

Wings for All®

Our Trip to the Airport Practice Guide




Wings for Autism®/Wings for All® was created by the Charles River Center, a local chapter of The Arc, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Port Authority

How to use the Trip to the Airport Practice Guide

- Use this guide to prepare for Saturday's Wings for All® event
- It details what you can expect to experience at the airport
- We invite you to personalize this guide:
 - Add your own photos and advice
 - Delete photos or advice you don't need
- And use this guide to prepare for your next, real trip!





A lot of people travel by airplane

- To visit family
- To visit friends
- To go on vacation
- To go to meetings
- To go to school

Airports can be crowded and noisy

- Lots of people
- Loud announcements
- Unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells
- A lot of lines and waiting



Photo by An Pham

We're going to the airport to get used to the sights and sounds. And airports have things we may not be familiar with, like...

- Escalators
 - Elevators
 - Moving sidewalks
 - Long hallways
 - Automatic doors
-
- We're not going to fly on an airplane
 - We can go as slowly as we want
 - We can stop and take breaks when we need them
 - We can stop and go home at any time



Let's pack our bags!

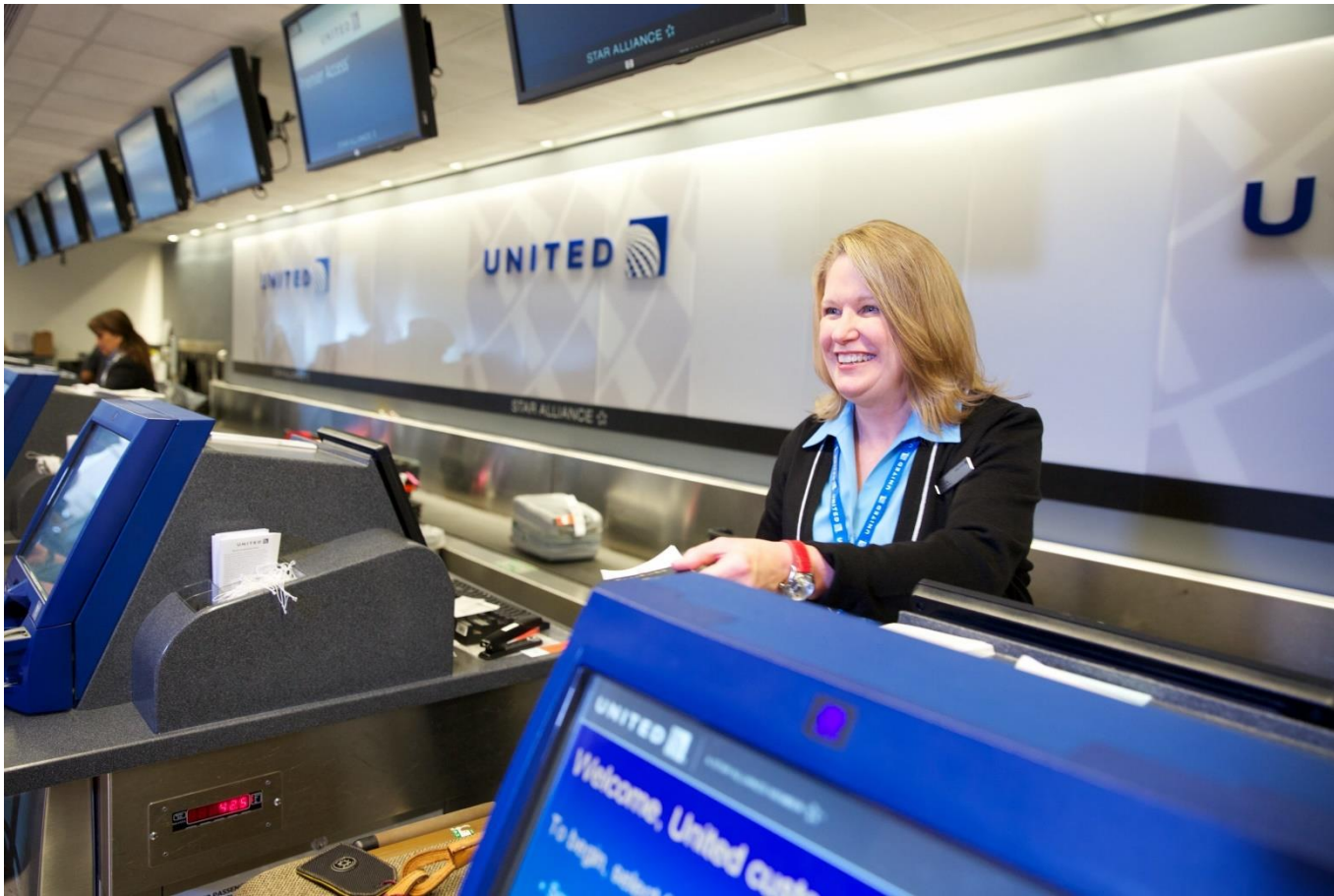
- We can pack a carry-on bag that we take on the plane
- Do we want to pack toys, games, snacks or other things in our carry-on luggage?
- We can use these things while we wait to board our plane or while sitting on the airplane



