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Young Travelers Terms & Conditions | Southwest Airlines

How do I book a reservation for a Young Traveler (ages 12-17 traveling alone)?

Flying with Children**Information for Young Travelers**

Southwest® will allow children ages 12 through 17 to travel alone as Young Travelers (YTs). A Young Traveler must have the maturity and capability to travel alone, including but not limited to checking in, passing through the security checkpoint, boarding, deplaning, making a connecting flight, and claiming luggage. YTs cannot fly to or from international destinations, on itineraries with overnight connections, or on Getaways by Southwest™ vacation packages.

Making a Reservation for a Young Traveler

You will need the following information when making a YT reservation:

- Child's full name
- Your relationship to the child
- Child's address
- Telephone number(s)
- Child's date of birth

If you purchase a **Basic** fare for your YT, Southwest will assign seats at check-in, which begins 24 hours before departure. If you purchase a **Choice Extra, Choice Preferred, or Choice** fare, you will have the option to select a seat for your YT or may purchase a seat (if available).

When you purchase a ticket, you affirm that you're the parent/guardian or authorized to act on their behalf.

Preparing a Young Traveler for Travel:

- Make copies of the itinerary for the YT and whoever's picking them up
- Download the Southwest app to monitor their flight status
- Refer to the U.S. Department of Transportation's guide, 'When Kids Fly Alone'
- If there is a disruption of service, your child must have the maturity to know how to and be capable of requesting help from a Southwest Employee in the airport or onboard the aircraft. Note: Should the Young Traveler's travel be disrupted, Southwest Airlines® is authorized to take whatever action is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances, including requiring the Young Traveler to remain at the airport to ensure proper supervision is provided until a designated parent/guardian is available or the Young Traveler is placed on a flight to the intended destination. The parent or guardian agrees to

reimburse Southwest Airlines for its expenses incurred in taking such action (e.g., meals, clothing, toiletries, transport on another carrier).

- A child's parent or legal guardian can obtain a Rapid Rewards® account for the child so that the child can access Free WiFi during the flight with their permission. All Rapid Rewards rules and regulations apply and can be found at [Southwest.com/rrterms](https://www.southwest.com/rrterms)

Dropping off a Young Traveler at the Airport:

- Arrive at the airport early—review our [suggested airport arrival times](#)
- Check in at the ticket counter.
- If you choose to accompany the YT to the gate, you can make a request at the ticket counter for a gate pass, which is required to accompany the child through the security checkpoint. Be sure to have your valid, government-issued ID.
- Stay in the gate area until the flight departs.
- Call the person who is picking up the YT to let them know the flight departed

Keep in mind that we reserve the right not to allow YT travel on flights that may be delayed, diverted, or canceled due to weather or other operational disruptions.

Onboard Expectations:

- YTs must follow Southwest Crewmember instructions, including those regarding wearing a seatbelt.
- Our Flight Attendants will not monitor the YT throughout the flight, and the YT will not be escorted off the plane nor taken to meet the parent/guardian at the destination.
- Make sure that you and the person who is picking up the YT are available to answer phone calls during the flight time in the event of a flight irregularity.

Picking up a Young Traveler at the Airport:

If you choose to meet your Young Traveler at the gate:

- Stop at the ticket counter to obtain a gate pass. You must show a valid, government-issued ID to obtain the pass.
- If the flight arrives after security closes, proceed to the Baggage Service Office.
- Arrive at the gate at least 45 minutes prior to scheduled arrival. Check in with a Southwest Employee at the gate and let them know you're picking up a YT.
- Notify the person who dropped off the YT in the originating city to let them know you have picked up the YT.

More information can be found in our [Young Traveler Terms and Conditions](#).