

EXPRESSION AND DEMONSTRATION POLICY

EFFECTIVE:	August 1, 2022 (revised) May 2021 (revised) September 2017 (original)
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE	Senior Vice President for Student Affairs
APPLICABILITY:	This policy applies to all students and employees of Auburn University and to campus visitors.
REVIEW BY:	August 2027

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The free exchange and expression of ideas are essential to Auburn University's mission of discovery and dissemination of knowledge through teaching and research. Accordingly, the university's spaces are dedicated primarily for use by the Auburn University community to further the institution's mission and related teaching, learning, studying, research, academic, extracurricular, student life, administrative, and other supporting activities.

Auburn University also recognizes that members of our campus community are entitled to freedom of speech and assembly as guaranteed by the First Amendment and other legal authorities. Accordingly, outdoor campus spaces may be used to engage in demonstrations and other expressive activities according to the requirements and limitations contained in this policy and other applicable policies, including those found [here: http://www.auburn.edu/policies](http://www.auburn.edu/policies)

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES

A. General Guidelines

Auburn University students, employees, and invited guests of student organizations or employees may engage in demonstrations in generally accessible outdoor areas of the university campus without prior notice or reservation subject to applicable laws and other university policies. Such demonstrations may not conflict with prior reservations, impede pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic, substantially disrupt or interfere with normal academic, administrative or student activities, or involve coercion. Events involving 100 or more people must be approved in advance as described in the [Campus Events Student Policy](#). Students, employees, and invited guests of student organizations or employees may use tabling spaces to distribute literature only after making a prior reservation in accordance with the

Campus Distribution Policy.

Demonstrations by invited guests must be supervised or managed by the sponsoring University unit, group, or individual.

Demonstrations may not occur in indoor university spaces without prior permission.

B. Formal Forum Area: Open Air Forum

To facilitate the free exchange of ideas, the university has established high visibility areas



safety of others. Accordingly, the university requires individuals or groups planning a large scale event to contact the Student Center Reservations Office in advance of the activity as well as register the event in the Campus Event Planning System

(<https://cws.auburn.edu/CEPS>). Large scale events are events that include invited speakers, use of amplified sound, marches, parades, and other events such as protests and demonstrations that are expected to attract 100 or more people. A representative of the Campus Events committee will work with the requesting person to either meet the request or find a suitable time and location.

The purpose of this policy is to promote and facilitate free expression while allowing the university to ensure such activities do not interfere with the university's mission and operations. The university may require the requesting party to provide a parade route, hire security, ensure egress to facilities, and take other steps to maintain the safety of campus. All participants must follow university policies as well as the guidelines outlined in Section II.A.

III. **DEFINITIONS**

Campus includes the core Auburn University campus generally bounded by South College Street, West Magnolia Avenue, Wire Road, and Woodfield Drive.

Coercion is an attempt to intimidate or badger a person into viewing, listening to, or accepting a copy of communication; persistently requesting or demanding the attention of a person after that person has attempted to walk away or has clearly refused to attend to the speaker's communication.

Demonstration is a form of public expression by one or more persons that includes public speechmaking or other verbal communication, protesting, marching, peaceful assembly, carrying signs, circulating petitions, or distributing literature.

Open Air Forums is a designated area on campus (two locations: at the northeast corner of the intersection of Mell Street and Roosevelt Drive and at the northeast corner of South Donahue Drive and West Thach Concourse) not confined by a roof.

Visitors are individuals who are not Auburn University employees, currently enrolled Auburn University students, or guests of Auburn University employees or recognized Auburn University student organizations

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will be subject to disciplinary action according to university policies and procedures.

VI **EXCLUSIONS**

This policy does not apply to Auburn University's official use of its spaces for university programs and activities.

