

Honor Flight Wyoming
Frequently Asked Questions
September 29, 2009 Version 8

Q: Who can go on the trip?

A: For the purposes of this trip and the next few years, World War II Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces prior to December 31, 1946. We hope to send Korean War Veterans in the coming years. We hope to send about 100-110 Veterans, 30-40 Guardians, and a small Staff element on each trip.

Q: When are you going?

A: We are currently planning trips for the Spring of 2010 and the Fall of 2010 dependent upon funding.

Q: Where will we be going and what will happen on this trip?

A: Future trips may depart and return from either Cheyenne or Casper. We meet early morning and will depart Wyoming by commercial airline charter and fly to Dulles International Airport (IAD). We will stay overnight in a hotel near the airport. We will have an evening banquet with special guests. The next day, we will travel by commercial charter bus to the heart of our nation's capitol, the mall in Washington, D.C. We will visit the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials. We visit or drive by the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy Memorials. We may have an opportunity to drive by Arlington National Cemetery and also see where the aircraft impacted the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. After we visit Washington, D.C., we will travel back to Dulles International Airport, board our aircraft and return to Wyoming that evening.

Q: What expenses are not covered by the Honor Flight?

A: Veterans fly for free. Veterans may want to take a small amount of money for souvenirs and snacks. Veterans traveling to Cheyenne or Casper will need to pay for their lodging the night before the trip and the night we return.

Q: How much luggage is allowed? Am I allowed to bring a carry-on bag onboard the aircraft with me?

A: You will be in the Washington, D. C. area for one night only. Please pack very light. We suggest an overnight bag only. We will take your luggage/overnight bag/AWOL bag from you when you check-in. You will not need to carry your luggage to the aircraft.

Q: What security screening procedures will be used before we board the charter airline.

A: The airline will conduct security screening along with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). We will provide detailed instructions to you in your confirmation letter.

Q: Will blankets be furnished onboard the aircraft? Will there be any in-flight entertainment? Will a meal or a snack be provided on the flight?

A: There will be blankets on the aircraft. We will entertain each other on the flight with stories of your World War II service. We will provide snacks, a meal, and drinks on the aircraft.

Q: Can my wife (husband) go with me?

A: No. At the present time, we have over 8,000 World War II Veterans on the national waiting list and thousands more who will apply this year. It is doubtful that we will get to every deserving Veteran in time. Many World War II Veterans have passed away while patiently waiting their turn. Hundreds more will not live long enough to visit their precious memorial. Imagine how long the waiting list would be if we added non-Veteran spouses to our waiting list. The only spouses who are permitted to go are those who are Veterans themselves.

Q: I am the widow of a World War II Veteran. Can I go?

A: Sadly, the answer is "no". Again, we simply do not have the resources, funding, or seating available to transport all the World War II Veterans who are presently on our national waiting list. Adding spouses and widows simply isn't an option for our program at this time.

Q: How can my spouse reach me while on the trip?

A: We will provide an emergency contact phone number for them in the confirmation letter.

Q: How much does it cost? How much money do I need to bring?

A: The cost is FREE for World War II Veterans. You do not need to bring any money, unless you intend to purchase souvenirs. Veterans traveling to Cheyenne or Casper will need to pay for their lodging the night before the trip and the night we return.

Q: What does the Guardian do on the trip?

A: Guardians are volunteers who have paid \$800 each to help us ensure each Veteran has a memorable and enjoyable trip. They receive special training and their sole mission is to assist Veterans with all aspects of the trip. Guardians must accept the personal responsibility of caring for the Veterans in their squad. Guardians must be at least 18 years of age and not older than 70 years of age. Guardians over age 70 are approved on a case by case basis.

Q: Can my son, daughter, grandson, etc. go as a Guardian?

A: Only under certain limited circumstances. Our TOP priority is the safe travel of ALL the Veterans. A normal ratio is 3 Veterans to 1 Guardian. Who will, or will not, serve as a Guardian, and how many Guardians will be needed, is the responsibility of the Operations Officer. That decision is based upon many factors, such as:

How many disabled Veterans are scheduled to go?

Of the disabled Veterans going, how many will have to be physically assisted getting on and off the buses?

Q: Which Guardian applicants are most qualified?

