

<https://www.angelflightwest.org>

Free Medical Transportation with Angel Flight West

Over our 30+ year history, we have helped thousands of people get the transportation they need, and we look forward to assisting you with your medical travel needs.

Angel Flight West is a charitable organization whose mission is help people get to their medical treatment. Most of our flights are provided by volunteers — private pilots who fly their own airplanes and donate the costs of the flight. We also work with airline partners for trips from Alaska and Hawaii.

A few notes before we start:

- There is never a charge of any kind for an Angel Flight
 - Your flight will be scheduled to accommodate your medical appointment.
 - You can bring companions to travel with you.
 - Your flight is just for you, and will typically be in a small private plane that can easily navigate in to small airports, even in rural areas.
 - Your pilot will pick you up at an airport near your home and bring you to your treatment facility.
 - After your appointment, another pilot will pick you up and deliver you back home.
 - You can travel with Angel Flight on as many trips as you need.
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About Us

Flying towards hope on the wings of an angel

A small child, ravaged by cancer, needs specialized lifesaving treatment at a hospital 300 miles away. A father, separated from his family by a hurricane, wants desperately to be reunited. A domestic-violence survivor longs to start a new life in another city, but cannot afford to leave. These are just a few of the people to whom we offer help and hope.

There's an angel in the cockpit.

The ability to travel easily across the country is something that most of us take for granted. But for those whose lives are in turmoil, the financial, physical, and emotional burdens can make ordinary trips extraordinarily difficult. That's when they turn to Angel Flight West. Our network

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of 1,400+ volunteer pilots fly their own planes and pay for all costs out of their own pockets, in order to make these critical journeys.

At our headquarters in Santa Monica, California, our ground team manages the complex system of matching pilots with passengers, coordinating the flights, spreading the word among referral agencies, and continually recruiting new volunteers.

What we do is much like running a small airline, further complicated by the extra care and expense of working with passengers who need our help, their families, as well as medical and hospital personnel.

The beneficiaries of the flight – the passengers and their families, the healthcare organizations – pay nothing at all, ever.

We love to fly. And we want to help.

Who are these pilots, and why do they give so much of their time and money to help strangers? They're engineers, scientists, and teachers. Doctors, lawyers, and corporate executives. Retired commercial pilots and young entrepreneurs. But as different as these men and women might be, they all have two things in common: The love of flying, and the desire to touch people's lives.

When Angel Flight West began in 1983, our mission was so unique that we sometimes had trouble convincing healthcare providers that we would and could do what we promised: fly people in our own planes for free. It almost seemed too good to be true.

We're there when they need us.

Today, no one questions our capabilities or our commitment. Not only have we earned the gratitude of our passengers, we've earned the trust and respect of a long list of organizations – large research hospitals, children's hospitals, VA hospitals, specialized treatment centers, and small rural healthcare centers... children's protective services, and domestic violence shelters... special camps for children with medical needs.

When someone's transportation needs are critical, organizations both large and small know they can depend on us. We're proud to help them.

What to expect when you fly with Angel Flight West

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Before you request an Angel Flight West mission, please make sure that the person who will be flying is able to handle the following flight-related responsibilities, activities and conditions.

Your pilot arranges the flight schedule

After you have been approved for a flight and Angel Flight West has received the completed paperwork, we will start looking for a pilot to volunteer for your mission. Once a pilot has accepted the assignment, he or she will contact you directly, and all travel arrangements from that point on will be made between the pilot and you.

You need to have a back-up plan

Pilots make the final decisions about the execution of their missions. A pilot may delay or cancel a mission because of bad weather or other critical factors. ***We ask our passengers either to have a back-up plan, or to be able to re-schedule their appointments.***

Smaller plane, longer travel time

Your flight will be made in a small private aircraft that probably has from four to six seats. These aircraft are not as fast or as large as a commercial airplane, so the flying time to your destination may be a bit longer than you anticipated.

Weight limitations

A small plane is far more limited in the amount of weight it can carry than a large commercial jet. Because of this, you need to limit your luggage to a maximum of 25 lbs. per person. Luggage must be soft-sided and no larger than what would be allowed on a commercial airplane as a carry-on. These limitations will be strictly enforced. Oxygen, crutches, car seats, strollers, and other such items can be accommodated if you let us know before the day of departure. In addition, please be prepared to tell the pilot your weight, as well as the weights of anyone else who is flying with you.

Entering the airplane

In order to board the aircraft, you may have to step up onto a wing that is 16 to 20 inches above the ground, crouch slightly to fit through a small door, then lower yourself into the back seat. If you or one of your traveling companions cannot perform these movements, that person will not be able to fly with us.

Noise during the flight

If you've never flown on a small aircraft before, you'll discover that it's a much different experience than flying on a large commercial jet. The engine noise on small planes can be loud enough to prevent you from having a normal conversation. Some pilots will provide you with headphones to wear during the flight, which will enable you to communicate with the pilot and other passengers, as well as serving to block out most of the noise. If you wish, you can also bring your own ear plugs. On some planes, you might hear different sounds from the engine as it changes speed. Be aware that, for safety reasons, some pilots request that you do not talk during

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take-off and landing, or even throughout the entire flight. Your pilot will inform you of his or her specific requirements.

Turbulence during the flight

Small planes are more susceptible to air turbulence than large ones, so you might experience more “bumps” than you’re used to. These motions are perfectly normal and no cause for alarm.

Temperature during the flight

Some, but not all, AFW planes have heated cockpits, and most do not have air conditioning. Consequently, it can be chilly inside the plane because of the altitude, even if it isn’t cold on the ground. And on a hot, sunny summer day, the temperature onboard can be quite warm. To ensure that you’re comfortable during the flight, please ask your pilot about the best type of clothing to wear.

No restrooms or food

Restrooms and food service are not available on AFW flights. Please check with your pilot if you want to bring food aboard.

If you’re traveling with a child...

If you are traveling with a baby or small child, we suggest that you give them a bottle, pacifier or, for a slightly older child, gum to chew during take-off and landing. These items will help the child to equalize the changing air pressure, and avoid ear pain.

No ground transportation

Angel Flight West usually is unable to provide ground transportation, so you will need to make those arrangements prior to your departure.

FAQs

What kind of aircraft will I be flying in?

You will mostly be flying in a small, private aircraft that has 4-6 seats. In order to board the aircraft, you may have to step up onto a wing that is 16-20 inches above the ground, crouch slightly to fit through a small door, and then lower yourself into the back seat. If you or one of your companions cannot perform these movements, that person will not be able to fly with us.