

AGGIE EAGLE PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2006

Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets & BSA's Eagle Scouts...Two Groups, Same Character

Financial Help from Texas A&M

COL Jon Hall '76, Deputy Commandant for Recruiting, congratulates Nathan Weldon of the Sam Houston Area Council, Polaris District, after receiving his Sul Ross Scholarship. These scholarships are awarded to all attendees of the Aggie Eagle Program. More on this and the rest of the spring Aggie Eagle Program on page 2.



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Scouts attend the Aggie Eagle Program. In depth coverage of the program's recognition banquet, Aggie Traditions, history and more.

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Did you know...

What is the Aggie Eagle Program?

The Aggie Eagle Program or AEP is a recruiting program that began in the fall of 2004 for the Corps of Cadets of Texas A&M University. Typically, the Corps has over 300 members who hold the BSA Eagle or the GSUSA Gold Award. The Program recognizes that the same traits that motivate a youngster to join scouts also encourages them, as collegians, to join the Corps of Cadets.



Parents and Scouts enjoy dinner with Cadets at the 2006 Spring AEP recognition banquet.

The Aggie Eagle Program highlights one very important characteristic of two fine groups and has appropriately used it as it's motto:

Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets & BSA's Eagle Scouts...Two Groups, Same Character



Senior Cadet, Mark Keim '06, explains some of the traditions of Texas A&M to AEP attendees.

Traditions - The 12th Man

During the spring Program, AEP attendees were escorted to Kyle Field. Once there, they received an explanation of the origin and tradition of the "12th Man."

During the 1922 Aggie vs. Centre College football game, E. King Gill, a 165-pound reserve sophomore fullback was in the press box serving as a spotter. As the game wore on, the Aggies were down to only one substitute. Coach Dana Bible asked Gill to suit up. Gill actually donned the injured Heinie Weir's uniform. Although Gill did not play, it was his readiness and spirit that started a long tradition that is still honored to this day. Today, Aggies attending a football game actually stand the entire game showing their readiness to enter any football game.

This is one of many traditions that make Texas A&M so unique and it is up to cadets to help keep these traditions alive and well.

Why should you attend the Aggie Eagle Program? _____

One great reason: The Sul Ross Scholarship.



LTG John Van Alstyne '66, Commandant of Cadets, congratulates Katherine Maples on receiving her Sul Ross Scholarship. The Sul Ross scholarship is the minimum Corps scholarship; Scouts will be considered for additional Corps scholarship monies during the scholarship review process.

The AEP is a relatively new program initiated as a way for Scouts in Texas and around the nation to gain a unique opportunity to experience Texas A&M from the Corps perspective.

The Program also allows Scouts to become familiar with the Aggie Corps of Cadets while in the company of their fellow Scouts. When possible, Scouts will be paired with Cadets who were also Scouts. Attendees are housed in the Corps dorms also known as the Quad.

It is an official campus visit sponsored by the Office of the Commandant of the Corps. Thus, it is an excused absence in most school districts. Official campus visits, like Aggie Eagles, are considered during the Admissions process.

Scouts will be counseled on the admission process and will receive valuable information regarding loans, scholarships, ROTC Programs and the TAMU Honors Program. Attendees will be eligible for Corps scholarships and receive a Sul Ross Scholarship at the AEP recognition banquet.

Each Eagle/Gold scout that attends an AEP receives, as a minimum, a Sul Ross Scholarship that pays a total of \$2400 (\$600 for the first 4 long semesters). These scholarships **do not** require military service. The scouts may apply for additional Corps scholarships and these scholarships may be used in conjunction with other scholarships. Out-of-state scouts who receive these scholarships qualify for in-state tuition, a \$30K savings over 4 years.

History - Lawrence Sullivan Ross, "Sully"



"Through his own personal example and prestige, Sul Ross became the father of Aggie tradition."

Upon completing his administration as governor of Texas in 1891, Ross came to A&M and served as president. Ross came to the College after a career as Indian fighter, brigadier general in the Confederate Army, planter and state senator.

The selection of Ross as president marked a great step forward for A&M. Along with his appointment, it signalled that A&M had become an important and respected institution. He had brought to the College things that no other person could possibly bring. It was said by many during his tenure that people sent their sons to Sul Ross, not to A&M. Thus, A&M entered a new age.