Since this is a
practice
there will be
a place for us
to check-in



- Please look for Wings for All signs and go to the registration table
- Give the person your name
- Listen to their instructions
- Ask any questions you may have
- You'll receive your boarding pass at the registration table



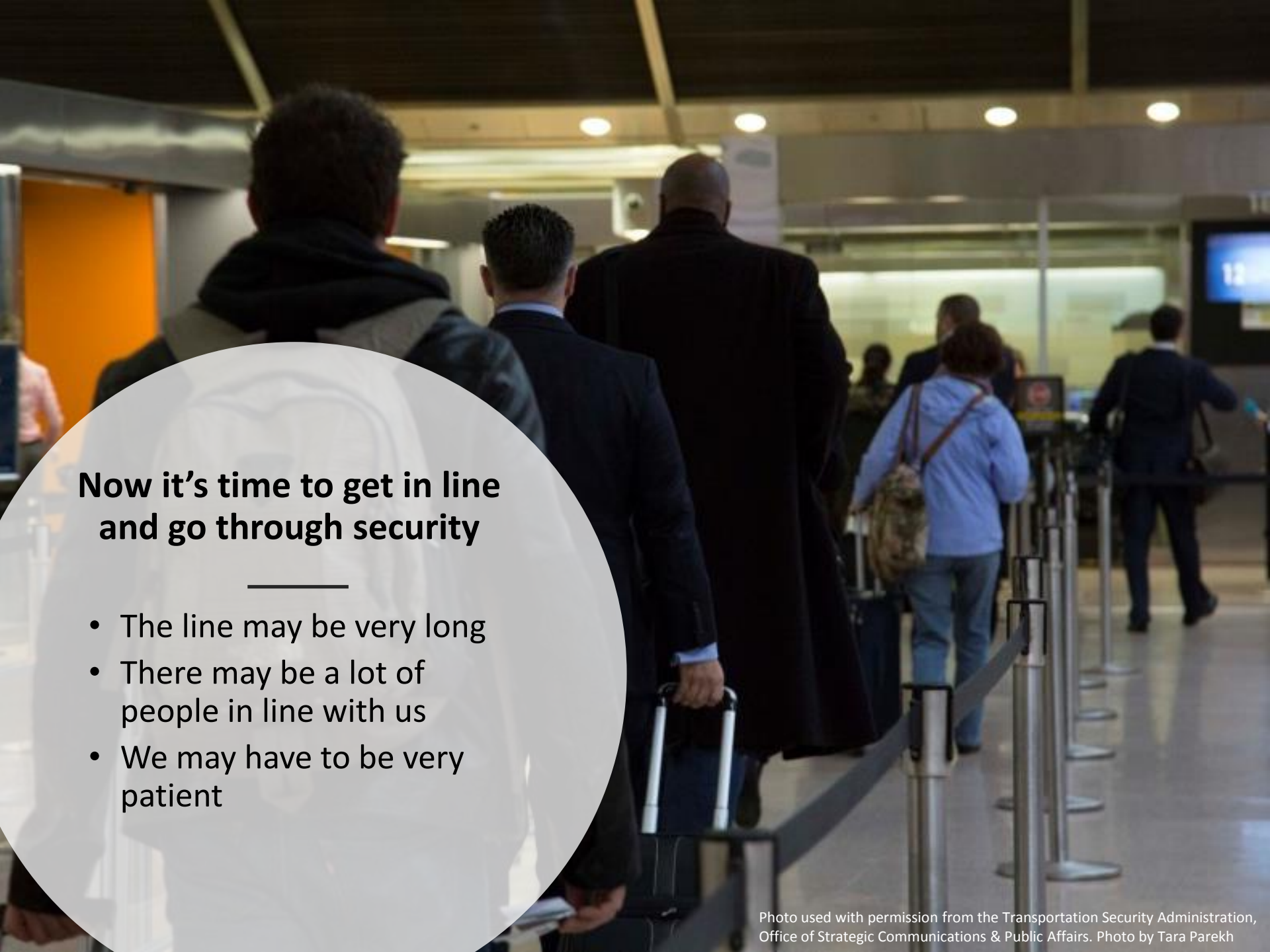
**Our next step is to go
to the airline ticket
counter**

