Camp Menominee

Hi Everyone,

This is your complete Out-of-State Travel Guide for the summer of 2026. For reference, Rookie I, Session I and Full Season begin on **Monday, June 15**, and Rookie II and Session II begin on **Sunday, July 12**. These are important dates to know, as several 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 8:30 am 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 its 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.

For boys flying alone to and from Chicago:

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 14

* 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 11

** 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 27th

Please book flights home no earlier than 3:00 PM out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD).

Session I – Friday July 10

Please book flights home no earlier than 3:00 PM out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD).

Rookie II – Saturday July 25

Please book flights home no earlier than 3:00 PM out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD). .

Session II, Full Season – Thursday August 6

Please book flights home no earlier than 3:00 PM out of Chicago O'Hare (ORD).

2026 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 13 (Session I, Rookie I, Full Season) or Friday July 10 (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.

More information can be found on our Parent Headquarters!

Camp Menominee

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.

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.