

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Playing the entertainer

Aggie party planners list 10 tips for successful fall outdoor celebrations

By Allison Brown  
THE BATTALION

Every Saturday Susan Foster and her friends gather around a kiddie pool in her front lawn. The weekly "pool" parties, which started as get-togethers before home football games last year, were such a success that the tradition carried on to this season. "We pull out our little plastic pool, get our lawn chairs out and it goes from there," said Foster, a senior industrial design and distribution major.

Foster isn't the only one with party fever when football season comes around; campus organizations also plan celebratory events for students, alumni, and families. Here, these party experts share their wisdom on how to successfully entertain a crowd during football season and throughout the year. These are the 10 "dos" of a great outdoor party.

**#1. Though it seems obvious, first compile a guest list — then, it's all about spreading the word.**

"The biggest must-have is good marketing so you get people out there," said Jason Sherrieb, a senior industrial distribution major, who is planning the Reveille Ball and Farmer's Fight Festival as the director of Fall Activities Council. If you don't let anyone know about your celebration, you may be celebrating on your own.

**#2. Once the word is out, remember to plan according to the guest list.**

"It's always good to know who you're catering to," Sherrieb said.

Keep your crowd in mind: Is it a family event, just students or somewhere in between? Kelli Hutka, director of campus activities for the Association of Former Students, is organizing the 125th anniversary pre-game event for the game against Oklahoma in November and expects between 500 and 1,000 attendees. "It depends on who you are working towards," Hutka said. "We usually have a targeted kid zone with cotton candy, face painting and games like a football toss so they can have a little bit of fun. For adults, we've found that their interest is just to sit down and talk."

**#3. Places set up for guests to sit and relax are a must.**

Hutka said she always has tables and chairs set up at the events she plans.

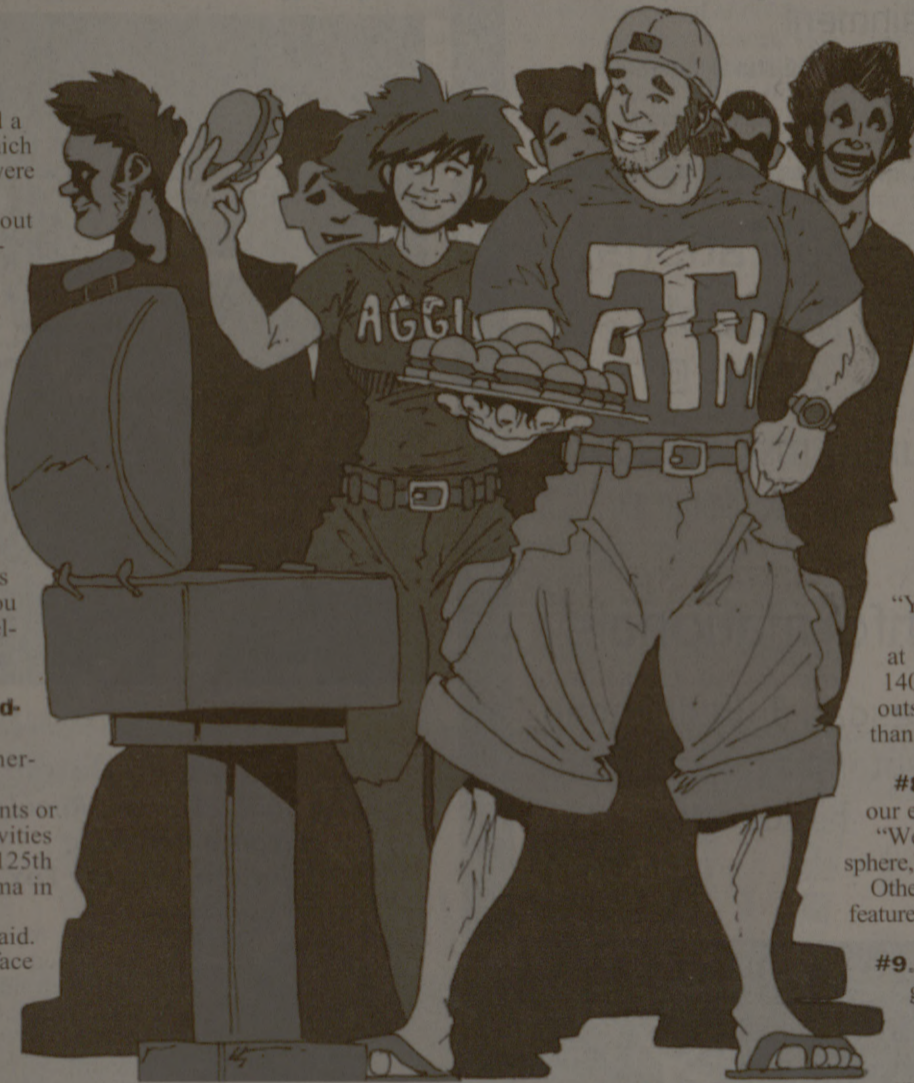
**#4. While considering the details of an event, don't shy away from a theme.**

"We always have a theme for our parties," Foster said. "It makes it more fun and gets people pumped up."

