



South Georgia College Policy of Freedom of Assembly and Expression

South Georgia College recognizes and upholds First Amendment rights of Freedom of Speech and Assembly. Demonstrations and assemblies can be valid expressions for dissenting opinions provided they do not disrupt academic and administrative functions of the institution. The opinions expressed by organizations, groups or individuals using South Georgia College's facilities do not necessarily reflect the position of South Georgia College. South Georgia College affirms its commitment to freedom of speech, assembly and expression even though the language or ideas of those seeking a venue for free expression may contradict the College's ideals and policies or the personal views of SGC employees and students. The institution expects members of the faculty, staff, and student body to refrain from, and discourage, behaviors, which threaten the rights, freedoms and respect that every individual deserves.

The following administrative procedures and guidelines are intended to support the rights and freedoms of individuals and to clarify the duties and responsibilities expected of faculty, staff, students, student organizations, and visitors.

Any person or group who desires to use the campus for an assembly or expression event must submit a completed request form one week in advance of the event. The Request for Campus Event form follows this policy. The form and policy can be found on the Office of Student Life's website under forms. http://www.sgc.edu/student_life/student_activities/index.html . The forms must be authorized by the Director of Student Life, Vice-President for Student Success, and the Director of Public Safety.

Upon approval of a request, applicants must agree to the following guidelines and provisions:

1. The southwest corner of Childs Circle adjacent to Tiger Village II is the only location for people to assemble in protest or support. The area can be used on a first-come, first-served basis. In the event that the location is already reserved by one group, the second group requesting will need to reschedule the date of their event. The immediately surrounding sidewalks can be used as well unless the use obstructs the flow of foot traffic. In the event that sidewalks are obstructed, those reserving the area will be asked to move. Tables and signs can be set up in this location as well. In the event of rain during a reserved time, the Clower Center lobby area can be used, assuming it is not already reserved for another purpose.
2. Individuals or groups are limited to one (1) scheduled activity per month and no more than 2 activities per semester so that opportunities are available for others.
3. A special request must be made at least one week in advance if the use of amplified sound or yard signs (sticking into the ground) will be used. There are limitations on bringing equipment on campus and using sound amplification. There will be no use of motorized vehicles. Groups are limited to one microphone or bullhorn. South Georgia College equipment will not be available for assemblies, demonstrations and protest activities.
4. The individuals or groups reserving the space are required to remove signs, placards, litter and other materials when the event period ends.

5. The College has the right to differentiate between regularly scheduled academic or co-curricular activities and other assemblies, demonstrations or protests. The content of free speech cannot be limited in any way.
6. Compliance with the South Georgia College student conduct regulations, South Georgia College policies and procedures, University System of Georgia policies and procedures, Douglas city laws, Georgia state laws, and federal law is required.
7. The College reserves the right to refuse to permit individuals or groups to assemble, demonstrate or protest if the individuals or groups refuse to abide by these administrative procedures and guidelines.
8. The College reserves the right to alter these administrative procedures and guidelines if necessary to ensure the academic as well as personal rights of the students, faculty, and staff of South Georgia College.
9. The authorized representative and/or person in charge is required to acknowledge, in writing, compliance with these administrative procedures and guidelines; to acknowledge that the College will not be held responsible for the actions of participants in the assembly, demonstration or protest; and to agree to make restitution for any litter, personal or property damage that occurs due to the activity.
10. The South Georgia College Office of Public Safety, Office of Student Success, and Office of Student Life and other appropriate administrators will be notified upon receipt of a request for permission to use the campus for assembly or expression.

Appeals Process

All appeals must be made in writing to the Director of Student Life within one week of being denied permission to use the designated area for the purpose of assemblies, demonstrations, and protest activities.

An appeals committee consisting of three students on the Discipline Committee, the Director of Student Life and the Vice-President for Student Success will hear the appeal and render a decision within two weeks of receipt of the written request.

Should the individual or group be dissatisfied with the decision of the appeals committee, a written appeal may be made in writing to the President of the College within one week of receipt of the appeals committee decision. The President may use whatever means he/she may deem appropriate to gather information and make a decision. The decision will be rendered within two weeks. The decision of the President will be final.



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Formal Request for Campus Event:

Name of person and group requesting activity: _____

Address (including city, state, zip): _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Specific activity to be conducted: _____

Specific purpose of activity:

Preferred Date of Activity: _____ Preferred Time of Activity: _____

Equipment, literature and sound amplification to be used during activity: _____

Statement of compliance: In consideration of a request to use South Georgia College grounds and facilities as outlined in the policy and guidelines, I verify that I have read and that I understand the policy on Freedom of Assembly and Expression. I agree to abide by the conditions of the South Georgia College policy and follow the federal and state laws.

Signature _____ Today's date

Office use only

Recommended _____ Not recommended _____

Director of Student Life _____ Date _____

Recommended _____ Not recommended _____

VP for Student Success _____ Date _____

Recommended _____ Not Recommended _____

Director of Public Safety _____ Date _____