

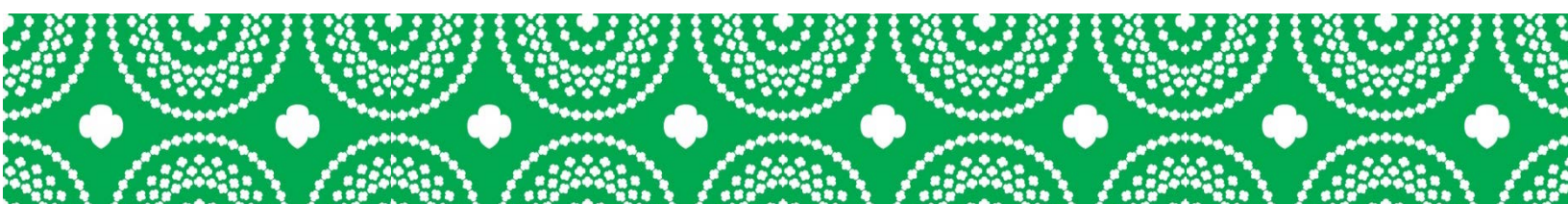
# Texas A&M University-San Antonio Embracing Patriotism



## Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
811 North Coker Loop  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
(210) 349- 2404 or 1-800-580-7247  
[www.girlscouts-swtx.org](http://www.girlscouts-swtx.org)

To learn more about Texas A&M  
University-San Antonio and their mission,  
visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/>





TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

## About

As the fastest-growing university in the distinguished Texas A&M University System, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO (A&M-SA) is on a mission to build the future. It is also the only campus in the A&M System located in a major metropolitan area, where faculty and staff equip students with the skills, knowledge and experiences to pursue rewarding careers, responsible global citizenship and lifelong learning.

With the lowest tuition rates among four-year San Antonio universities, A&M-SA offers a quality education at an affordable price. Scholarships and financial aid are designed to minimize the amount of debt students graduate with, so they can focus on building successful careers after graduation. Nearly 70 percent of our students take advantage of available financial aid programs.

Like our student population, the university's academic offerings are rapidly expanding, with more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degrees. The College of Education and Human Development partners with a number of local school districts to produce highly sought-after teachers and administrators who are ready from day one to meet the challenges of the modern classroom. The College of Business features the flexible and highly marketable MBA and MPA degrees alongside exciting undergraduate programs in international business, information technology and cyber security. The College of Arts and Sciences provides high-impact research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain practical experience in fields such as political science, criminology, medicine and sociology. A&M-SA graduates are pursuing careers in local government, law enforcement, education, business, cyber security, human service agencies and more.

A&M-SA is a Military Embracing™ university, where nearly one in six students is military connected (veteran, active-duty, military spouse or dependent). All faculty and staff are required to take military cultural competency training, so they can better support military-connected students pursuing undergraduate or graduate education.

A&M-SA is committed to serving as an economic, research and social catalyst throughout San Antonio and South Texas, embracing all students, especially those from underrepresented communities.

The university opened the new 140,000-square-foot Science and Technology Building in fall 2018.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas & Texas A&M University-  
San Antonio are proud to bring to you the...  
Texas A&M University-San Antonio's  
Embracing Patriotism Initiative



Texas A&M University-San Antonio is a contemporary university reflective of the diverse and heritage-rich community it serves. Texas A&M-San Antonio is a Military Embracing™ higher learning institution that is committed to serving those individuals and their families who serve and have served in the armed services.

Promoting their 5 core values of commitment, respect, honor, courage and excellence.

**Commitment** - An agreement or pledge to do something in the future. Making a commitment involves dedicating yourself to something, like a person or a cause. Before you make a commitment, think carefully. A commitment obligates you to do something.

**Respect** - A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

**Honor** - High respect, esteem, regard with great respect.

**Courage** - Ability to do something that frightens one. "She called on all her courage to face the ordeal" - strength in the face of pain or grief.

**Excellence** - Greatness - the very best. Achieving excellence is never easy to do. Always strive for excellence.

Girls who earn the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Embracing Patriotism patch can proudly state they have pledged to honor and dedicate themselves to their country. Patriotism or national pride is the ideology of love and devotion to a homeland, and a sense of alliance with other citizens who share the same values.



