



American Airlines Mock Flight Program Returns; Helps Kids with Autism Soar

On Saturday, May 5, American Airlines has again partnered with Clearbrook, organization that serves more than 8,000 people with disabilities, to provide this volunteer-led program, to host its semi-annual Airport Experience and Mock Flight event at O'Hare International Airport. The purpose of this event is to provide a full airport travel experience to children with autism. American Airlines has hosted 31 similar events at Dallas/Ft Worth, Phoenix and New York Airports with great success.

The event will be realistic and will include boarding pass issuance, security checkpoint clearance (TSA), beverage cart service onboard an American Airlines aircraft. If the schedule permits, there is a possibility that American Airlines might taxi the aircraft around the airport for a short period of approximately 30 minutes. This will be determined on the date of the event.

There will be familiar faces that will take part in this event such as uniformed gate agents, pilots, and flight attendants so that your child becomes familiar with the typical airport and onboard experience. Our goal is to create an environment with all of the sounds and sensations your child could experience in flight – without ever leaving the ground.

Please feel free to bring any items that your child would need for travel such as iPads, talkers, service dogs, sensory items, blankets, ear plugs, headphones, books, or any other items that you would normally bring on a flight to ensure a successful experience for your child. If your child has any special needs, or will be bringing a service dog, please let us know when you RSVP.

****Please RSVP to American Airlines as soon as possible! This event is limited to 25 families – the sooner you RSVP, the better the chances are American Airlines can accommodate you. ****

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Saturday May 5, 2018

Location: Chicago O'Hare International Airport

Your Host: American Airlines and Clearbrook

Check-in Time: 3:30pm but no later than 4:00pm

Boarding: 4:45pm

Possible aircraft Taxi: 5:00 pm

Question and Answer session: 5:45pm

Event Concludes: 6:30pm

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

- Arrive and park at Terminal 3 Main Parking Garage
 - (Vouchers to pay for parking will be distributed on the day of the event)
- Proceed to ticket counter “Domestic section C” to receive your boarding pass
- Clear TSA Security and proceed to gate
- Board aircraft by seat number
- Stow carryon bags in the overhead compartment
- Fasten seat belts
- Doors will close; the aircraft will possibly push back and taxi around the airport
 - (Please note that the aircraft will not take off)
- Enjoy beverage service provided by uniformed Flight Attendants
- Question and answer session will be held onboard

We are limited to the first 25 families that apply for this event. Please feel free to bring along any family members who would normally travel with your child. We welcome siblings to complete the family travel experience.

When responding please include the number of adults, number of children, names of all attending, gender (male or female) and dates of birth. This information is needed for TSA clearance. As a friendly reminder all adults will need a Government issued ID to clear TSA Security the day of the event.

Please RSVP, and direct any questions, to Ed Pizza at EDWARD.PIZZA@AA.COM

American Airlines will confirm your attendance and follow up with additional information as it becomes available.

We look forward to sharing this experience with you and your family.

Best Regards,



Ed Pizza
Senior Tower Planner



Debbie Havens
Director of Administration