- There may be a line and if so we'll have to wait our turn
- We'll tell the Ticket Agent our names
- If we are 18 years old or older, we'll have to provide identification

Then we'll get our gate pass

- The Ticket Agent will give us our gate pass
- We'll need the gate pass to go through security and to get on the plane
- Where is a safe place we can keep our gate pass so we don't lose it?





Now it's time to get in line and go through security

- The line may be very long
- There may be a lot of people in line with us
- We may have to be very patient



We'll follow the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Officer's Instructions

- The TSA Officer will ask for our boarding pass and identification
- The TSA Officer will write on our boarding pass that it's OK for us to pass through security
- After the TSA Officer gives us the OK, we'll go to the next line and wait



We'll get ready to go through TSA Security

- Pick up a plastic bin
- Remove your shoes (people over age 12)
- Remove your coats
- Remove everything from your pockets (and your belt if wearing one)
- Place all items in the plastic bin
- Put the bin on the conveyor belt



We'll go through an X-ray machine

- Walk up to the X-ray machine
- Wait for the TSA Officer to tell us to walk through
- Slowly walk through
- Depending on the type of machine we may have to stop and raise our hands while they take an X-ray
- Wait for the TSA Officer to read the X-ray and tell us to come out



Photos used with permission from the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs. Photo by Tara Parekh

Sometimes TSA Officers have to do additional screening

- TSA Officers may wave a wand over our hands or body
- TSA Officers may make sure we don't have anything under baggy clothing
- The TSA Officer won't do anything that hurts
- TSA Officers are nice people whose jobs are to keep us safe



After the X-ray, we need to pick up our belongings

- Pick up your items from the plastic bin
- Put your shoes and coats back on



Photos used with permission from the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs. Photo by Tara Parekh

Let's see if our practice flight is on the departure screen

- Is our practice flight on the screen?
- Look for the flight number and gate
- Our practice flight may not be posted
- When we take a real flight our information will be posted



Spokane, WA (GEG)	483	US Airways
St. Louis, MO (STL)	484	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	6578	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	5542	US Airways
Tucson, AZ (TUS)	5526	US Airways
Wings For Autism (WFA)	9030	American Air
Wings For Autism (WFA)	9031	Southwest
4:48 PM UMST Friday, October 10, 2014		



Photo by An Pham

**Our next step is to go
to our gate and wait
for our plane**

- There will be a lot of people waiting at our gate so we'll have to be patient
- We can use any toys, games or snacks we packed in our carry-on luggage to pass the time

A photograph of a Dunkin' Donuts storefront at night. The sign above the entrance is illuminated in red. The interior is visible through the glass doors, showing a brightly lit counter area with menu boards and staff members. Several people are standing outside the store, and the overall scene is captured in a slightly blurred, candid style.