# Steps to Earn the Texas A&M University-San Antonio's Embracing Patriotism Patch

Girl Scouts is the premier girl leadership development program - girls have fun with a purpose! All activities are girl-led and girls should decide what activities to complete when earning a Business Patch Initiative (BPI) patch. In the spirit of Girl Scouting, girls may choose to participate in activities that are not listed in the booklets and/or supplements. If girls complete the minimum required number of activities based on the theme of the BPI, they have earned the BPI patch. For more information, contact Larissa Deremiah at [lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org](mailto:lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org).

## Step One:

1. Read through the Activities
2. Think about what you would like to do
3. Choose 3 out of the 4 Units
4. Complete 2 Activities from the 3 Units you chose

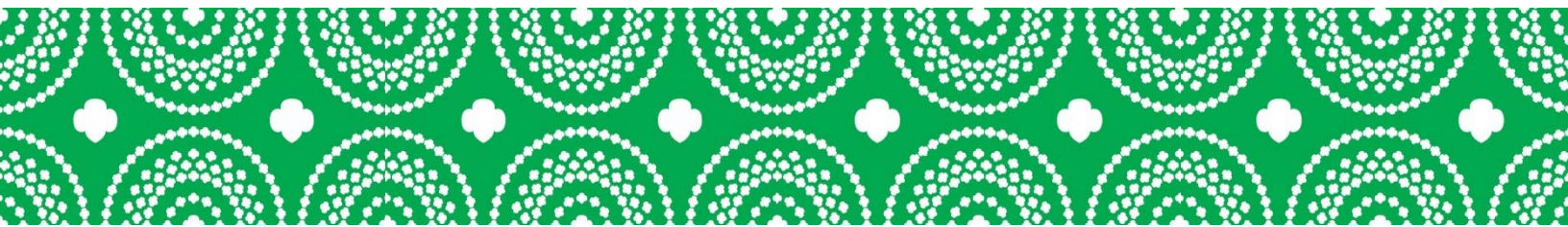
## Step Two:

1. Complete the [Business Patch Initiative \(BPI\) Evaluation](#)
2. For more information, contact:  
Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
ATTENTION: Program  
Phone: (210) 319- 5775  
Toll Free: 1-800-580-7247  
Fax: (210) 349- 2666  
[lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org](mailto:lderemiah@girlscouts-swtx.org)



## Step Three:

Receive your Texas A&M University-San Antonio Embracing Patriotism Patch!



## The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girls at every level of Girl Scouting participate in the “*leadership experience*.” A *leadership experience* is an exciting way of working with girls in a series of themed activities focused on building leadership skills. By enlisting the three keys to leadership (*Discover, Connect, and Take Action*) girls learn that they can take the lead to make a difference in their community and the world. The three keys are at the heart of the Girl Scout philosophy of leadership:

### Discover

Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

### Connect

Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.

### Take Action

Girls act to make the world a better place.

It’s not just “what” girls do, but “how.” When girls are engaged that creates a high-quality Girl Scout leadership experience. All Girl Scout experiences are built on three processes (*Girl-Led, Cooperative Learning, and Learning by Doing*) that make Girl Scouting different from school and other extra-curricular activities. When used together, these processes ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship so integral to Girl Scouting.

### Girl-Led

Girls play an active role in the planning and implementation of activities while adults provide age-appropriate facilitation, ensuring that planning, organization, set-up, and evaluation of all activities are done jointly with the girls.

### Cooperative Learning

All members of a group work together towards a common goal that can only be accomplished with the help of others.

### Learn by Doing

A “hands-on” learning process that engages girls in cycles of action and reflection resulting in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.

When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are girl-led and involve learning by doing and cooperative learning, girls achieve the desired and expected leadership outcomes ultimately resulting in Girl Scouting achieving its mission: **Building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.**



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# College Bound



## College Bound: Undergraduate Information

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Research at least three different colleges or universities that specialize in medicine, fire science, law or criminal justice.
2. Research ROTC opportunities.
3. Research the military academy requirements.
4. Obtain admissions information from three or more schools and ask the admission counselor at the schools you chose about available campus tours.
5. Compare the three schools you chose. Pay attention to tuitions and fees, financial aid, housing, campus size and population and demographics.
6. Share the information you have gathered with your family.
7. Share the information with your guidance counselor and inquire about further actions.

