

Auburn University

Outdoor Amplified Sound Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Outdoor Amplified Sound Policy regulates and provides guidance for outdoor sound, including, but not limited to, the use of electrical speakers, radios, DJ equipment, bullhorns, and musical instruments. Outdoor amplified sound may only occur during the operational hours and campus locations described below in connection with activities or events on campus that are otherwise authorized.

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Organizations or individuals that would like to include sound in their outdoor event must apply for an [Outdoor Sound Permit](#) through Facilities Management and adhere to all [Insurance Requirements](#) and [Risk & Indemnification Agreement](#) associated with the use of amplified sound.

Permits are required for all outdoor sound and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one permit will be provided per space, per group, per time period. Permits must be submitted 10 business days from the date of the event. The university has outlined the following blackout dates: graduation, reading days, finals, and official university closures.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2014

IV. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors of and on Auburn University campus. Events taking place at a fraternity house must adhere the [Interfraternity Council Policy on Noise](#).

V. POLICY MANAGEMENT

Responsible Office: Division of Student Affairs & Facilities Management

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Student Affairs & Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Responsible Officer: Outdoor Sound Committee

VI. POLICY PROCEDURES

For events with outdoor sound occurring 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday, permits are provided with restrictions on the decibel level of the sound (see below). The individual listed on the permit as the contact person must be present for the duration of the event. Permits will be granted with the stipulation that sound will be monitored by the event coordinator. Any language that is obscene must be terminated by the event coordinator or the permit will be revoked immediately.

For events with outdoor sound occurring Sunday through Thursday from 5pm-10pm; Friday from 5pm-Midnight; Saturday from 8am-midnight, and Sunday from 8am-10pm there is no decibel limit to outdoor sound. However, permits are still required.

Exemptions of time, location and sound level stipulations may be submitted in writing to the Outdoor Sound Committee for approval.

All commercial bands and DJs will be expected to submit a Certificate of General Liability Insurance from their insurance provider listing Auburn University, its Board of Trustees, Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Agents as additional insured on the policy. They will also be expected to complete and sign the Auburn University Vendor/Exhibitor/Third Party Entity Agreement Form.

Decibel Sound Level Restrictions Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm:

Student Center Green Space

Location: Speakers/sound instrument must be placed on the Student Center side of the Green Space facing the Parking Deck OR on the transportation hub side facing Owen Hall.

Decibel Level: 80 decibels measured at 50 feet from the sound source. Weighting A must be used for voice. Weighting C must be used for music.

Haley Concourse

Location: Speakers/sound source must be placed on the concourse within the footprint of the Student Center, facing the Student Center.

Decibel Level: 80 decibels measured at 30 feet from the sound source. Weighting A must be used for voice. Weighting C must be used for music.

Cater Lawn

Location: Speakers/sound source must be placed on the Cater Lawn grass, in front of Foy Hall.

Decibel Level: 75 decibels measured at 35 feet from the sound source. Weighting A must be used for voice. Weighting C must be used for music.

Game Day

Location: Across Campus

Amplified sound on game days may not disrupt scheduled instructional or other academic activities. Sound levels must be kept low enough so as to not disrupt university activities or tailgating activities of others in the area. Failure to keep amplified sound at a reasonable level may result in the denial of future permits.

Other Spaces

Request for outdoor sound at other locations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Outdoor Sound Committee. Request for sound permits within the Quad Courtyard or Village Green Space will require additional approval by the Director of [University Housing & Residence Life](#).

Musical instrument or sound amplification equipment of any kind, including but not limited to, stereo, speakers, stationary or mobile public address systems, is not allowed in the [Open Air Forum](#).

VII. DEFINITIONS

Decibel Sound Level: A decibel is used to measure sound. Decibels indicate the level of noise, or sound pressure that is created.

Blackout Dates: These dates are set aside by the university as dates in which sound permits will not be provided to any party. Blackout Dates could be reserved for study days or exam periods, when external sound would distract from the academic mission of the university.

Campus: [Campus Map](#)

Outdoor Sound Committee: Representatives from offices including, but not limited to: Risk Management & Safety, Communications & Marketing, Facilities Management, Division of Student Affairs, Auburn Police Department, Auburn Athletics, University Housing & Residence Life and Auxiliary Services.

VIII. SANCTIONS

The Auburn University [Office of Communications & Marketing](#), [Division of Student Affairs](#), [Facilities Management](#), and the [Auburn Police Department](#) have the authority to revoke a permit during the event, if event coordinators do not abide by set decibel levels. Event coordinators will receive ONE warning. Alleged violations of the Outdoor Amplified Sound Policy by registered students and/or student organizations will be referred to the [Office of Student Conduct](#). Events that do not have permits for amplified sound may be shut down.

IX. INTERPRETATION

The Outdoor Sound Committee is the primary interpreter of this policy.

ADOPTED: July 2014
REVISED: June 1, 2016