

# Peaceful Assembly at CSU

Excerpted from the General Catalog, Policies and Guidelines:

<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/front/policies.aspx>

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*Congress shall make no law respecting... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right Of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress ofgrievances.* - First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

Peaceful assembly at Colorado State University is an acknowledged right, as published in the General Catalog. This flyer has been produced to help educate University and Community members about both the general policy as well as specific University policies and procedures related to assembly. In addition, a paraphrase of laws relevant to rallies, demonstrations and gatherings has been included.

## General Policy

The University acknowledges the right of students and others to assemble in groups for peaceful purposes. At such gatherings, the University expects the rights and privileges of all persons to be respected and that there will be no endangerments to health or safety. Such gatherings must in no way disrupt the normal conduct of University affairs or endanger University property.

The University may, consistent with the Constitution, establish reasonable regulations regarding the time, place and manner in which persons exercise their free speech rights to the extent necessary to prevent disruption of the normal conduct of University affairs or endangerment of health and safety of persons or damage to property. Accordingly persons planning such assemblies on University property are strongly encouraged to coordinate their activities and plans in advance through Lory Student Center Event Planning Services. This coordination is requested so as to help ensure the success of the assembly, prevent disruption of normal University educational activities and to avoid endangering the health or safety of persons or damage to property. The sponsoring individual or group must assume responsibility for compliance with all state and local laws and University policies. Assistance from staff is available to help plan such events, and the assistance of the Colorado State University Police Department may be requested to help with traffic or crowds.

Any activity by demonstrators or groups which interferes with the rights of others, disrupts the normal functioning of the University, damages property, or endangers health or safety may be immediately suspended and/or removed from University property. In addition, such actions may also be the basis for University disciplinary action and/or criminal charges by law enforcement authorities. Demonstrations are prohibited in any special-use facility, classrooms, or in any instance which interferes with educational functions. Demonstrators refusing to vacate premises upon request are subject to immediate temporary suspension and arrest under applicable municipal and state laws.

## Some Specifics to Consider:

### Location

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The Lory Student Center Plaza has been designated as the primary "Public Forum" space for Colorado State University--open to all individuals for the purpose of free speech. To avoid conflicts in the use of space and to ensure the safety of the campus community, the University does not allow for the setting up of any structures, including, but not limited to, tables, booths, displays, etc. on the Plaza without the permission of Lory Student Center Event Services. The physical parameters of the Plaza include: the south boundary of the Plaza is the northern most edge of the paving stones. The west and east boundaries are the stone seating walls. The north edge of the boundary is to the edge of the stairs on the north end.

Please contact the Director of Campus Activities if free speech assemblies are desired at locations other than the LSC Plaza so that assistance can be provided in ensuring the success of the assembly, avoiding scheduling conflicts, and protecting the safety of the campus community.

To reserve space on the Lory Student Center Plaza, contact Event Planning Services at least 14 days in advance of the event. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Entire Plaza reservations are limited to registered student organizations and campus departments and are restricted to 3 days total per semester.

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to contact the Colorado State University Police Department at least 14 days before the event to determine if security arrangements and/or traffic control are necessary.

Groups that have not reserved the Lory Student Center Plaza for Peaceful Assembly may be asked to reschedule based on the University's ability to safely support the event.

If students have concerns about the decisions made by Event Planning Services, they can ask that the decision be reviewed by the Director of Campus Activities.

### **Amplification**

Amplified sound on the LSC Plaza is permitted during normal office hours of EPS (7:45 am – 5:00 pm, M–F) and a reservation through EPS. Sound levels are not to exceed 100 dB measured 24 inches from any PA speaker, and 80 dB at any building perimeter. For additional information please consult the [policy guide](#).

Signs, Placards, Etc.: Paper and/or cardboard signs are encouraged. Chalking is allowed on the horizontal concrete ground (not on paving stones or walls of the Plaza) and must be at least 10 feet away from any entrance of the Lory Student Center. For public safety concerns the following are not allowed without the express approval of the Lory Student Center Event Planning Services: wires, rope, chains, and any object that might injure oneself or others.