**#5. Another thing to always keep in mind is the budget.**

Sherrieb suggests starting small and letting the event grow. "You don't want to start off too big and go over budget. Your event

Hutka said the Association is planning a country fair theme for the major pre-game event in November.



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will be a bust," he said.

**#6. After the budget has been determined, it's time to shop for party supplies.**

The major supplies that should not be overlooked are food and beverages.

"Good food, good drinks and good Ags are the keys to a good tailgate," said Charles Glover, a senior sociology major and public relations officer for the Corps of Cadets.

Glover said brisket and sausage are the two main dishes for a cookout and suggests potato salad and barbecue sauce for sides. If you are on a smaller budget, hamburgers are an inexpensive option for large groups, he said.

"It's cheaper and it's darn good to eat," Glover said.

Hutka said it is better to serve concession-style foods such as hot dogs and nachos instead of a plated-style meal on a hot football game day.

**#7. Next, safe food preparation is extremely important.**

"Make sure your food is prepared really well," Hutka said. "You don't want people getting sick."

According to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov), meat and poultry should be kept at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit until it is served and when temperatures outside are above 90 degrees, foods should not be left out for more than one hour.

**#8. The next most important element is music, say our experts.**

"We usually just have background music so that it creates an atmosphere," Hutka said.

Other parties will make music more of a focus. Aggie Fan Zone will feature live Texas country bands for its entertainment.

**#9. "Make sure there is plenty of shade because it's going to be hot,"** said Steve Miller, assistant media relations director for athletics. Miller is planning Aggie Fan Zone, a party to be held before each home football game.

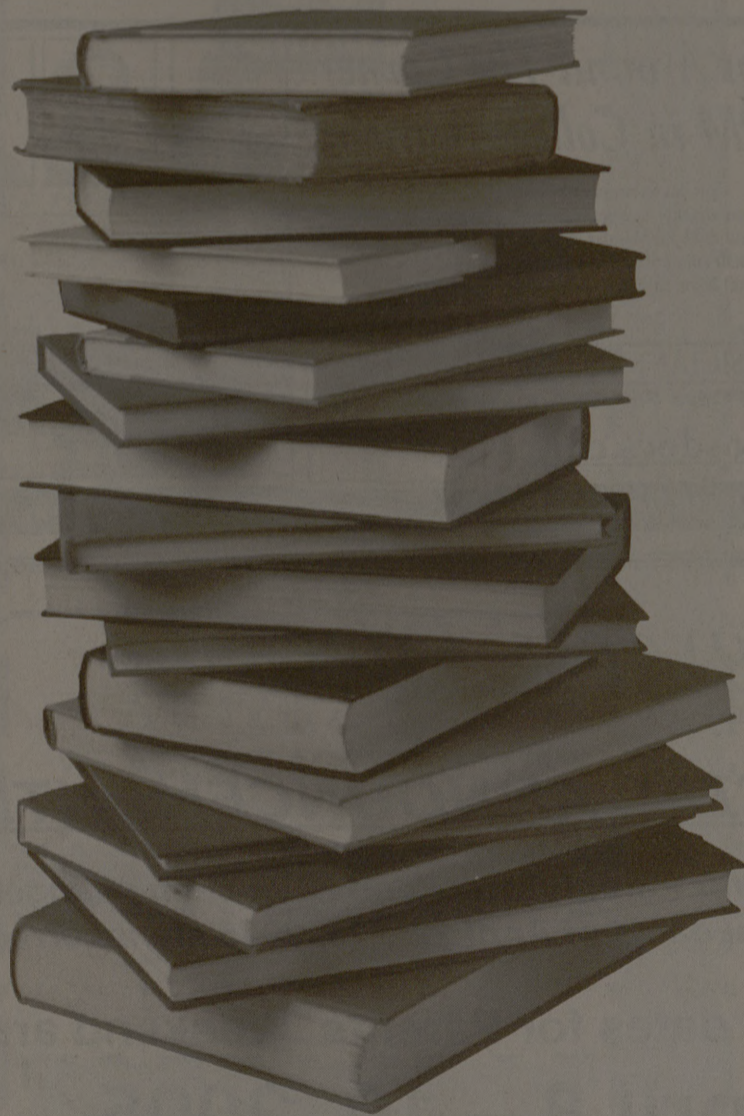
"You've got to have food, drinks and some shade," Miller said.

"If you can throw in some music and Aggie football, you will probably have the perfect tailgate."

**#10. Finally, remember that come party time, your guests come first.**

"Know how to be a really good host," Hutka said. "Just remember what your mom told you about being a good host and treating your guests right."

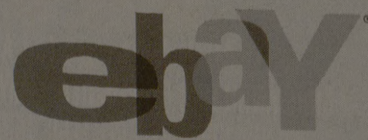
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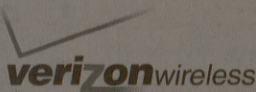
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