

Calling All Scouts...

Everything you need to know to prepare for and attend an Honor Flight Chicago Welcome Home Celebration



- Where do we park?** We suggest that you park in the Midway Parking Garage. You will be charged the same amount if you park in the daily lot or the hourly lot. Generally it will cost between \$12-15 to park for the evening. We congregate in the area around Baggage Claims 1-3, which is closest to the first entrance once you are in the garage.
- What should we wear?** The Vets LOVE seeing Scouts in their uniforms. Dress neatly; remember, you're representing your organization as well as honoring our Veterans.
- Do we have to go through Security?** No, we all remain in the baggage claim area. In fact, for security reasons, all groups must stay on in that area and not wander the rest of the airport. Midway forbids any but authorized personnel by the security checkpoints.
- Can we bring signs?** Yes, please do! Also balloons, small hand-held American flags on sticks (not large American or troop/council flags on poles with stands), etc. Please review proper flag etiquette with your Scouts (There are many websites available, here's one from the VA: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagdisplay.pdf>.) Remember our Veterans fought hard for that flag, and it means a lot to them. To stage "sword fights", lay them down on the floor, or wear them in ones' hair or like a hat is very disrespectful and potentially hurtful to the Vets.
- Can we make the signs at the airport while we wait?** No, please prepare them ahead of time. The baggage claim area gets very crowded, and to sprawl out on the floor making signs prevents others from sharing the great vantage point you've staked out. We recommend if you want to hang them on the stanchion ribbons which line the parade route, you bring heavy duty binding clips (shown here). If you bring tape, make sure it is the blue painting tape that doesn't mar walls and removes easily. Remember, Midway has graciously allowed us to use their property. We don't want to cause any damage.
- Can we bring food or drinks?** Yes, but again, please clean up after yourself (a Scout leaves a place better than they found it!). There is also a refreshment stand near the washrooms in the middle of the baggage claim area.
- What's the schedule for the evening? What can we expect?** We recommend you arrive at least an hour before scheduled arrival time to secure a spot along the parade route (and a parking space; sometimes the garage gets very full). The Frankfort Brass Band will be playing patriotic tunes, and it's a fun time to mingle as the crowd anticipates the flight's arrival. Once the plane lands, it takes a good half hour until we can unload the wheelchairs that accompany the Vets to DC, and get the



Vets themselves off the plane. Active duty military (mostly sailors from Great Lakes) escort them down the elevators, around the escalators, and past the crowd lining the baggage claim area. It takes at least an hour to get the entire group to “Honorable Discharge”, the far corner of Baggage Claim 1. You will probably be leaving the airport no later than 11:00 pm (but don’t quote us!!).



8. **Do we have to let you know if our group/troop is planning on attending?** Only if you expect a group larger than 25. Please email hfcscouts@gmail.com to let us know and we will request a reserved spot with enough room for the number in attendance. Groups of less than 25 won’t have a problem finding a spot (as long as you arrive an hour early) so you don’t have to notify us.
9. **Who are all the people on the flyer that gets sent out each month?** Each month we change out the pictures with those of groups that attended the previous flight. There are a lot of professional and amateur photographers present at the Welcome Home celebrations. About a week or two after the Welcome Home go to <http://honorflightchicago.zenfolio.com/f1011864188> and click on the album of the flight date you attended. There are literally thousands of photos posted from each flight, and if a photographer took your group’s photo, it will be posted in there for free download. The photo albums are also a great place to plan your impending trip to Midway and let your Scouts see what to expect at the Welcome Home, as well and discuss what the Veterans experienced on their flight day. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive the monthly flyers, please send your email and contact information to hfcscouts@gmail.com.
10. **How can we get those Honor Flight hats and patches we see in the photographs for our troop members?** HFC is forbidden from selling these items at Midway. Please contact the Scout Coordinator at Midway or by email for more information. They will soon be available online.
11. **Can we bring boxes of cookies or popcorn for the Vets or SWAPS to exchange with other troops?** No, unfortunately Midway forbids handing out of any items other than those distributed by Honor Flight Chicago.
12. **Can we bring letters for Mail Call to the Welcome Home?** No. The mail for the Vets on the flight was already packaged and delivered on the flight home. Mail for future flights must be sent to the designated address: **Honor Flight Chicago Mail Call, 6688 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL 60525.**



For further information, please contact Scout Coordinator Kathi Krankoski at hfcscouts@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!!

Honor Flight Chicago

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Honor Flight Chicago – Bringing Chicago’s Vets to DC – With Honor