



Welcome to Wings for All[®] Our Trip to the Airport Practice Guide





How to use the Trip to the Airport Practice Guide



- This guide is for you to use as you prepare for your Wings for All® event.
- It details what you can expect to experience at the airport.
- We invite you to use this guide to prepare for your next, real trip.





The Wings for Autism® program was conceived, designed and implemented by The Charles River Center <http://www.charlesrivercenter.org/1000/news/wings-for-autism> an affiliated program of The Arc and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport).



Photo by Tyler Rhodes

A lot of people travel by airplane.



- To visit family
- To visit friends
- To go on vacation
- To go to meetings
- To go to school

But airports can be crowded and noisy.



- There may be a lot of people.
- There may be loud announcements.
- There may be unfamiliar sights, sounds, and smells.
- There may be lines and waiting.



Airports have things I am not familiar with.



- Escalators
- Elevators
- Moving sidewalks
- Long hallways
- Automatic doors

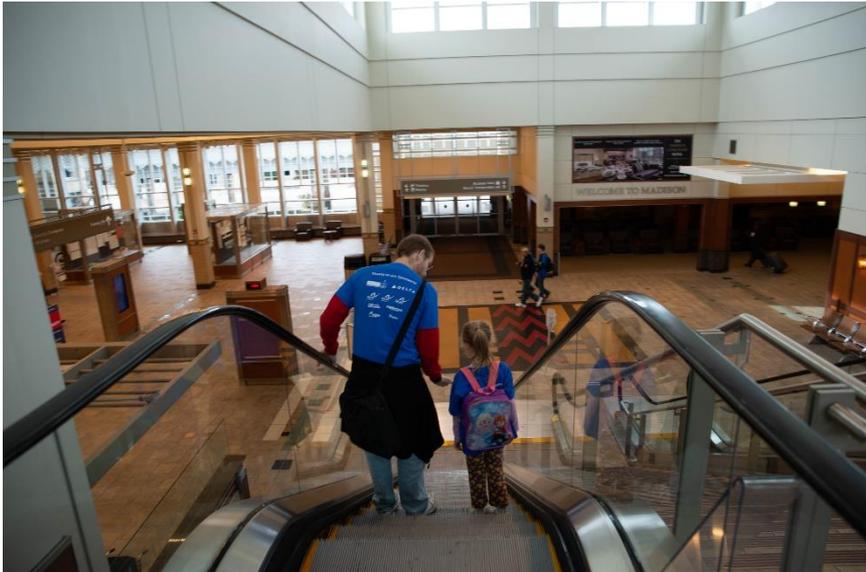


I am going to the airport to get used to the sights and sounds.



- I am not going to fly on an airplane today.
- I can go as slowly as I want.
- I can stop and take breaks when I need them.

First, I will decide what to take to the airport.



- I can pack a carry-on bag that I take on the plane.
- I may be able to pack luggage that I check-in with the Ticket Agent on my next trip. This time I will only bring a carry-on bag.

Once I decide, I will pack my bag.



- Do I want to pack toys, games, snacks, or other things in my carry-on bag?
- I can use these things while I wait to board my plane.
- I can use these things while I am seated on the plane.
- I don't have to pack anything if I don't want to.

I will travel to the airport.



- There's lots of ways people get to the airport:
 - Car
 - Taxi or shuttle
 - Bus
 - Train
 - Ferry
- How will I travel to the airport?

If I drive, I will park the car.



- I will park it in a parking lot.
- I will go to the terminal.
- I may see wide open spaces and cross roads so I need to stay close to my companion.

I will go to the terminal.



- I will follow the Wings for All® signs and instructions from the volunteers in the black shirts to the Ticket Counter.
- The airport may be noisy and crowded.
- I can take my time and rest if I want to.

I will check in at the registration counter.



- I will go to the counter.
- I will give the person my name.
- I will listen to their instructions.
- I can ask any questions we may have.
- I will get a white t-shirt and put it on.

Next I will go to the airline ticket counter.



- There may be a line and if there is, I will have to wait my turn.
- I will tell the Ticket Agent my name.
- I will provide a government-issued identification if I am over 18.



Then I will get my boarding pass.



- The Ticket Agent will give me a boarding pass.
- I need the boarding pass to go through security.
- I need the boarding pass to get on the plane.
- Where is a safe place I can keep my boarding pass so I don't lose it?

If I want, I can take pictures to remember today's experience.