Amplified sound is permitted in designated areas within the LSC with prior approval of Lory Student Center Event Planning Services (EPS). Amplified music levels within the LSC are not to exceed 95 decibels (dB) when measured 24 inches from any PA speaker and 80 dB at the room's perimeter. Allowable amplification levels may differ in some areas of the building due to

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variables including room size, acoustical treatments, or the potential for adjacent meeting disruption. All requirements and measurements will be determined by LSC staff.

Amplified sound on the LSC Plaza is permitted during normal office hours of EPS (7:45 am – 5:00 pm, M–F) and a reservation through EPS. Sound levels are not to exceed 100 dB measured 24 inches from any PA speaker, and 80 dB at any building perimeter.

Outdoor performances of amplified music must be staged at the south end of the Plaza on the stage provided by the LSC. The concrete cutout area near the main LSC entrance and planter is suitable only for amplified voice. The 80 dB rule applies to all amplification on the Plaza. Please refer to the [LSC Plaza Diagram](#) for additional clarification.

Clients not following the LSC amplification policy will be asked to comply. Subsequent infractions may result in the cancellation of the sound amplification portion of the event. In cases where the LSC is providing sound, all applicable rules and city ordinances will be followed.

### Resources

- Event Planning Office, 491-0229
- Colorado State University Police Department, 491-6425
- Campus Activities, 491-6626

### Laws Relevant to Rallies, Demonstrations, Gatherings

The Colorado State University Police Department recognizes each individual's right to freedom of expression and peaceable assembly. We further recognize our obligation under Colorado law to support the University's mission of education, extension and outreach. This information is provided so that all people involved in a demonstration or assembly may know their legal rights and obligations. If you have questions about your rights or obligations during an assembly, rally, or demonstration, please contact a member of the Colorado State University Police Department for clarification prior to engaging in behaviors that may subject you to arrest or fines.

### Obstructing Highway or Passageway:

It is illegal to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly obstruct a street, sidewalk or building entrance or disobey a reasonable request from a peace officer or other person in authority to move from such location. (18-9-107 C.R.S.)

### Disrupting Lawful Assembly

It is illegal to obstruct or interfere with a gathering or meeting by any physical action, verbal communication, or other means. (18-9-108 C.R.S.)

### Interference with Educational Institutions

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It is illegal to willfully deny to students, employees, or visitors: lawful freedom of movement on institutional premises; lawful ingress or egress to facilities; and lawful use of the property or facilities of the institution. It is also illegal to impede faculty or staff at an institution in the performance of their duty or to impede a student of an institution in the lawful pursuit of his or her educational activities in any way. (18-9-109 C.R.S.)

### **Public Buildings - Trespass, Interference**

It is illegal for any person to so conduct himself at any public building owned or operated by the state, to willfully deny to any public official, public employee or invitee the right to enter and use facilities or leave such facilities. It is also illegal to impede any public official or employee in the lawful performance of their duties. (18-9-110C.R.S.)

### **Harassment**

It is illegal for a person to: strike, shove or subject another person to physical contact; or repeatedly insult, taunt or challenge another person in the manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response when the intent is to harass, annoy or alarm the other person. (18-9-111 C.R.S.)

### **Unlawful Conduct on Public Property:**

It is unlawful for any person to enter or remain in any public building or on any public property or to conduct himself in or on the same in violation of any order, rule, or regulation concerning any matter prescribed in this subsection, limiting or prohibiting the use or activities or conduct in such public building or on such public property ... (18-9-117 C.R.S.)

Under a Colorado Law (18-9-119 C.R.P.S.), a person committing certain violations or conduct may also be billed for any extraordinary expenses resulting from such violations.

### **Riot Law**

Colorado recently passed a new riot law. If you are convicted of engaging in riotous behavior, the minimum penalty is immediate suspension from all state supported universities for at least 12 months. (23-5-124 C.R.S.)

NOTE: This list represents most of the appropriate laws relevant to rallies, demonstrations and gatherings. However, it is not exhaustive of all statutes.