

Camp Menominee

Hi Everyone,

This is your complete Out-of-State Travel Guide for the summer of 2024. For reference, Rookie I, Session I and Full Season begin on **Monday, June 17**, and Rookie II and Session II begin on **Sunday, July 14**. These are important dates to know, as several of our travel recommendations occur on the day before camp starts.

PLEASE NOTE: The attached travel information are recommendations for boys **flying alone** (aka without parents). **Before booking your travel, here are options we would prefer, if possible, for your son's travel TO camp:**

1. You can fly or drive to Chicago with your son the day before (or sooner) camp starts, stay the night, and bring your son to the Chicago bus (meeting at Staples at 1931 Skokie Valley Rd, Highland Park, IL) to leave at 8:30am on the first day of your session.
2. If your son has a friend in Chicago, he can fly to Chicago a day before camp starts, stay with his friend, and join his friend on the bus the next day. Camp is not facilitating this; parents would need to coordinate on their own.
3. You can fly your son into Rhinelander (RHI). This would be a connecting flight, but it's only 30 minutes from camp and can pick the times that best work for you on the first day of the session. This is the only incoming flight that would occur on the actual first day of the session.
4. You can drop your son off at camp on the first day of the session.

We understand that it's not possible for everyone to use the options above, so we have coordinated our travel recommendations for you if your son is flying alone. Please read everything below thoroughly! You'll notice that flights **TO** camp are the **day before** the actual start of the session through Chicago. We also note airports and procedures, which includes an **updated baggage policy**.

For all boys flying alone to the Midwest for camp, please take note of the following:

1. Flights **TO** camp (for those boys flying alone) are **one day prior** to the start of the session. We ask you to fly your son into **Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD)**. Our staff will pick up the boys from the airport, stay with them locally in Chicago that night, then bring them to the bus to travel to camp from Chicago at 8:30 am the next morning.
2. Flights **HOME** are on the last day of the session.
3. You may book any airline you'd like. Please see below for the arrival and departure times we suggest.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON BAGGAGE

We are lucky enough to have a lot of boys traveling from all over the country to camp this summer.

However, we do not have the vehicles or staff to manage all the campers' luggage on travel day. So, if your son is flying to Chicago **alone** and staying with us in Chicago, **HE CANNOT TRAVEL WITH HIS CAMP LUGGAGE. YOU MUST USE SHIPCAMPS TO SHIP HIS BAGS AHEAD OF TIME.**

We have partnered with ShipCamps to give you preferred shipping rates. Your son can travel with a small overnight carry-on, so he has things for the evening in Chicago and the bus ride the next day. We will make sure he has meals and snacks. You may send bags home with the boys on their flights, but you will be responsible for baggage charges.

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Flight Options for boys flying alone to and from Chicago: (please note flights are always subject to change)

Flights TO Camp – All flights are the day BEFORE camp starts - We would prefer that all flights come in to O'hare. Let us know if this is not possible for you. Keep in mind all flights home will be out of O'hare.

Session I, Rookie I, Full Summer – Sunday June 16

* Please book whichever airline you would like to fly your son in. Please have all flights land as close to 4:30pm as possible. *

Session II, Rookie II – Saturday July 13

** Please book whichever airline you would like to fly your son in. Please have all flights land as close to 4:30pm as possible. **

Flights HOME from Camp – All flights on the last day of the camp session

Rookie I – Saturday June 29th

Please book flights home no earlier than 4pm out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD). For this session the flight is earlier. Families flying back to Phoenix (PHX) we recommend Southwest flight 4450 departing at 2:45 pm.

Session I – Friday July 12

Please book flights home no earlier than 4pm out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD).

Families flying back to Phoenix (PHX) we recommend Southwest flight 409 departing at 5:45pm.

Rookie II – Saturday July 27

Please book flights home no earlier than 4pm out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD). For this session the flight is earlier. Families flying back to Phoenix (PHX) we recommend Southwest flight 4450 departing at 2:45pm.