A: Medically trained, active duty military personnel and Veterans who have previously participated in a flight are given top priority and serve as leadership members. The applicants physically capable of assisting in the lifting of World War II Veterans are also a top priority. Once the Operations Officer has enough of these positions filled, other applicants are then considered. Parent/Child relationships receive priority, but the Guardian must be capable of caring for 3 Veterans. Again, these decisions rest with the Operations Officer.

Q: How do you decide which Veterans get to go?

A: Veterans are flown on a "first-come, first-served basis." The Honor Flight Wyoming Board has given Veterans 90 years old and older top priority. Within the applicants, top priority is currently given to World War II Veterans and all other Veterans with a terminal illness.

Q: What if the Veteran is on oxygen or will need a wheelchair?

A: WHEELCHAIRS -- About 30% of the Veterans the national program has transported over the past three years were in wheelchairs. Our deluxe motor coaches are ordered based upon this fact. Many of our coaches are equipped with wheelchair lifts. If there is a possibility that a Veteran may need a wheelchair during one of our trips, we ask that the Veteran bring their own. If a wheelchair is not available, you can usually sign one out from your local Veterans Service Organization (VFW, American Legion, DAV, etc). If this still is not an option, please contact our offices at (307) 772-5145. We will provide extra wheelchairs. We do not want you to bring a motorized wheelchair, that is what the guardians are for.

OXYGEN -- If the Veteran requires oxygen, a prescription for the oxygen must be provided by the Veteran's healthcare provider, identifying the delivery method (mask or nasal cannula), frequency (as needed or continuously), and the rate of delivery (2-3 liters per minute). Honor Flight Network will provide an FAA-approved oxygen concentrator for use during the trip if local oxygen equipment is not available. We also provide oxygen cylinders to be used at the memorials. We will provide an overnight concentrator for use in the hotel room. Veterans on oxygen are required to have oxygen cylinders available from their home to the departure airport and also on the return from their local airport back to their homes. No oxygen cylinders are permitted to be used on the aircraft. If the Veteran requires oxygen during the trip, please call us at (307) 772-5145 to discuss arrangements.

Q: What happens if I have an emergency while in Washington D.C. and have to remain for medical care after the flight is scheduled to depart?

A: A Wyoming Guardian will remain with you; volunteers from the Washington, D.C. area will assist in your care. Your return to Wyoming will be based on your medical provider's decisions. Honor Flight-Wyoming will pay for your return travel.

Q: Are terminally ill World War II Veterans given special priority?

A: YES! Such Veterans go to the top of the list for the next flight departing to Washington D.C. as part of our TLC (Their Last Chance) Program. Not only are World War II Veterans given this top priority, but any terminally ill Veteran, who have never been able to visit their memorial, is given the same priority under our TLC Program. Please call us for more information (307) 772-5145.

Q: Can friends or relatives meet the Veteran in Washington, D.C.?

A: Yes, we encourage you to travel to meet up with your veteran. We will provide you with hotel information and you will need to make your own reservations and pay for your room. We may be able to provide you meals and tour bus transportation on a space available basis. A donation is requested to cover these costs. You must contact our office in advance if you wish to join the group.

Q: How are you funded?

A: Honor Flight Wyoming receives no national, national corporate, or government sponsorship. Our funding comes primarily from individuals across the country who recognize the great accomplishments and sacrifices of Veterans and want them to see their memorial before it is too late. Other significant contributors have been Veterans Service Organizations like local American Legion, VFW, DAV, MOPH, posts and chapters, as well as various corporations on a local level. Wyoming churches, civic groups, fraternal organizations and others should consider providing a scholarship to ensure Wyoming Veterans can travel. It will cost about \$1,100 per Wyoming Veteran to conduct this trip. It will cost about \$130,000 to take on complete trip. A \$1,100 scholarship will ensure one World War II Veteran can travel.

Q: Can I make a donation to Honor Flight-Wyoming?

A: Honor Flight-Wyoming gratefully accepts donations from anyone EXCEPT World War II Veterans. We feel that World War II Veterans have given enough. This is our way of saying "Thank You"!

Send your donations to:

Honor Flight-Wyoming

PO Box 1143

Cheyenne, WY 82003

Please contact us at the following numbers if you have further questions or concerns:

Fundraising questions (307) 637-2606

Operations questions (307) 772-5145