
The Midwest Clinic

The Broken Arrow HS Wind Ensemble Travel Information



The Bands of Broken Arrow

Outbound Airline Info

Southwest Airlines #694
Tuesday, December 15
Depart Tulsa at 9:05am
Arrive at Chicago Midway 10:45am
Southwest Airlines #694

Inbound Airline Info

Southwest Airlines #3755
Saturday, December 19
Depart Chicago Midway at 11:45am
Arrive in Tulsa at 1:35pm
Southwest Airlines #3755

Hotel Info

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
301 E. North Water St.
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 464-1000

AIRLINE FAQ

Which airline will my student fly?

Your group flight is on Southwest Airlines. www.southwest.com

Is there a fee for checked bags?

Southwest will accept the first two checked bags for free provided that the bags do not exceed 50 pounds and 62 inches. Overweight or oversized items will incur a fee. The band will pay for any baggage fees for checked band equipment (ie. instruments, and band equipment)

What is the allowance for checked baggage?

Maximum weight is 50 pounds and maximum size is 62 inches (length + width + height) per checked piece of luggage.

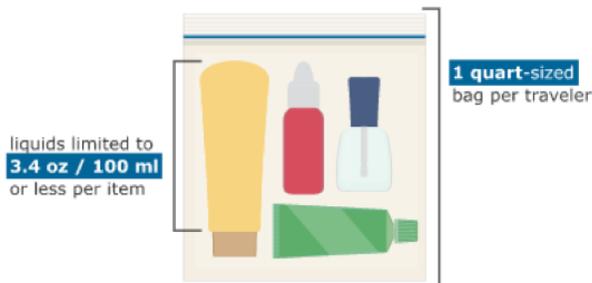
What is the allowance for carryon baggage?

Carryon items are limited to one bag plus one smaller, personal-type item. Southwest airlines limits carryon bag dimensions to 10x16x24 inches.

What items are prohibited by TSA?

All firearms, all sharp objects (including knives & scissors), all tools more than 7 inches in length, self defense items (self defense sprays, tasers, etc), and all explosives or flammable objects. Aerosols are prohibited with the exception of personal care items or toiletries in limited quantities.

See the TSA 3-1-1 brochure or go to www.tsa.gov for more details.



What are the TSA liquid rules?

You are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes in your carry-on bag and through the checkpoint. These are limited to 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. Placing these items in the small bag separate from your carry-on baggage facilitates the screening process. Pack items larger than 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters in checked baggage. Any liquid, aerosol, gel, cream or paste that alarms during screening will require additional screening.

What about on-line check-in 24 hours prior?

A GMT representative will check-in the entire group 24 hours prior to departure. This will secure a boarding position for each person on the group flight.

How does the check-in and boarding process work?

Upon arrival at the airport each passenger will check-in individually at the Southwest Airlines ticket counter. All travelers over the age of 18 must show their government issued photo ID to receive a boarding pass. Next, pay for any baggage fees (if necessary), obtain your boarding pass and wait in the area until your whole chaperone group is checked in. You will also receive a baggage claim check for your checked luggage. Make sure your baggage claim check says 'MDW' (for Chicago Midway) and put it in a safe place.

Once your entire group is ready, make your way to the TSA security check. Remove your shoes, empty your pockets and remove all laptops/tablets from your carry-on bag. Those items should go on the security belt separately. Do not joke around in security. Please reference the TSA 3-1-1 brochure for specific information about what's allowed in your carry-on bag.

Gather all of your belongings at the end of the TSA security check once the TSA agents are completely done with your screening. When your group is ready, proceed to the gate number on your boarding pass.

Once you get to the gate, verify that your flight is still on schedule. Then, feel free to use the restroom, buy snacks, etc. with the remaining time before boarding.

Southwest Boarding:

Boarding begins roughly 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. You should be at the gate no later than 30 minutes prior to departure. Customers board the plane based on boarding group (A, B, or C) and number (1-60). Boarding positions are assigned when you check-in and will be displayed on your boarding pass. Southwest has an open seating policy, so please feel free to sit in any available seat when you get onboard.

