McCombs Buddy Program

Spring Calendar

Welcome to the McCombs Buddy Program! Whether you are a McCombs student or an international exchange student, we are glad you are participating in the buddy program as it is a great way to learn about each other's cultures, countries, and help our international students experience a bit of what Austin has to offer!

Below are suggested activities and events at UT and in and around Austin that we encourage you to check out with your buddies. Some occur on specific dates or months while others are things you can do anytime during the spring. Some cost money and require advanced planning, others are free or cost very little money. Many can easily be reached by bus, others require a car.

Check out other events around town by picking up the weekly Austin Chronicle or visiting…

www.austinchronicle.com

www.austintexas.org

www.austin360.com

www.utexas.edu/know/events/

Note: Please keep in mind that exchange students will be busy with Orientation activities, advising and registration beginning Friday, January 6th and continuing through most of the following week. Please plan around Orientation activities and remember that exchange students will be jet-lagged, worried about getting the classes they need, settling in to their new apartment/dorm room, and starting school in a foreign environment.

January:

- International Exchange Student Orientation: Friday, January 6th, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Orientation-related activities (advising, registration): Monday, January 9 – Wednesday, January 11
- Martin Luther King Holiday: Monday, January 16th (no classes)
- Classes Begin: Tuesday, January 17th
- Buddy Program Welcome Reception: Wednesday, January 18th, 5 – 6pm, CBA 3.304

February:

- Mardi Gras
- Carnaval Brasileiro: February 4th (Palmer Events Center, doors open at 8 p.m.)

March:

- Zilker Park Kite Festival: March 4th. Thousands of kites! Bring yours. Consider wearing a helmet!
- Attend the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo March 9-24th
- Spring Break: March 12 – 17th; If leaving Austin for Spring Break, consider traveling somewhere with your buddy
- Attend South by Southwest Music, Film, and Interactive Conference/Festival, March 9-18th. Buy your pass early!
- Enjoy the many St. Patrick's Day events around town

April:

- Celebrate Eeyore's Birthday in Pease Park on Saturday, April 28th
- Austin Reggae Fest: April 15 – 17th at Auditorium Shores
- Forty Acres Fest: April 14th

May:

- Friday, May 4th – Last Class Day
- BBA Exchange Student and Buddy Program Farewell: Tuesday, May 8th, 2 – 4pm, Scholz Garten
- Final Exams: Wednesday, May 9 – 15th

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Other Things To Do Throughout the Semester:

- Go swimming at Barton Springs or Hamilton Pool or Emma Long Park
- Attend a Texas Longhorns basketball or baseball game
- Attend a taping of Austin City Limits (music performance tv show)
- Tour the historic Texas State Capitol Building
- Watch the Bats under Congress Avenue Bridge (from mid March to early November)
- Stroll along the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (Town Lake)
- See the bats and the sunset from a boat on Lady Bird Lake
- Climb Mt. Bonnell
- Play Frisbee Golf at Pease Park
- Visit shops, restaurants, food trailers on South Congress, especially on "First Thursdays"
- Visit Umlauf Sculpture Garden
- Hike the Wild Basin Preserve
- Check out RecSports: Intramural Sports, Gregory Gym Aquatic Complex, rent camping gear
- Go camping at one of the nearby county parks or Enchanted Rock.
- Rent a canoe on Lady Bird Lake (a.k.a. Town Lake)
- Enjoy Zilker Botanical Gardens
- Drive across the award-winning Pennybacker Bridge (a.k.a. 360 Bridge)
- Attend a San Antonio Spurs game!
- Experience dinner and a movie at the Alamo Draft House
- Watch an movie outdoors at the Spider House Café
- Eat typical Texas BBQ at the Salt Lick
- Enjoy a concert downtown on/near 6th street, like Stubb's or Emo's, or closer to campus, like Hole in the Wall, or on campus at the Cactus Café.
- Attend a concert right here on campus at the Butler School of Music (some concerts are free) or at the Performing Arts Center which has amazing acts from all over the world. Another resource for finding concerts, plays, art galleries, etc, is the Austin Chronicle.
- Go to a museum on the UT campus: the Blanton, the Harry Ransom Center, the LBJ Presidential Library & Museum, the Briscoe Center for American History, Texas Memorial Museum; or these near campus: the Austin Museum of Art, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the South Austin Museum of Popular Culture, or the Cathedral of Junk!
- See the moon, planets and stars from the 16-inch telescope on top of the RLM building!
- Take a tour of the UT Tower
- See an Esther's Follies performance on 6th Street, a hilarious comedy variety show
- See an improv show at The Hideout Theatre located on Congress, between 6th and 7th. Tickets are between $3 and $10 tickets depending on the show; student discounts for $10 shows.
- More events at http://austineventsandfestivals.com/