Although there had been rumors during this time that A&M was to close or shut down, it was through Ross's vision and leadership that A&M actually thrived. Cadets took great pride in having Ross as their president. He was their leader, their inspiration and their hero.

“High Adventure Base for College”

Cadet Kevin Munn '09, is in his second semester as a member of the Corps of Cadets. As a AEP alumni, he was asked to speak at the program's recognition banquet about his experiences so far. Here is what he had to say.

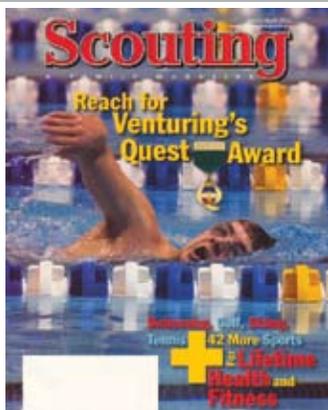
“I have been asked to speak to you about my experiences as a fish in the Corps. In the past 22 weeks that I have been a member of the Corps of Cadets, I have built friendships that will last a life time. I know that by now you have probably heard that line quoted to you a dozen times but it is really true. From where your sitting now the Corps may seem like a great mystery of khaki, shoe polish, and push ups; but the Corps is something special. As a Cadet you learn to manage your time more efficiently. You receive support not only in how to become an effective leader but also in many forms of academic guidance. You grow not only as an individual but also as part of your fish class. You and your buddies learn how to reach your limits and then excel beyond them.

In my opinion, the Corps of Cadets can be looked at as a 'High Adventure Base for College.' It provides opportunities to build teamwork and cooperation within a close knit group of friends. It instills and reinforces the values that you as Scouts have learned on your journey to becoming an Eagle or Gold Award recipient. The 'Aggie Spirit' and the family that comes with being an Aggie will be there for you whenever you need it. There might not be the snow capped Baldy Mountain of Philmont to climb near College Station but the rewards of being the 'Keepers of the Spirit,' can be even greater.

Before coming to Texas A&M, I participated in the Aggie Eagles Program in the Fall of 2004. As a second generation Aggie, I was already leaning towards A&M as my University of choice. After the program though, I had firmly made up my mind to come to Aggieland and become a member of the Corps.

As an Aggie Bandsman, I have had the honor to march on Kyle Field and support our Fightin Texas Aggie Football team. Contributing to the 'Pulse of Aggieland' with the flash and rumble of my Sousaphone has always been a dream of mine and last semester my fish class and I got to experience the magic that is Kyle Field. Traveling to away games showed me just how strong the Aggie Spirit is, watching Varsity's Horns get sawed off in 3 different States. The life of a fish is fast paced and sometimes hectic, but well worth it.

The shared values of Duty to God/ Country/ and Self are a perfect match. Please consider coming to the Corps and accepting your next great challenge. Just as it took hard work and perseverance to achieve the rank of Eagle or Gold Award, the Corps will require the same kind of effort. However, the feelings of the satisfaction and accomplishment that you gained by completing your Scouting path will also be present every time you walk anywhere on campus. From the clicks of a fish's shoes, to the unmistakable sound of a Senior's boots, the Corps is alive and well at Texas A&M.”



The Aggie Eagle Program was highlighted in the News Briefs section of the March-April 2006 issue of Scouting, A Family Magazine. As mentioned in the magazine, Eagle Scouts and Scoutmasters who want to nominate qualified Scouts can find details, requirements for attending, and an online registration form at www.aggiecorps.org.

For more information on the Aggie Eagle Program, contact **Joe Bax** at joebax@yahoo.com, or call **(936)851-2576**. You may also call Jon Hall '76, at the Texas A&M Corps Recruiting Office, **(800) TAMU-AGS**.