- I can take pictures of the airport and their employees.
- I can take pictures of the plane and airline employees.
- I can add the photos to this guide and use them on my next, real trip.

I can explore inside the terminal before I go through security.

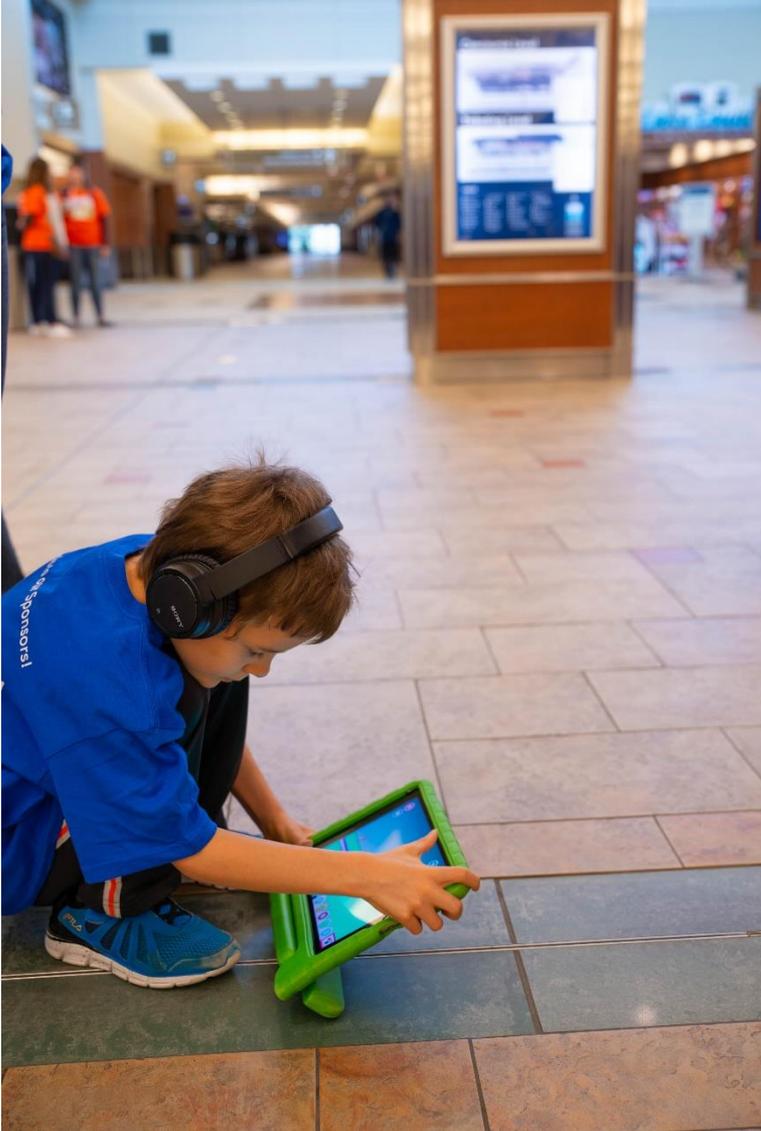


- If I have extra time I can explore the terminal.
- There are lots of things to see inside the terminal.
- If I want to take a break and sit, I can.

There are a lot of things to see out the windows.



I can also take a break if I have time.



- I can find a quiet place to wait.



I can see if the practice flight is on the departure screen.