**Note:** Distinguish yourself in the college admissions process. The Girl Scout Gold Award tells college recruiters that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients rate their general success in life significantly higher and report higher success in reaching their goals within many areas.

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to discuss the options available to them, locally and nationally. Based on their advice, girls may want to focus on only two schools. Girls may call the admissions office and ask for information to be mailed to them. Parents/guardians should be made aware of all interactions the girls have with higher education institutions.

For girls that like more of a challenge, girls may wish to use the website <https://collegecost.ed.gov/> to compare prospective colleges and universities with the information they have already gathered. With parent/guardian consent, girls may wish to schedule a campus tour with the admissions office. Girls should practice filling out the admissions paperwork for the college or university they have chosen.



## College Bound: Degree Planning

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Research at least three different undergraduate degree programs at the college or university of your choice.
2. Obtain a copy of each of the three-degree plans.
3. Compare the three-degree plans. Pay attention to course descriptions, prerequisites, and certifications.
4. Ask the school's counseling office about college credits such as AP/IB credits, transferrable credits, CLEP credits and any other questions you have.
5. Share the information you have gathered with your family.
6. Share the information with your guidance counselor and inquire about further actions.

**Note:** The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Open only to girls in high school, this prestigious award challenges you to change the world or at least your corner of it. Gold Star recipients are eligible for college scholarships.

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to discuss their current academic standing and available college credits. Based on their advice, girls may want to focus on two degree plans. Girls may call the campus counselor to discuss degree plans available to them. Parents/guardians should be made aware of all interactions the girls have with higher education institutions.

For girls that like more of a challenge, girls may wish to use the website <https://collegecost.ed.gov/> to compare prospective colleges and universities with the information they have already gathered. With parent/guardian consent, girls may wish to schedule a campus tour with the admissions office. Girls should practice filling out the admissions paperwork for the college or university they have chosen.

## College Bound: Scholarships

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Research available scholarship opportunities that you may qualify for from Girl Scouts and at the college or university of your choice.
2. Pay special attention to the scholarships available for pursuing a degree in law enforcement, fire science and medicine.
3. Research ROTC Scholarships.
4. Obtain at least two scholarship applications.
5. Share the information you have gathered with your family.
6. Share the information with your guidance counselor and inquire about further actions.

**Note:** The Girl Scout Gold Award will help you to earn college scholarships. The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award tells scholarship committee members that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients rate their general success in life significantly higher and report higher success in reaching their goals within many areas.

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to focus their research on their scholarship opportunities. With parents/guardians' permission, girls may call the financial aid office and ask about the payment processes. Parents/guardians should be made aware of all interactions the girls have with higher education institutions.

For girls that like more of a challenge, girls may wish to learn about financial aid and use the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator found on [www.finaid.org/](http://www.finaid.org/) calculators to evaluate their financial need. Girls may also attend a FAFSA seminar or invite a guest speaker to talk about FAFSA. With parents/guardians' permission, girls may go online to complete the actual FAFSA at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> .



# Career Exploration

## Employment Search

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Visit the following employment web sites and research the career opportunities.
  - a. [Alamo Area Council of Governments Peace Officer Employment Opportunities](#)
  - b. Become a [Texas State Trooper](#)
  - c. [Texas Commission on Fire Protection](#)
  - d. [Best Medical Careers for the Future](#)
2. Search employment web sites and use key words to search for medical, law enforcement, fire safety or protection employment. Pay close attention to internships.
3. Identify different positions that interest you.
4. Research two of the positions that interest you the most. Pay close attention to the position description, qualifications, and primary location.
5. Share the information you have gathered with your family and with your guidance counselor and inquire about further actions.

**Note:** The Girl Scout Gold Award tells employers that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients rate their general success in life significantly higher and report higher success in reaching their goals within many areas.

### Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to discuss their interests and passions to help narrow the field of available career opportunities. Girls may wish to research only one position and evaluate their future educational plans to coincide with the position requirements.

For girls that like more of a challenge, parents/guardians may encourage girls to supplement their career planning with available self-assessment, career planning guides, employment trends, industry and occupation specific information and researching careers and employers. Girls may also find resources and services specifically for youth, teens and young adults.

Girls should ask their guidance counselors about internships, resources and services available to them.