DUNKIN' DONUTS

**If we have extra time, we can
explore inside the terminal**

There are lots of things to see inside
the terminal

- Stores, restaurants, people,
windows, maybe even service
dogs helping others

We can also take a break and find
somewhere quiet to sit

When the flight crew is ready we'll hear the announcement to board the plane



- We'll put back anything we took out of our carry-on bag
- We'll get our gate pass out
- And we'll get in line
- There will be a lot of people in line with us, so it may be a long line
- We may have to be very patient

We'll give our boarding pass to the Gate Agent

- The Gate Agent will take our gate pass
- They will place it in a machine that will read it and make a beeping sound
- We may or may not get the gate pass back
- The Gate Agent will then tell us to board the plane



Photo by An Pham

Then we'll walk down the jetway

- A jetway is a hallway that connects the airport to the airplane
- Some people are afraid to walk down the jetway
- We can take our time and walk together



Now we're ready to board the airplane

- We'll see a small gap between the jetway and the plane
- Once we're on the plane we'll meet the Pilots and Flight Attendants
- The airport and airline employees are volunteering their time today and are very happy to see us
- Let's make sure to give them a big thank you!



Photo by Will Schermerhorn



Photo by An Pham

The Flight Attendants will tell us to find our seats

- The Flight Attendants will use a Public Address (PA) System to make announcements
- We can place our carry-on bags in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of us
- They'll tell us it's time to find our seats and fasten our seatbelts
- Just like when we're in a car we must fasten our seatbelts on an airplane. This is for our safety.





We can explore our seats

- We can open and close the window shade
- We can look out the window
- We can open and close the tray table
- We can look at the magazines in the seatback pocket
- There may even be a TV for us to watch
- Flight attendants are there to help, so ask them if you have a question about anything on the plane



We can look around the airplane

- When on the plane look at the seats, the restrooms and the overhead storage bins
- There will be a tray table in front of you and buttons overhead for a fan and lights
- If the cockpit door is open, we can look inside



We'll hear lots of sounds on the airplane

The announcements and sounds may be very loud on the plane

We may hear:

- Bells and announcements
- People talking
- The airplane door closing
- The engine noises

We **are** allowed to wear noise cancelling headphones if we want to. There will be a pair in your goodie bags – a gift from Arc of Onondaga!