Attendees of the Spring Aggie Eagle Program



Sam Houston Area (Houston)



GSUSA Gold Award Recipients



Out-of-State Scouts



Circle Ten (Dallas)



Capital Area (Austin)



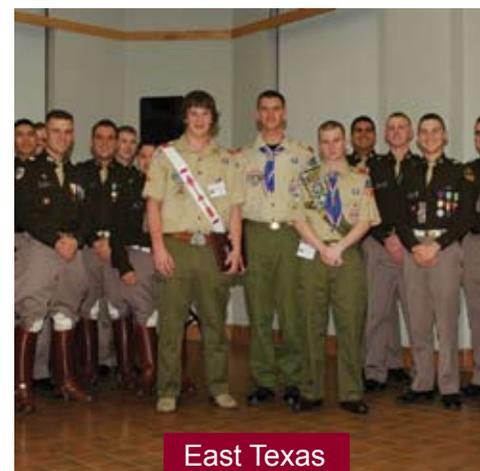
Alamo Area (San Antonio)



South Texas & Three Rivers



Texas Trails



East Texas

Attendees of the Spring AEP by council

ALAMO AREA (San Antonio)

Andrew Rodriguez - Cherokee
Jose Salinas - Eagle
Braxton Ward - Eagle
Miles Matthews - El Dorado
Matthew Meza - Four Rivers
Daniel Pliego - Sioux

BLUE RIDGE (Tennessee)

Matthew McCormick - Dan River

BUCKS COUNTY (Pennsylvania)

Justin Hunt - Lenape

CAPITAL AREA (Austin)

Isaac Ta - Comanche
Corey Clark - Green Dickson
Tom Luker - Longhorn
Justin Kirsch - Pioneer
Andrew Rodriguez - Twin Valley
Jonathan Spencer - Wolf Mountain
George Cook

CIRCLE TEN (Dallas)

James Hamaker - Bluebonnet
Thomas Griswold - Gray Owl
Christopher Elliott - Grey Owl
Matthew Blough - North
James Alewine - North Trail
Edward Haines - North Trail
David James - North Trail
Robert Provin - North Trail
Jack Theilen - North Trail
David Lipscomb - Western Star
Cory Slape -

EAST TEXAS AREA (Tyler)

Charles Kromer - Okee Tuklo
Taylor Vader - Okee Tuklo
Wesley Wills - Tall Timbers

EL CAMINO GIRL SCOUT (Del Rio)

Regan Durham -

GREAT RIVERS (Missouri)

Matthew Collins - Boonslick

LONGHORN (Ft. Worth)

Cory Land - Santa Fe
Alan Novitsky - Topsonah

PATRIOTS PATH (New Jersey)

Samuel Oswald - Watchung Mountain

PIKES PEAK (Colorado)

Jason Sewell - Jamboree

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (Colorado)

Bronson Stagner - PTD

SAM HOUSTON AREA (Houston)

James Kizer - Bayshore
Michael Urbanowich - Bayshore
Raymond Keller - Bayshore
Philip Jamison - George Strake
Jules Tallichet - Memorial
Allen Bettisworth - Mustang
Tyler Conroy - Mustang
James Darby - Mustang
Kevin Davenport - Mustang
Nathan Weldon - Polaris
David Greaney - Rising Star
Kristopher Smith - Rising Star
Marc Cutaia - Skyline
Zachary Norvick - Skyline

SAN JACINTO GIRL SCOUTS (Houston)

Amy Tow - Monarch Colony
Katherine Maples - Monarch

SOUTH TEXAS (Corpus Christi)

Victor Navarrete - Gulf Breeze
Daniel Robinette - Venado

SOUTHERN SIERRA (California)

Keith Sage - Meridian

TEXAS TRAILS (Abilene)

Michael Failor - White Buffalo

THREE RIVERS (Beaumont)

Brandon Hauver - Orange

Did you miss the Spring Aggie Eagle Program?

The next Aggie Eagle Weekend is September 29-30, 2006. As a highlight, Scouts will attend the Aggie-Texas Tech football game. Scouts may register on line at www.aggiecorps.org and click on Aggie Eagles.

Howdy,

Fifty seven scouts (3 Gold and 54 Eagles) attended the Spring AEP. I was extremely pleased with the quality of the individuals who attended. As you know, we generally have 1.5 parents per scout. We went well beyond that statistic. Moreover, these parents were absolutely outstanding.

The attending group:

Twenty six percent were top 10%ers, up from 16% in the fall.