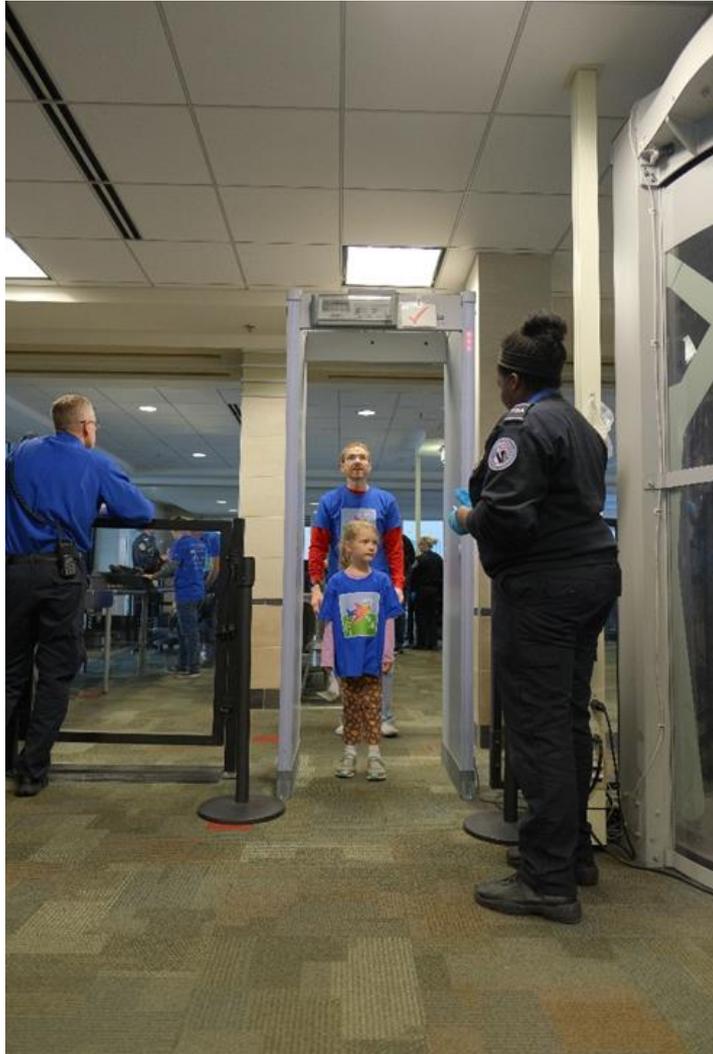
Spokane, WA (GEG)	483	US Airways
St. Louis, MO (STL)	484	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	6578	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	5542	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	5526	US Airways
Wings For Autism (WFA)	9030	American Airlines
Wings For Autism (WFA)	9031	Southwest

4:48 PM UMST Friday, October 10, 2014

Photo by An Pham

- Is the practice flight on the screen?
- I can look for the flight number and gate.
- When I take a real flight, information will be posted.

Now it is time to get in line and go through security.



- The line may be very long.
- There may be a lot of people in line with us.
- I will have to be very patient.

I will follow the Transportation Security Administration Officer's (TSA) Instructions.



- The Officer will ask for my boarding pass and identification.
- The Officer will write on my boarding pass that it is OK for me to pass through security.

I will follow the TSA Officer's Instructions.



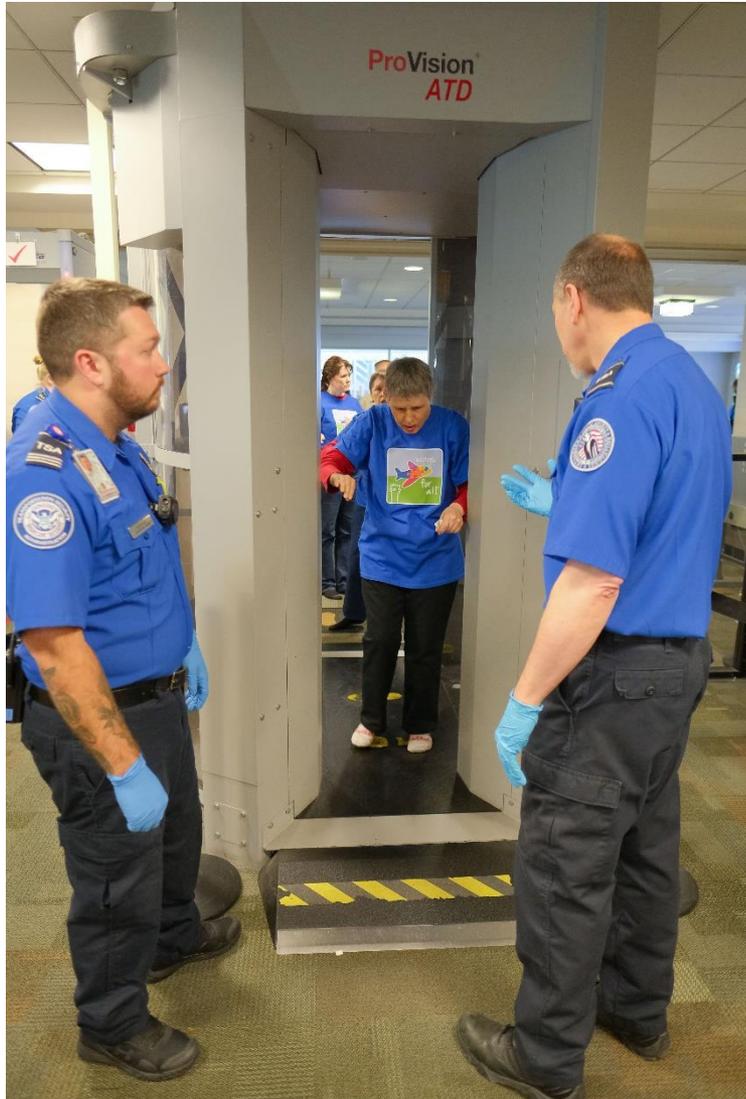
- Once I give the Officer our boarding pass and identification, I will wait in the next line.
- The line may be very long.
- There may be a lot of people in line with me.
- I will have to be very patient.
- I will see lots of Officers and equipment.