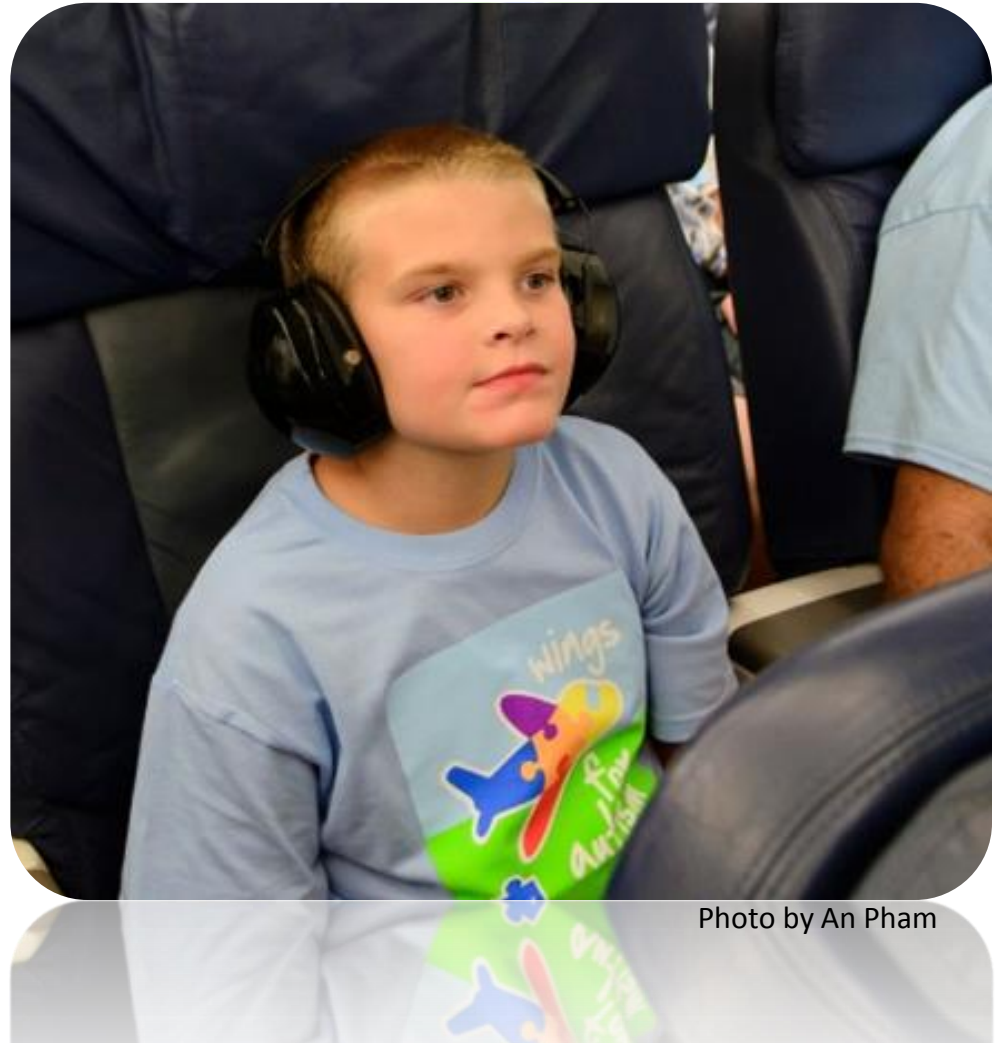


Photo by An Pham

We'll experience other things on the airplane

- We may feel cold or hot air coming from the vents
- The lights may go on and off
- The airplane may be crowded
- The seats may be small
- The Flight Attendants may wheel a cart down the aisle
- This practice is your chance to get used to these unfamiliar things



The Flight Attendants will give us several safety announcements

We'll learn about:

- Oxygen masks
- Safety vests
- The lights on the floor
- Where to find the restrooms

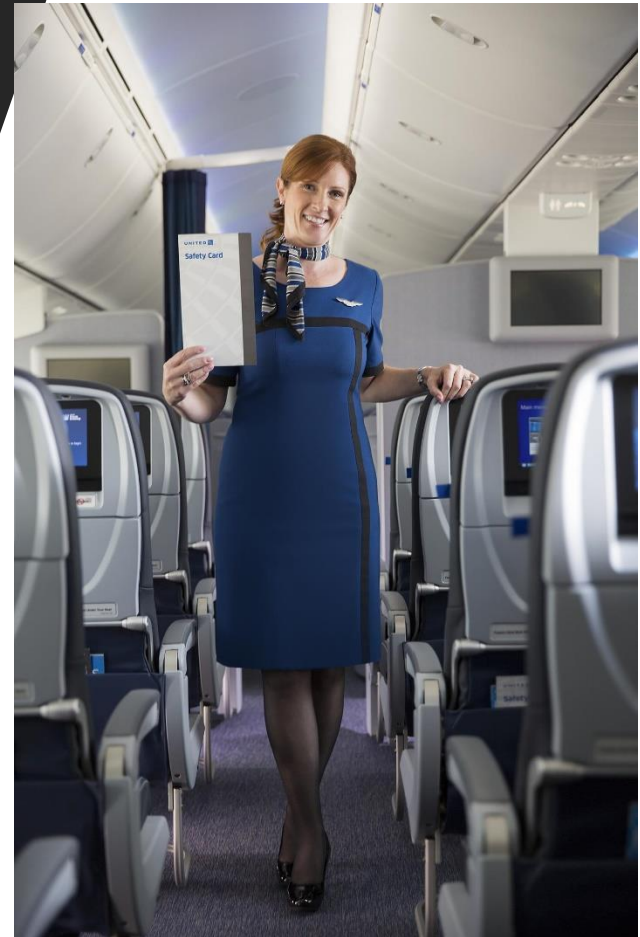
It's our job to listen carefully and be quiet so everyone can hear the announcements