Session II, Full Season – Thursday August 8

Please book flights home no earlier than 4pm out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD).

Families flying back to Phoenix (PHX) we recommend Southwest flight 2448 departing at 5:45pm.

2024 Baggage Policy

If you are a) bringing your son to Chicago and putting him on the bus, b) flying him directly to Rhinelander, or c) dropping him off at camp then your son's bags CAN travel with him on the plane.

If your son is **flying to Chicago alone** and staying with us in Chicago, **HE CANNOT TRAVEL WITH HIS CAMP LUGGAGE**. We have partnered with ShipCamps to give you preferred shipping rates. ShipCamps offers door-to-door luggage service and makes the baggage and travel process so much easier. Please visit the [Camp Menominee ShipCamps page](#) to book your shipments.

Baggage Home: You may have your son's bags fly home with him, but all bags need to be pre-paid.

This includes southwest as they do charge for bags that are overweight.

If you are shipping bags, your son can bring a small carry-on bag and a backpack if needed for the plane ride.

Shipping Dates: Please schedule your son's bags to arrive by Saturday June 15 (Session I, Rookie I, Full Season) or Saturday July 13 (Rookie II, Session II) at the LATEST. Please have your son's bags picked up to ship home on the last day of the session.

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FAQs

What do the travel days look like? How do they get to the gate on the way home? Do they have to go by themselves? Coming to camp, we will let you know if your son will be flying on the same flight as other campers so you can connect at the airport. When your son arrives to Chicago, we will meet him at baggage claim. We will collect all the boys and take them to the hotel or AirBnB to spend the night. We'll most likely have a BBQ or get them dinner and meet some of the other boys that night. The next morning we'll wake up at about 7:30am to arrive at the Chicago Bus by 8:10. The bus will leave for camp with all our other campers at 8:30. Camp will of course pay for the night's stay and provide food for the boys!

Here is how travel works on the last day of camp: 1) Our staff will bring the boys to the airport. 2) We will get them checked in for their flights and obtain boarding passes. 3) Our staff will get gate passes from the airlines allowing them to go through security with the boys. 4) Our staff will take the group to the gate, and make sure they all get on the plane safely. 5) Our staff will stay at the airport until they have confirmation that the plane has taken off. 6) You will get an email from us when the plan has taken off.

Do we HAVE to book the flights you suggested? No. We suggested flights to get as many boys on the same flights as possible. The important thing is that you match up the timing of departure and arrival with the flights listed above. If you have an airline you prefer, feel free to use it. We suggested southwest flights because it is easier to work with unaccompanied minors and less costly to fly unaccompanied.

Why the change from prior years? For those 3+ year camp families, you'll notice that we used to fly the boys into Milwaukee or Minneapolis the day before camp starts and bus them directly to camp. We changed our plan this year for a few reasons: 1) flight costs and times from various cities to MKE and MSP were not favorable. The boys would have ended up at camp no earlier than 11pm on travel day and southwest flights were not available. 2) Chicago allows for a lot more flexibility when it comes to travel day changes, delays, cancellations, etc. 3) We wanted everyone to travel together to camp on the bus on the first day. The start of camp will be a lot more exciting that way!

Do these flights have chaperones? We usually do not provide chaperones for these flights. There are a number of older boys (CITs) that will be flying, and the airlines do a great job with minors. If this changes and there are any parents traveling on the flights, we will let you know.

How does it work with unaccompanied minors? Any advice for us? Southwest will usually require you to fly Unaccompanied Minor and charge you \$50 each way, however, if you link your ticket with a camper 12 and older you can avoid these fees. You do this by entering the older camper's travel information at checkout. As our campers start to book flights, our office can pass along older camper's information so you can use it to avoid the UM fees. Please email our office as camp gets closer.

Can/should the boys fly with cell phones? If the boys have cell phones, we do recommend you sending them with for the travel day. We will collect the phones in Chicago and hold them at camp. We will make sure they are charged up for the trip home so the boys can communicate with you at the airport.