

Tips for New Aggie Moms

Below are tips that some of the Aggie Moms have offered up as things they would have liked to have known when they were new Aggie moms. We hope this is helpful to you!

General tips

- Even if your child lives off campus, purchase the smallest dining plan so that they can eat on campus on average of once a day.
- Your student doesn't need several sets of sheets, towels, washcloths, etc. They will most likely use them, wash them, and re-use. You wouldn't want them to have a huge stack of dirty towels and sheets anyway. And, they won't have the storage space. Send a sleeping bag with them they can use when they have guests visit.
- Remind your student when it is a time change (Fall Back/Spring Forward). They will be living in a bubble and you will be surprised that they don't realize it is coming up.
- Talk to your student about setting alarms, reminders, etc on their phone. If they sit down for a few minutes to rest, they need to set an alarm to wake up for the next class or activity. They will be tired and will oversleep.
- Your student will get a parking ticket! It happens to everyone. Some of the parking rules are confusing. My son even got a ticket (\$150) for riding his bike on the wrong side of the road on campus. Bikes must follow the same rules as cars. Bikes must stop at stop signs, too. The campus police are strict.
- Always have extra calculator batteries with you!
- Add Texas A&M groups to your FB. Especially for the Corps of Cadets, it gives helpful info.
- Sign up for Code Maroon
- Rely on other empty nesters for support
- You can always watch the game at several places on and off campus. MSC has comfy couches if you get there early enough, or TVs in basement cafeteria, Rudder has big screen too. I heard it is shown some places and even the half-time show is televised if you find the right place to watch. I want to say in the one televised in Student Alumni center, but I have never found it. Otherwise, the networks do not televise the best part of the game, which is the band halftime show. Amazing to watch!
- Phone reception is bad on campus (worse in stadium), so have good meet-up plans with friends or kids instead of relying on a text/call to meet up.
- Even if you cannot attend a game, make it to a Step-Off March-in.
- Expect a melt-down around 6 weeks after school starts. That's about the time the novelty wears off and they realize they are on their own and college is hard. It may be the room-mate, a professor, missing an important event, the food, whatever..... Just listen to them, reassure them it will be ok and tell them they can handle it. Yours is not the only one to go through this.
- When they are coming home, remind them to bring their sheets and towels (especially boys). That way you have a much better chance of having them washed during the year!
- When you visit CS - be patient. Chances are, you are not the only parent in town:). There will be traffic! It seemed like it took my son a couple of years to learn the short-cuts and how to get around quicker. Mine always likes to eat at Cheddar's, Cane's, or Fuego when we visit.
- My favorite quote from Aggie Mom Camp - you know you are an Aggie Mom when your dark load is always bigger than your light load:). Hope you love Aggieland as much as my family does!!
- Book hotels early. Hotels in College Station sell out up to a year in advance of any University event – Parents Weekend, football games, graduation, ring days... If there are no hotels available, you can try the Bed & Breakfast Association of the Brazos Valley. They have an option to e-mail all members to check availability. They were very responsive when my daughter decided to plan her ring dunk on the same weekend as the sold-out LSU home football game! <http://bbabv.com/>
- Whenever you are having a meal with your student, offer to take friends or roommates.
- Looking for a restaurant for a nicer meal? Try Café Eccell near Northgate in College Station or Madden's in Bryan.
- If you are looking for tickets to a sold-out football game, try Flash Seats <http://aggies.flashseats.com/>, Stub Hub <http://www.stubhub.com/>, or there is an organization on campus that takes donations of tickets that are not going to be used (typically by season ticket users) and sells them at face value. These are first come-first serve the day of the game <http://apo.tamu.edu/ticketmart>.
- Make sure your child finds a place to study that works for him/her.
- No matter what you are going through, another Aggie Mom has been there. Use the other moms for support!

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- Hardest of all, you have to let them go.....

Corps tips

- Attend any event you can, take a camera (and Kleenex). Keep pics organized on your computer by event. You may get asked later in the year for pics to include in a slide show.
- Keep a folding chair in car just in case. The drill field has no seating.
- There may be BBQs before or after games for your fish's unit. You'll probably get last minute email to bring something. Don't go overboard, small container of cookies is fine. A BBQ can mean breakfast, too!
- There will be a trailer/kiosk of Corps stuff for sale by Sanders Center on game days.
- Arrive EARLY, Step-off March-ins start 90 minutes before kickoff. Meet at fish's dorm, watch them all run out for formation. You'll have photo ops in between them getting ready for formation and relaxing (sort of), then back into formation.
- Once cannon goes off, cameras ready and tissues. It is a sight to behold. We get pics at formation, then run (with the rest of the parents) to Quad Arches, more pics, then to each corner on the way to the game for more pics.
- Next game, go into stadium to see them march in. You won't be able to start at quad though and get into stadium in time to see them. The games are super crowded.
- Last year I bought my son a large water and gave it to him after the march-in if I hadn't entered stadium yet, or found him in stadium and gave him one then.
- They march in to the stadium, around the track, units are announced, then they leave the stadium, go back to dorm, get water and phones and head back to game. Weird but that's what they do. In case you do go to a game, you may find yourself standing the whole time.
- Football programs! Last year, last game, I FINALLY found a program. For sale, near MSC and Reveille Memorial, a one-man operation selling programs. I think they were \$5.
- I attended a game and stood with my son the whole time. It was so much fun. You see the game from a whole 'nother perspective watching with the Corps!
- After games, plan to hang around a while. They have yell practice and you'll eventually see them again. Tired and hungry, may or may not have plans that include you. You'll pick up on the body language.
- Laundry! Ha!! We found this place, Harvey Washbangers, that is a laundry/restaurant complete with TVs (if you want to see a game there.) Machines take cards you can always replenish. They can load up the washers, go across hall to restaurant and get a decent burger. There is a huge light up board of washer/dryer numbers so you can go and change out the wash loads when you light goes off. What a brilliant idea. It is not too expensive, get the STINKY laundry done in an hour, and they eat, too. They also have a dry cleaners and drop-off laundry service. Washbangers.com, 1802 Texas Avenue.
- We always take (or at least invite) the roommate out to eat with us, the "Old Lady" as the Corps has its own vocabulary.
- The year flew by, saw huge changes in our son, for the better. Attend anything you can possibly make. Be flexible, as the fish are clueless about plans until they are told, which may happen at the moment something is supposed to occur.
- Great website to order stuff: corpsofcadets.org
- One other: Holicks-one of THE boot places-we ordered in November a wallet for Christmas, with name and unit, etc. Got it in FEBRUARY. Holicks is a tiny hole in the wall, not open on weekends. There is also Victors, and they are open Saturdays. Your fish will be clueless about senior boots, but ask other parents and cadets. They all have different opinions about which ones to order. We placed our deposit at Holick's. (holicks.com) Tried to visit store on Wellborn, way too small and crowded for me.
- I saved boxes and took them to Final Review weekend, (May 3 this year unless that changes).... He didn't think he needed them, but I thought let's bring home some stuff now to lighten the move-out load. You will not believe how much MORE comes home for the summer than what they started with. Uniforms take up a lot of space.
- Add Texas A&M groups to your FB. Especially for the Corps of Cadets, it gives helpful info.