Photos by Will Schermerhorn

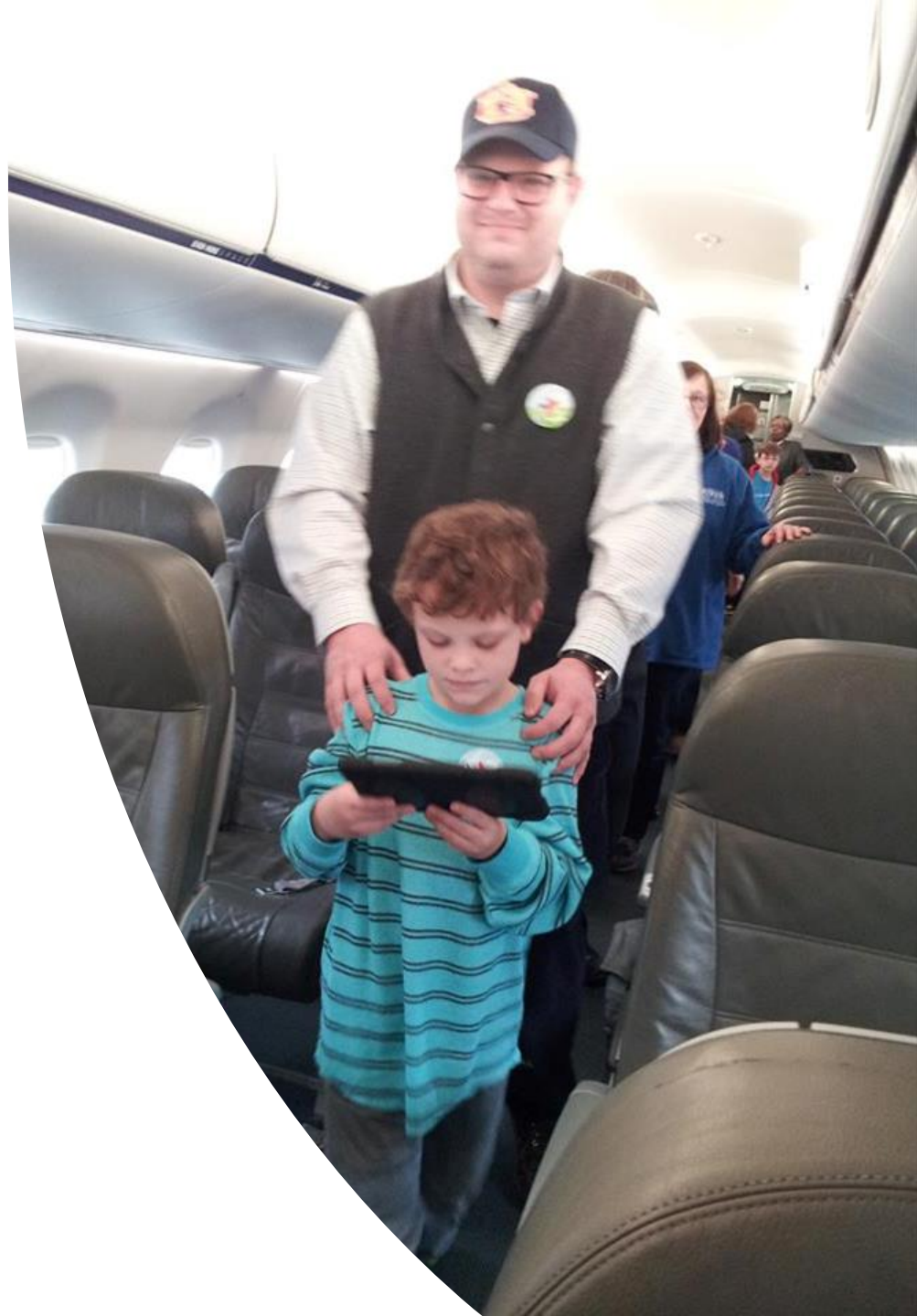
The Flight Attendants will tell us when it's time to get ready to leave the plane

- Put away our belongings
- Store our carry-on luggage
- Fasten our seatbelts
- Place our seat in the upright position
- Close our tray tables
- The Flight Attendants may collect any trash from us. If they don't we'll remove it from the plane ourselves



When ready we will leave the plane

- We'll be told to unfasten our seatbelts
- Check the seatback pocket, under the seat in front of us and the overhead bin for our belongings
- Collect everything we brought from home
- Leave the airplane and walk back through the jetway to the airport





Now we're finished with our practice flight!

- We'll gather our belongings and get ready to leave the airport
- We can share photos of our experience online with the hashtag **#wingsforall**
- Our photos will help people that have never been to the airport or on a plane learn more about it



And finally, we can discuss our experience

- What did we like about the airport?
- What did we like about the airplane?
- Is there anything that made us feel uncomfortable?
- Is there anything we want to do the next time we're at the airport and on an airplane?



Photo by An Pham