Twenty eight percent were academic admits; up from 19% in the fall.

Nineteen percent had a SAT of 1200 or better, down from 33% in the fall.

Collectively, we had 73% fall into these three groups. The Fall had 68%. The blended SAT for the balance was 1097.

Fifty six of the 57 completed an evaluation form. So, how did we do:

One scout (2%) is a "Will Not Join," (WNJ).

28 (50%) are "Will Join," (WJ). This is up from 22 (35%) from the fall.

Eleven (20%) are "Probable Joins," (PJ). This is down from from the Fall 22 (35%).

Finally, 16 (29%) are "Interested." This is up from the Fall's 15 (24%).

If I could make an observation about the increase in the Interested Group, it is that this group contains a large number of juniors. About 20% of the attendees were juniors. It would be logical that they might be less committed than a senior.

Since all attending seniors must have a completed application on file, we ask them if TAMU was their primary choice, top 3, not in the top 3, or not being considered. Seventy two percent said that TAMU was their primary choice and 22% said that it was one of the top three. Only one, a junior said that it wasn't in the top 3. Twenty three of the 28 WJs listed TAMU as their primary choice. Nine of 11 PJs listed TAMU as their primary choice. I make this comment, because last year, every WJ or PJ that got admitted, did join the Corps.

I hope you have seen the posted schedule for the AEP. Here are some highlights. The Banquet and the Commandant's speech made points with parent and scout alike. One scout told me that when he first saw the General and those three stars he expected a deep voice. When the Commandant spoke, the scout could only say "My God!" Saturday Dr. Gates visited with the scouts. They were amazed that the President of the University would take his time to meet them. When the parents learned of the meeting, they assured me that their scout would be made fully aware of the uniqueness of the event. The Commandant paid an unscheduled visit to a parent's meeting on Saturday. He answered questions for 45 minutes. At the conclusion, I felt certain that if we did not impact the scouts, we certainly made an impact on their parents.

We have some things in the works that could help publicize the AEP. Scouting Magazine should have a short article on the AEP this month. The Association of Former Students is working on an article. There are some scouting events that we hope to attend. The AEP grows by word of mouth. One of these days it will take steps a little larger than the current ones.

Our next event is September 29-30, 2006. And yes, we have had Scouts register already. I do appreciate all your efforts. Please tell someone about us. Lets hope for a good turnout at FOW.

Gig'em!
Joe Bax

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

- *membership in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is voluntary.
- * membership in the Texas A&M Corps of cadets does not require military service.
- *as a member of the Corps you may participate in the Leadership Excellence Program, which in turn may be added to your official university transcript.
- *approximately 40% of the Corps pursue a military commission. 60% of the Corps joins for the leadership training, the academic benefits and the camaraderie.
- *Texas A&M is the only university west of the Mississippi where you can choose to be commissioned in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps.
- *the Corps has produced over 220 General Officers and one NASA Astronaut, whose launch date is this summer.
- *the Corps has approximately 1200 scholarships to offer.
- *Corps scholarships do not require military service. They may be used in conjunction with other scholarships. If awarded a Corps scholarship, an out-of-state recipient will qualify for in-state tuition, a four year savings of up to \$30,000.
- *all freshman cadets are required to study 3 hours per night Sunday through Thursday during "call to quarters."
- *the Corps provides free tutoring through the General O.R. Simpson Corps Honor Society.
- *Cadets majoring in engineering, architecture or the so-called hard sciences are assigned to "technical" outfits, further helping with academics.
- *the Aggie traditions of Bonfire, Midnight Yell, Muster, Silver Taps, Reveille, the Twelfth Man, the Aggie War Hymn, and Howdy all have their "roots" in the Corps of Cadets.
- *the beginning scene of the movie "A Few Good Men" shows a Marine Corps Drill Team in action. In truth, it is the Aggie Fish Drill team dressed in Marine Corps uniforms.
- *the Corps has over \$4,000,000 of available scholarships for its Cadets and they do not require military service.
- *Corps fish repeatedly post higher grades than civilian students.
- *Cadets have available many academic support programs, including individual tutoring.

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www.corpsofcadets.org

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