## Medicine, Fire Protection and Prevention, Law Enforcement

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Research career opportunities in the medicine, fire science, law enforcement
2. Choose at least three career opportunities that interest you. First responders are supported by many other careers to enable them to do their job effectively and efficiently. For example: Crime scene investigators, arson investigators, x-ray and lab personnel.
3. Pay close attention to the essential functions, preferred experience and education, as well as starting pay and company benefits.
4. Research two of the positions that interest you.
5. Pay close attention to the job summary, essential functions, preferred experience and education as well as other competencies.
6. Share the information you have gathered with your family.
7. Share the information with your guidance counselor and inquire about further actions

**Note:** The Girl Scout Gold Award tells employers that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients rate their general success in life significantly higher and report higher success in reaching their goals within many areas.

### Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to discuss their interests and passions to help narrow the field of available career opportunities. Girls may wish to research only one position and evaluate their future educational plans to coincide with the position requirements.

For girls that like more of a challenge, parents/guardians may encourage girls to seek part-time employment to supplement their college expenses. Girls may calculate a monthly budget based on their financial need for school and living expenses to formulate the amount of income they must earn. If appropriate, girls may self-assess their employment suitability.

## Career Planning

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

Directions:

Compare the salary or pay and benefits of the 3 careers in the Medicine, Fire Protection and Prevention, Law Enforcement that you chose.

*Example:* The national average salary for a registered nurse is \$70,000 per year or \$33.65 per hour. Entry level education is bachelor's degree. The growth outlook for the next ten years is 15% (much faster than average). Paralegals entry level education is an associate degree. National average salary is \$50,410 per year or \$24.24 per hour. The growth rate for the next ten years is 15% (much faster than average).

1. With your parent/guardians' assistance, chart your probable monthly expenses, i.e., rent, food, gas and utilities.
2. Use the financial information you have gathered to map out a monthly budget.
3. Evaluate the amount of money you will have for savings.
4. Reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of each of your careers.

Note: The Girl Scout Gold Award tells employers that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients rate their general success in life significantly higher and report higher success in reaching their goals within many areas.

Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should speak with their parents/guardians and guidance counselor first to discuss their interests and passions to help narrow the field of available career opportunities. Girls may wish to research only one position and evaluate their future educational plans to coincide with the position requirements.

For girls that like more of a challenge, parents/guardians may encourage girls to supplement their career planning with available self-assessment, career planning guides, employment trends, industry and occupation specific information and researching careers and employers. Girls may also find resources and services specifically for youth, teens and young adults. Girls should ask their guidance counselors about internships, resources and services available to them.



# Advocacy



## United Service Organizations (USO)

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Visit <https://www.uso.org/> to learn about local and national opportunities for service.
2. Feel connected to your community, locally and globally, by forming healthy relationships through volunteerism.
3. Use this opportunity to advocate for yourself and others on issues that are important to you.
4. You should feel empowered to make a difference in the world.
5. Share your leadership experience with friends, family and the community.
6. Celebrate your accomplishments!

Note: For more information about volunteering your time, please review the web site <https://www.uso.org/take-action/volunteer>



## Fisher House

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

Directions:

1. Visit <https://www.fisherhouse.org/> to learn about opportunities for service.
2. Feel connected to your community, locally and globally, by forming healthy relationships through volunteerism.
3. Use this opportunity to advocate for yourself and others on issues that are important to you.
4. You should feel empowered to make a difference in the world.
5. Share your leadership experience with friends, family and the community.
6. Celebrate your accomplishments!

Note: For more information about how to help, check this web site <https://www.fisherhouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

### United Way of Central Texas

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

Directions:

1. Visit <http://www.uwct.org/> mission to learn about opportunities for service.
2. Feel connected to your community, locally and globally, by forming healthy relationships through volunteerism.
3. Use this opportunity to advocate for yourself and others on issues that are important to you.
4. You should feel empowered to make a difference in the world.
5. Share your leadership experience with friends, family and the community.
6. Celebrate your accomplishments!

Note: For more information about volunteering your time with veterans' organizations, check this web site <https://www.unitedwaysatx.org/mission-united/veterans-resources/>



# Leadership

## Discover

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. Girls will create a community map, also known as a drawing or list that shows a community's needs and resources.
2. Girls should focus on one location in your community that you are most familiar.
3. Girls should supplement your maps by using the internet, library and personal contacts.
4. The most important identifications on the maps should be:
  - a. Community issues
  - b. Community experts
  - c. Supportive groups
  - d. Community organizations
  - e. Public places
5. After drafting the community map, girls should write down their interests and passions next to the identifications. Girls may list their personal friends, family and contacts.
6. Using the map, girls will be able to formulate a project idea!