During the flight:

While onboard the aircraft, place all small bags underneath the seat in front of you. If you have larger bags or instruments, place those items in the overhead. We recommend putting your items in the overhead as soon as you find your seat because the overheads compartments quickly fill. Before takeoff, locate the nearest emergency exit. Please note the nearest exit may be behind you. Listen closely to the flight attendants instructions as they will give you important safety information prior to take off. Wear your seatbelt at all times during the flight. All cell phones and electronics should be turned off until the captain announces it is safe to turn them on in airplane mode. Wifi and TV may be available onboard (fees may apply). You may be offered snacks for purchase. Most airlines are cashless so have a card available if you want to purchase these snacks.

Arrival:

Upon arrival, double check your area for missing items before getting off of the plane. Don't forget any items placed underneath the seat in front of you or in the overhead compartments. Exit the plane and wait for your chaperone group in the boarding area. Stay in your chaperone groups as you make your way to the baggage claim area.

Baggage Claim:

Please claim your own luggage while in baggage claim and then step to the side while other group members wait for their bags. Do not leave any of your personal items unattended. Stay together as a group until all group members have claimed their luggage. Your Travel Director will guide you to the motorcoach once everyone is ready.

WEATHER/PACKING FAQ

What items should my student pack?

- Hotels provide blow dryers and alarm clocks. You will only need to bring other appliances such as a curling or flat iron.
- A coat/jacket in case of cold or rainy weather. Gloves, a scarf and a winter hat are also advisable.
- Take anything you feel you may need (as long as it fits in your suitcase). Almost everything is more expensive away from home.
- Uniform, instrument and any parts thereof, reeds, oil etc.

What is the weather like in Chicago this time of year?

The average temperature in Chicago for this time of year ranges from the mid-40's to the upper teens. For up-to-date weather information prior to your departure, we suggest you watch "The Weather Channel" or visit www.weather.com.

What should my student wear during the tour?

Casual wear is appropriate for most of the trip. A windbreaker, sweater, jacket or light raincoat may come in handy. Please, no ripped/torn jeans! You are representing your school and hometown. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, as we will be walking a great deal.

Dressier clothing will be needed for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and when visiting the Midwest Clinic. Business formal dress or business casual dress is recommended. Jeans, shorts & t-shirts are discouraged.

There is no dress code for the Blue Man Group show.

Are there any cell phone restrictions?

At the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, patrons carrying cell phones or wearing alarm watches are requested to turn them off before entering the concert hall.

At Blue Man Group, cell phones must be turned off and put away during the performance.

How much money should my student take on tour?

Take enough money for snacks, souvenirs and all meals not listed in your inclusions. There are 2 meals (lunch) that students will be responsible for paying on their own.

What if my student has dietary restrictions?

Make sure the chaperone or group leader is aware of all dietary restrictions. Also, the student should notify their server at each restaurant.

HOTEL TIPS:

1. Read the instructions provided in your room concerning escape in case of an emergency.
2. At curfew, you must be in your own room. No one is to enter your room after this time except chaperones or staff.
3. Keep the noise level down. It is important that chaperones and travel directors are not called by hotel management because of unnecessary noise from your room. Do not play or practice instruments in your room.
4. Elevators/escalators are used to transport all hotel guests. When using them, respect the fact that there are other guests staying in the hotel.
5. Telephones are available for proper use and must not be used after curfew except in an emergency. Outside calls will be charged to your room and you will be responsible to settle them prior to departure.
6. Do not remove towels or other "souvenirs" from your room. You will have to pay for them.
7. Do not drop or throw ANYTHING from hotel windows or balcony.
8. Keep your room locked at all times! Know who has the key. Safeguard your personal belongings. The hotel safe is available to lock up valuables.
9. No student is allowed in anyone else's room at anytime without director's permission.
10. All clothing and other loose items must be stored in your luggage and/or hotel drawers and closets before we leave the hotel every day.