I will follow the TSA Officer instructions.



- I will pick up a plastic bin.
- I will remove my shoes if I am over 12 years old.
- I will remove my coat.
- I will remove metal and electronics from my pockets (including my belt if I am wearing one).
- I will place them in a gray bin.
- I will put the bin on the conveyor belt.

I will follow the TSA Officer's instructions



- I will walk up to the X-ray machine.
- I will wait for the Officer to tell me to walk through.
- I will walk through slowly.
- I may have to stop and raise my hands while they take an X-ray.
- I will wait for the Officer to read the X-ray

I will follow the TSA Officer's instructions.



- Some people are a little afraid to walk through the X-ray machine by themselves.
- I can take my time.
- My companion can go through first and wait for me to go through.
- The Officer will not do anything that hurts.
- Officers are very nice people whose job is to keep me safe.

Sometimes TSA Officers do additional screening.

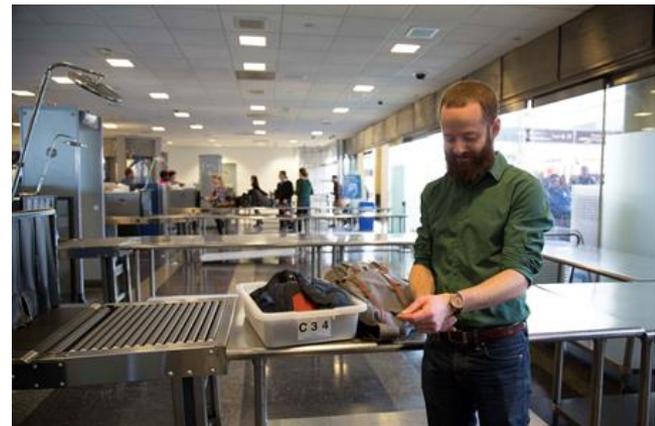


- Officers may wave a wand over my hands or body.
- Officers may make sure I do not have anything under baggy clothing.
- The Officer will not do anything that hurts.
- Officers are very nice people whose job is to keep me safe.

Photos used with permission from the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs. Photo by Tara Parekh

I will pick up my belongings.

- I will get my items from the plastic bin.
- I will go to a chair.
- I will put my shoes and coat back on.



Photos used with permission from the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs. Photo by Tara Parekh

I will go to the gate and wait for my plane.



- There will be a lot of people waiting at the gate.
- I will need to be very patient.
- I can use any toys, games, or snacks I packed in my carry-on bag if I want.



When the flight crew is ready, I will hear the announcement to board the plane.



- I will put back anything I took out of my carry-on bag.
- I will get my boarding pass.
- I will get in line.
- The line may be very long.
- There will be a lot of people in line with me.
- I will need to be very patient.



I will give my boarding pass to the Gate Agent



- The Gate Agent will take my boarding pass.
- She or he use a machine.
- The machine will read my boarding pass and make a beeping sound.
- I may or may not get the boarding pass back.
- The Gate Agent will tell me to board the plane.

I will walk down the jetway.



- A jetway is a hallway that connects the airport and the airplane.
- I will get in line.
- The line may be very long.
- There will be a lot of people in line with me.
- I will need to be very patient.
- Some people are a little afraid to walk down the jetway.
- I can take my time and walk with my companion.

I am ready to board the airplane.



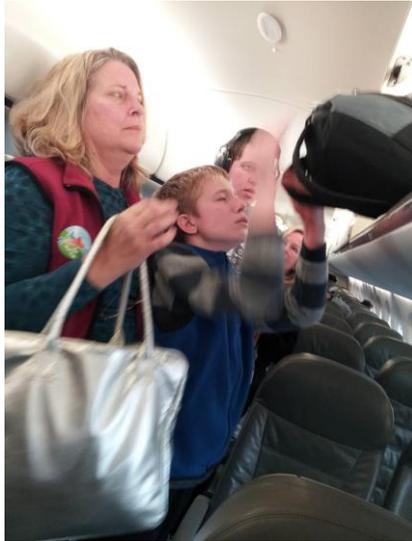
- I will see a small gap between the jetway and the plane.
- Some people are a little afraid of the gap.
- I can take my time and walk into the plane with my companion.
- Once I am on the plane I will meet the Pilots and Flight Attendants.
- The airport and airline employees are volunteering their time today and are very happy to see me.
- I will make sure to tell them a “Thank you!”.

