic scholarships, fostering student organizations, Aggie traditions, faculty development and recognition, and perpetuating the ties of affection and esteem among former students.

Did you know?

Faculty, Staff and Recent grads (less than 3 years) receive a 50% discount on Century Club Memberships!
Helpful Hints for Volunteers

- It is best to dress comfortably. The rooms tend to be warm with hundreds of people in them all day.
- Your work day attire or an Aggie shirt are all appropriate.
- If you have a nametag from your TAMU department or organization, please feel free to wear it.
- There will be bottled water available and chairs for the comfort of our volunteers. Be aware that you will be standing the majority of the time.
Guide to Presenting the Aggie Ring

- Greet each student with a big Howdy!!
- Assure the recipient that this is their day and this a special time for them, their family and any friends that have come to share this moment with them.
- You may wish to make the recipient feel more comfortable and add some humor to the ceremony by saying “we have a box with your name, and there is a Ring inside, and that is a good thing”.
- The presentation should be FUN and adding some humor helps to ease everyone’s nervousness.
At Your Station

- You will be partnered with another volunteer.
- We suggest one person locates the Ring while the other manages the paperwork.
- Feel free to work out your own system for Ring delivery! You can trade job duties occasionally, or each take breaks when needed.
Guide to Presenting the Aggie Ring

- Ask the student for **two** forms of ID:
  - Ring Receipt
  - Drivers License (only first 4 digits)
  - Student ID
- Check to ensure the information on their forms of ID matches what is on our Ring Delivery signature list.
- Student needs to sign and date next to their name on the list, verifying that they have received their Aggie Ring.
What is a Ring Ticket?

- Each student will have a **Ring Ticket** allowing them a specific time to come and pick up their Aggie Ring.
- The ticket gets them in the building.
- This document is **not** the student’s Ring Receipt, and **cannot** be used as a form of identification.
What is a Ring Receipt?
Guide to Presenting the Aggie Ring

• After finding the student’s Ring box, ask the Ring Recipient if they have someone who will be presenting their Ring to them.

• If **yes**, give the closed wooden box to that person. They will open it up and say a few words to the student while presenting the Ring.
  – Each person will do this part differently and is completely open to however the student wants to do it.
  – Depending, this might be a good time to mention the tradition of wearing the Aggie Ring (see slide #18).

• If **no**, open the box and hand it to the student, with the Ring still in the box.
  – Try to make it special by letting the student know this was hard earned and they’re part of the Aggie Family.
Guide to Presenting the Aggie Ring

• After the recipient has the Ring, have them verify correctness.
  – Class year and engraving

• At the conclusion of the presentation, give the Aggie Ring recipient the white box and brochure.
  – The brochure explains about the symbols of the Ring along with some history.
  – You can also shake the hands of the new Aggie Ring recipient and their family and friends, and thank them for allowing you to be a part of this very special time.

• As a volunteer you have the opportunity to make this presentation unique and special for the new Aggie Ring recipient, family and friends.
Ring Concerns

- If you have any problem, such as:
  - Cannot locate a Ring
  - Student does not have identification
  - Ring is incorrect or does not fit
  - Any concerns with Rings

→ Please find the Aggie Ring Office Staff member at the Information Table in your Ring Delivery Room to assist you. They will be wearing a **NEON YELLOW** Aggie Ring Day Staff shirt.
Keep ’em Moving

Each group is allotted 15 minutes to receive their Aggie Rings before the next group is called.
This means we all have to move quickly.
Volunteers taking pictures can slow down the process.
Please be aware of your line – your best judgment will keep the traffic flowing.

So… Offer to take pictures if your line is short, or if the student does not have anyone with them.

However… If your line is longer, please do not offer to take pictures, because the delay may hold up calling in the next group of students.

If your line has cleared and your neighbor’s line is long, you may help them by assisting the next student in line.

So remember: Congratulations! And keep ’em moving…
Things Student Should Hear

• “Congratulations on earning your Aggie Ring!”

• “We are proud of your accomplishment!!!”

• Explain which direction to wear the ring.
Which Direction?

- Current students wear their Ring with their class year facing them, symbolizing that their time at Texas A&M is not yet complete.
- At Ring Dance or Commencement, their Ring is turned around, with their class year facing outward, symbolizing they are to face the world.
Photo Opportunities

- Encourage families to go outside to take pictures as space and time are limited in the Ring Rooms.

- Outside, they will find the following photo locations:
  1) 2 ring crests on the grounds of the Alumni Center
  2) Bus 12
  3) Spirit of '02 Cannon (limited hours)
  4) Interlocking Ring Sculpture (a gift of the Class of '94)
  5) Hansen Memorial Fountain

PLEASE NOTE
REENTRY TO THE HAYNES RING PLAZA IS NOT PERMITTED FOR PICTURES ON RING DAY – ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO COME ON SATURDAY IF THEY MUST TAKE A PICTURE WITH RING STATUE
Parking on Ring Day

- Parking is available with any valid TAMU parking permit in Lot 100 (Reed Arena).
- Those without valid permits may park in Visitor Parking at the West Campus Garage (John Kimbrough Boulevard).
  - The Aggie Ring Shuttles will run from the West Campus Garage to the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.
  - Please give yourself plenty of time to travel to the building, expect more traffic than a normal day.
- The Cain Parking Garage is another available option.
- You may also opt to purchase a pre-paid temporary parking pass directly from Transportation Services at [http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/visitor.aspx](http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/visitor.aspx).
Weather Policy

Ring Day will continue as planned on most rainy days, however expect some delay in the event of lightning. In the event of severe weather, such as thunderstorms/lightning, heavy rain, and/or high winds, the event may be delayed for the safety of our guests. We will reopen as soon as it is safe.

If The Association has advance warning that severe weather is imminent for the Friday of Ring Delivery, a “rain plan” relocation of the event may be enacted.
Thank You!

Again, thank you for exemplifying the Aggie Tradition of Selfless Service by volunteering for Aggie Ring Day!

Click on the link to learn more about the history of the Aggie Ring.