



HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO
9701 W. Higgins Road, Suite 310
Rosemont, IL 60018-4717
773-227-VETS (8387)
www.honorflightchicago.org

2026 Scout and Classroom Guidelines for Honor Flight Chicago Midway Airport Welcome Home Celebrations

Effective with the start of the 2026 flight year, all Scout and school groups (classrooms, clubs, etc.) wishing to attend an Honor Flight Chicago Welcome Home must abide by the Guidelines delineated in this document, including the submission of the attached reservation form. Individual students or Scouts attending with their families are exempt from this requirement. For more information and clarification, please contact the Scout/School Coordinator at HFCScoutCoordinator@honorflightchicago.org

For simplicity, "Youth" implies members of a Scout or other youth organization, including classroom or school-sponsored club, attending the event; "group" implies the troop, class, etc. "Leader" implies troop leader, scoutmaster, teacher, or other adult in charge of a group. Please review this document with all youth and leaders before the event so they know what is expected of them.

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1. To be invited to a Welcome Home celebration is a great honor, as these are among the first people the Veterans encounter as they return to Midway. We request (if possible) that Scout groups be dressed in full uniform. School or other groups may wear clothing representing their affiliation (school spiritwear, etc.)
 2. Safety is a top priority. Youth and their adult leaders will ensure their own safety and the safety of those around them. Everyone must always follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Chicago Department of Aviation, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, and the Department of Homeland Security/TSA. Doorways and exit paths must not be obstructed. Sitting or standing on baggage carousels is strictly prohibited.
 3. As representatives of their organizations, youth are expected to behave appropriately and respectfully, especially in the presence of the Veterans we are here to honor. An appropriate number of adult leaders must accompany each group (determined by the Scout/School Coordinator and consistent with safety requirements for the age of group members). Additional adults will be asked to remain downstairs with the main crowd in the baggage claim area. Youth groups must stay in the area assigned to them by the Scout/School Coordinator or designee.

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4. Please do not bring troop/council flags or large American flags (with or without poles and stands) to the airport without permission of the Scout/School Coordinator. Any signs should be prepared ahead of time, not at the airport. Food and drink must be consumed before the Veterans' arrival and trash disposed of appropriately. Water is permitted; consider using personal reusable bottles.
5. Running, horseplay, and misuse of the American flag is strictly forbidden. Flags are not to be worn (in hats, pockets, etc), placed on the floor, or played with. They should be waved proudly in the presence of the Vets. The American Flag is a very important symbol to many Veterans.
6. Orange-shirt volunteers are here to provide crowd control and ensure the event runs smoothly. Most can answer general questions you may have, but problems should be handled through the Scout/School Coordinator or one of the members of the leadership team (neon yellow shirts).
7. Once your group accepts an invitation to attend a Welcome Home to greet the Veterans, we ask you honor it to the best of your ability. We understand emergencies come up, so if you cannot attend, please contact the Scout/School Coordinator at HFCScoutCoordinator@honorflightchicago.org as soon as possible so another group can be invited.
8. Youth groups should not become a focus of attention at the event. You are here to help ensure the Veterans receive the recognition and honor they deserve; this is *their* celebration.
9. Nothing can be handed out to the Veterans at the Welcome Home. This includes boxes of Girl Scout cookies or other food, greeting cards, flowers, flags, etc. The only items distributed during this event will be those provided by Honor Flight Chicago. This is per agreement with Midway.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the entire group being asked to leave the mezzanine area.

For further information, please contact the **Honor Flight Chicago Scout/School Coordinator** at the email listed above.

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- While awaiting the date of your reserved Honor Flight, please consider writing a few letters to the Veterans we fly. Check out these [Mail Call instructions](#) for more information! Between that and attending the Welcome Home, your youth will be well on their way to completing our **Honor.Thank.Inspire** patch program. Requirements can be downloaded from the [Scouts tab](#) of our website.
 - Follow the [Honor Flight Chicago Operation Education page on Facebook](#) for more suggestions and ideas of how your youth can learn about and honor our veterans.
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Instructions for Arrival at Midway

Plan to arrive at Midway no later than **7:45 pm**. The charter flight number for 2026 is **SWA8226** and is scheduled to land at **~8:30 pm**. You may not see it on the airport arrival boards or in flight tracking apps. If the flight is not delayed, you should be leaving the airport between 9:45 to 10 p.m. to experience the entire celebration. If the flight is excessively delayed, you may leave at any time.

We recommend carpooling and use of the **daily garage**. It costs no more than the hourly garage and will be cheaper should you be there over four hours.

Try to park near the **yellow or blue** entrance and elevators. Take the elevator to the first floor. Enter the baggage claim area and proceed to the **Smarte Carte kiosk adjacent to the Operation Education table**, near carousel 2. You will be met around 8:00 pm by the Scout/School Coordinator (wearing a purple polo) or a designee who will escort you to your assigned position on the mezzanine along the parade route.

There will be patches, pins, stickers (3), car magnets, and silicone bracelets (3) available for a \$5 donation each. (Other items [baseball caps, etc.] are also available for higher donations.) Cash or credit accepted. Proceeds help fund future flights.

It is best to be able to pay for parking by credit card as only one exit lane accepts cash and it will get backed up.

Request to attend a 2026 Welcome Home Celebration at Midway

Complete this page and email it to HFCScoutCoordinator@honorflightchicago.org at least 4 days prior to the flight day. Your reservation request will be confirmed upon receipt.

Important: (1) Due to limitations imposed by Midway and TSA, we reserve the right to cap the number of youth groups attending our Welcome Home celebrations. As necessary, we may start a waitlist, especially during summer months when demand to attend is high.

(2) We ask you to limit the release of the flight dates below to private group communications and not on public, private, or personal social media pages.

2026 Flight Date(s) requested:

April 15 May 20 Jun 24 Jul 29 Aug 26 Sep 23 Oct 28

Adult(s) in charge (flight date):

Name: _____

Email: _____ Cellphone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Cellphone: _____

Organization:

S-BSA GSUSA Other (indicate) _____

Troop/Pack/Group number _____

City/town where you meet _____

OR School:

Name: _____

City/town: _____

Level/Grade(s)/age range of youth _____

Potential/approximate number attending _____ youth _____ adults

(please update the week before flight day if numbers significantly changes)

Is there a particular veteran your troop is coming to see?

Veteran's name: _____

May Honor Flight Chicago use photos of members of your youth group for promotional purposes (social media, website, flyers, publications, etc.)? Yes No

Any other pertinent information we should know?

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