

# Camp Menominee

March 22, 2021

Today we want to spend some time discussing Travel to camp for this summer for those flying to the area. Please know there is nothing you need to do now, but read all the information below and we'll finalize everything by the beginning of April.

## **What will be required before the boys travel?**

Every camper traveling will need to take a PCR test and show camp a negative result before getting on the plane. We ask that this test be performed as close to travel day as possible. We will advise you on the best way to do this in the coming weeks.

## **What will travel day look like?**

In the past, we have always asked campers to fly in to Milwaukee or Minneapolis the day before camp starts. From there we would pick the boys up and bring them to camp to settle in after a long day of travel.

## **This year we will be doing things slightly different.**

We will still ask that all of our campers fly in **a day before camp starts**, however, we are coordinating all transportation this year through **Chicago**. The plan is for everyone to spend the night in the Chicagoland area, then travel to camp on the buses on the first day of camp with all of the boys from the Midwest. Below I'll explain our rationale and answer some questions.

## **Why the change?**

There are number of reasons:

1. We plan on beginning our small groups/pods at the point of pickup and have each pod travel on a separate bus. Coordinating from one central location is the best way for us to do this successfully.
2. Travel to camp this year will require more staff at the bus and more of a coordinated effort on our end. Running everything out of one location will limit how many staff need to leave our camp bubble and will ensure travel day is organized in the most efficient way possible.
3. We are working on a testing plan that involves a PCR saliva test in Chicago the day before camp starts (this is in addition to a negative PCR before the boys fly). The goal would be to meet families at the airport if possible to collect the saliva sample and receive results before the buses leave the next morning.

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**What is Camp Recommending?** Below we will lay out our recommendations on how to travel to Chicago. These will be in order of our preference for travel day to go as smooth as possible:

1. Fly in to Chicago with your son on the day before camp starts. Stay local for one night at a hotel (or with family), then bring your camper to the bus on travel day.
2. Have your son travel with another family from the area the day before camp starts. Stay local for one night at a hotel with that family and have them bring campers to the bus on travel day.
3. If neither of those options are possible, your son can fly in to Chicago the day before camp starts. Our staff will pick him up at the airport and we will make accommodations for him (fully supervised) at a local hotel, camp family's house, Jason's house or with a cabin mate. We will then get him to the bus the next morning.

We know there will be a number of questions about this so feel free to email back or call to talk it through. We are partners on this and will help find the best solution for each family. **We only ask that right now you do NOT take any action to book flights. Please wait until April 1st.** By then, we will send out the recommended flights, times, baggage suggestions and everything else you need to know. The good news is, for those of you that fly Southwest, they have started to fly to O'hare which is definitely the preferred Chicago airport!

We'll reach out again in a couple weeks with very detailed travel information. Thanks so much!

For the Love of Camp - the CM Office