Note: Project plans should address veteran, community safety, fire prevention or accident prevention issues. Girls will develop a stronger sense of self, positive values and critical thinking skills. Girls will seek challenges in the world and gain practical life skills. This activity is completely girl-led!

### Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should complete this activity in a group with the assistance of parents/guardians or leaders. Brainstorming will be easier with people to bounce ideas off and create constructive criticisms. Girls will be better prepared for planning with different points of view.

For girls that like more of a challenge, with the permission of parents/guardians, girls may volunteer at charitable organizations in their community to discover the organization's mission and values. Girls should reflect on their experiences and decide which community service best fits their interests and passions.

## Connect

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. With parents/guardians' permission, girls will reach out and communicate with the community experts, organizations and supportive groups from their community map.
2. Girls will present their project ideas and partner with an expert, organization or group for a take action project.
3. Girls will build a team of family, friends and colleagues to complete their take action project.
4. Girls will act as the leader of their take action project and provide professional and constructive instructions to all team members.

Note: Project plans should address veteran, community safety, fire prevention or accident prevention issues. Girls feel connected to their community and develop healthy relationships to advance diversity in a multicultural world, promote cooperation and teambuilding and learn to resolve conflicts.

### Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should form a team of leaders in which each member is assigned specific tasks to complete for the take action project. Girls may oversee creating flyers, finding a venue for an event or obtaining in-kind donations. Girls will oversee their own assigned tasks and will build her team according to her goals.

For girls that like more of a challenge, with the permission of parents/guardians, girls may volunteer at charitable organizations in their community to market their take action project and recruit more team members. Girls should reflect on their experiences and decide which community service best fits their interests and passions.

## Take Action

Materials: Number of materials is contingent on the desires of the girls and the number of girls participating.

1. Internet
2. Library
3. Transportation
4. Parent/Guardian Permission

### Directions:

1. With parents/guardians' permission, girls will take action to finish their project!
2. Girls will be expected to take the lead to carry out the plan.
3. After completing the project, girls will take time to reflect on their accomplishments.
4. Girls may wish to ask for feedback from others.
5. Girls should evaluate their success.
6. Girls will share what they have done with others.

Note: Project plans should address veteran, community safety, fire prevention or accident prevention issues. Girls will be able to identify community needs, be a resourceful problem solver, advocate for themselves and others. Girls will feel empowered to make a difference in the world while inspiring and educating others to act.

### Accommodations:

For girls wanting a little more guidance, girls should act with their troop/group to complete for the take action project. Girls should be able to express why their project was important to the community and what issue they addressed. Girls should celebrate what they have accomplished and invite others to celebrate with them!

For girls that like more of a challenge, with the permission of parents/guardians, girls should create education materials to distribute within their community. The materials should create a measurable and sustainable impact on the community, inspiring others to act. Girls may think about turning their take action project into a Gold Award project!



**YOU DID IT!**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**



For More Information



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

**2009**  
Established

**6,500**  
Enrollment

**73%**  
First-generation

**70%**  
Hispanic

**18:1**  
Student-to-faculty ratio

**24**  
Average class size

**40+**  
Clubs and organizations



**42%**  
Enrollment growth at A&M-SA since 2015



**Lowest Tuition**  
Among four-year universities in San Antonio



**30+**  
Majors and programs offered at A&M-SA



**18%**  
Students are veterans, currently serving, spouses of veterans or dependents



**10,000+**  
University alumni



**700**  
Acres the campus is situated on



**20**  
Minutes away from downtown San Antonio

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) was founded at a specific time and place for a specific purpose: to provide high-quality education to all people, particularly residents of the historically under-represented South Side of San Antonio. We are committed to equipping our students with the skills, knowledge and experiences that prepare them for rewarding careers, responsible global citizenship and lifelong learning.

A&M-SA has experienced remarkable growth since we became a standalone university in 2009. In fall 2018, more than 6,500 students will be enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate programs.

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO**  
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f t i s /@TAMUSanAntonio



# End of Booklet

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