I may have time to look around the airplane.



- Only if the Flight Attendants say it's OK.
- Only if there is time.
- If it's OK and I have time, I can look at the seats, the restrooms, and the overhead storage bins.
- If the cockpit door is open, I can look inside.

The Flight Attendants will tell me to put my bag away.



- I can place my carry-on bags in the overhead bin.
- I can place my carry-on bag under the seat in front of me.
- In a real flight, all carry-on bags must be stored during take-off and landing.



Photo by Will Schermerhorn

The Flight Attendants will tell me to find my seat.



- The Flight Attendants make announcements and may show a safety video.
- They will tell me when it's time to fasten my seatbelt.



I will hear lots of sounds on the airplane.



- The announcements and sounds may be very loud.
- I will hear bells.
- I will hear people talking.
- I may hear the airplane door close.
- I am allowed to wear noise cancelling headphones if I want to.



I will experience other things in the airplane environment.



- I may feel cold or hot air coming from the vents.
- The lights may go on and off.
- The airplane will be crowded.
- The seats may be small and have little legroom.
- The Flight Attendants may wheel a cart down the aisle.
- This practice is my chance to get used to these unfamiliar things.

The Flight Attendants will tell me to fasten my seatbelt.

- Just like when I am in a car, I must fasten my seatbelt on an airplane.
- This is to keep me safe.



I will have time to look around my seat.



- I can look outside the window
- I can use the tray table for my snacks.

The Flight Attendants will give me several safety announcements.



- I will learn about oxygen masks.
- I will learn about safety vests.
- I will learn about the lights on the floor.
- I will be told where to find the restrooms.
- I will listen carefully and be quiet so everyone can hear the announcements.



I will be on the plane for a little while.



- I will not be flying today, this is a practice.
- The Flight Attendants may announce that I can take things out of my bag.
- Now it is time to play with toys, games, and books I brought from home if I want to.
- I can also enjoy the snack I brought from home if I want to.



The Flight Attendants will tell me when it is time to get ready to leave the plane.



- I will put away my belongings in my bag.
- I will store my bag.
- I will place my seat in the upright position.
- I will close my tray table.
- The Flight Attendants may collect any trash from me. If they do not, I will remove it from the plane myself.

The Flight Attendants will tell me when my practice airplane trip is finished.



- I will be told to unfasten my seatbelt.
- I will check the overhead bin.
- I will check the under the seat in front of me.
- I will check the seatback pocket.
- I will collect everything I brought from home.
- I will leave the airplane.

I will walk back down the jetway again.



- I will stay in line.
- The line may be very long.
- There will be a lot of people in line with me.
- I will need to be very patient.

I will get off the plane.

- I will be back in the airport.
- I will remember that the airport can be noisy and crowded.



We will be asked to complete a Wings for All[®] feedback form. It will have these questions:



- How would you describe your family's Wings for All experience?
- If the participant experienced challenges, how would you describe them?
- Based on your experience today, how would you describe the participant's experience?
- Based on today's experience, tell us about your future plans?
- What part of the event did the participant and your family like the best?
- What changes would the participant and your family suggest?

I will get Certificate of Completion, my gift bag, and pick out a book.

- I will wait in the line.
- The line may be very long.
- I will need to be very patient.
- There will be volunteers to help me



I will be finished with my practice.



- I will gather my belongings and get ready to leave the airport
- I will walk through the airport terminal.
- I will have to cross streets so I will stay close to my companion.
- I will find my car.
- I will go home.

If I took pictures today I can share them.



- I can share my photos with friends and family.
- I can share my photos with The Arc-Dane County. They would love that!
- My pictures can help people that have never been to the airport or on a plane learn more about it.

I can tell others about my experience.



- What did I like about the airport?
- What did I like about the airplane?
- Is there anything that made me feel uncomfortable?
- Is there anything I want to do the next time I am at the airport and on an airplane?



Please contact The Arc to learn more about our Wings for All® programs

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