GENERAL GROUP TRAVEL TIPS:

1. As an approved school trip, all rules and policies set forth in the student handbook will be in effect for the duration of this trip.
2. Good manners are always expected.
3. Cooperate with your chaperones and keep them notified where your group is going to be at all times.
4. If you feel ill, tell your chaperone immediately!
5. Review your itinerary and be aware of your responsibilities.
6. Moving a large group takes longer than moving an individual. Keep a smile, be patient, listen and cooperate. Be considerate and arrive on time. Being late holds up the entire group.
7. Eat properly. Don't load up on junk food. Eat a balanced meal. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
8. Get plenty of sleep at night. You will enjoy the tour more when properly rested.
9. Don't spread rumors; if you have any questions, ask your chaperones or travel director

Tips for traveling in big cities / tourist areas:

For those who are unfamiliar with a big city, walking around is different than strolling around your hometown. Big city streets and tourist areas are very crowded. This calls for you to be very alert and aware of your surroundings.

10. Keep within your group. Make sure you are NEVER totally alone. Always be with at least 2 other people from your group.
11. Keep a firm grip on your personal belongings and keep your wallet in your front pocket. Use a cross-body purse to keep your belongings safe.
12. Pay attention to traffic signals and don't walk too close to the curb.
13. Be extremely cautious about striking up conversation with strangers. If you are repeatedly bothered by someone, tell your chaperone or travel director.

MOTORCOACH INSTRUCTIONS:

1. iPad's and portable DVD players may be used but please, as a courtesy to others, especially the driver, headphones must be used. Personal items are your own responsibility.
2. Do not leave personal items on the coach overnight.
3. Food may be taken on board as long as the coach is kept clean and neat. Any spillage should be taken care of immediately. Milk products and glass are prohibited.
4. Please treat your driver with respect and courtesy.
5. A restroom is provided onboard the coach for your convenience. It is equipped with a chemical toilet and once it is full, it is unusable until it can be emptied. Try to use the restroom before getting on the bus.
6. Do not disembark until your Travel Director or Director releases you. (Your stop may not last very long!)
7. Please, NO flash photography on board the coach!

More info regarding Air Travel and TSA Policy regarding ID's

Adult passengers 18 and over must show valid identification at the airport checkpoint in order to travel.
Driver's licenses or other state photo identity cards issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent)
U.S. passport
U.S. passport card
DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
U.S. military ID (active duty or retired military and their dependents, and DoD civilians)
Permanent resident card
Border crossing card
DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
Airline or airport-issued ID (if issued under a TSA-approved security plan)
Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID
HSPD-12 PIV card
Foreign government-issued passport
Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
Transportation worker identification credential

TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18. Students should bring their STUDENT ID or other Government issued ID.

What band events are Private and which are Semi-Private?

Band events that are Private are limited exclusively to the travel party that includes the Wind Ensemble Students, Directors and Designated Chaperones. Unfortunately, family and friends are not permitted at these events.

What are Semi-Private events? There are several entertainment and dining stops on this tour that are Semi-Private; the Wind Ensemble has arranged a prepaid event through a public venue or restaurant. At the Semi Private events, it is perfectly acceptable for friends and family to join that Wind Ensemble at these events. However, seating locations at shows and restaurants will not be intermixed with the travel party of the Wind Ensemble. This is essential for the Travel Company to monitor the inclusion and payment for the members of the travel party.

Please note that students MUST remain with the Wind Ensemble Group AT ALL TIMES. There will NOT be an opportunity for students to be 'checked out' to their parents at any time during this trip. At public and Semi Private events students must follow the school policy and remain with the school group at all times. There will be opportunities for the students to have some freedom to shop Michigan Avenue, attend the Museums and the Midwest Clinic, however, students must ALWAYS remain with a group of other students of at least 3 OR MORE AT ALL TIMES.

Private Events

All Rehearsals
Rainforest Cafe'
Cite' Fine Dining @ Lake Point Tower
Wishbone Restaurant
All meals at the hotel
Hard Rock Cafe'

Semi-Private Events (Public may attend at their own expense)

Gino's East Chicago Pizza
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
Midwest Clinic Concerts
Museums (Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Art Institute)
Water Tower Place, Shopping Along Michigan Avenue
Midwest Clinic
Blue Man Group at Briar Street Theater
Pazzo's restaurant
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concert