



# Sternberg Museum Science Camps High School Student Travel Information 2026

- **Spotting our staff:**

- You can expect our staff to be wearing one of the three shirts below on opening and closing days, hopefully making them very easy to find at airports, museums, or other spots during arrival and departure days.
  - Staff will have a list of students we are expecting at airport pickups.
  - We always, in every case, will be waiting for students at baggage claim #1 of the airport. So if a student has to pick up their luggage at baggage claim #7, they should do that then head to claim #1.



- **Travel information communication:** Accepted applicants will receive a Google Form link after the April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline to use to let us know their respective arrival and departure plans. This is a detailed form that populates to a spreadsheet our staff have access to. Prior to camp, we export spreadsheet entries for respective groups of students for staff teams to use.
  - **Travel plan changes:** If you have a flight delay, cancellation, or any other change or disruption to your travel plans, please fill out and resubmit the travel form first. Our staff will be regularly checking the form especially in the 48 hours before a camp starts to make sure we catch any changes. Do not email us first. Make the form entry, then if it is especially urgent you can notify the Camps Director at DALevering@FHSU.edu. Do not call unless it is a medical emergency situation. In-writing communication is easier to transmit to other staff members quickly and precisely.
  - We cannot pick students up from airports besides the ones listed below unless part of an overall program logistics change under extreme circumstances. Individualized airport pickups at other airports will not be considered.

- We ask that students in our Field programs make every effort to arrive in the starting city on-time. These groups do not stay in those metro areas for long, and managing logistics when a student schedules a late-arriving flight creates severe avoidable stresses for respective staff teams.
- If your child is traveling as an unaccompanied minor, please let us know so we can provide necessary details required to use that travel status and service.

- **Kansas programs**

- **Primary airport:** Hays Regional Airport (HYS) (<https://flyhays.com>)
  - Only has limited daily flights on United Airlines via a connection at Denver International Airport.
  - Hays Airport is very small, so it's pretty hard to miss people.
- **Arrival logistics:** We have staff on-site in Hays who can come pick up students when they arrive if arriving alone.
  - All MS and HS programs in Kansas start and end at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. We ask participants to arrive at the Museum between 8:00am and 8:30am the morning their camp starts. Any students who arrived a day or two early and have been staying at the FHSU dorms with our staff will be transported to the Museum that morning with their luggage by the on-site staff.
    - Sternberg Museum: 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays, KS 67601.
    - Students arriving early and wishing to stay in the FHSU dorms will have a \$50/night fee added to the CampDoc account. Staff will be able to facilitate travel to area grocery stores as needed for students to purchase food. Meals by our program do not start until lunch on the first day. The last meal we provide is dinner on the last day.
  - If a parent/guardian is traveling with the student to drop-off, that is fine. Parents are not allowed to stay in the FHSU dorms or remain with the group past the drop-off period.
  - Rideshare operations like Lyft and Uber are not consistently reliable on Sunday mornings around the time of Camp drop-off at the Museum. If you need a ride from your hotel to the museum the morning your program starts, please let us know on the travel logistics form.
- **Departure logistics:**
  - The night before departure, staff will do a status check-in with all students traveling home by themselves via a commercial airline flight. This will include flight boarding/departure time, that they know where their ID is and where they plan to pack it in their carry-on bag(s), that their meds are properly accounted for, and that they have done a check on the status of their belongings including shoes, hats, electronics, etc. This also means making sure any items that could be construed as "banned" either in checked or carry-on bags are respectively dealt with properly.
  - Program staff will be doing airport runs on the closing day as needed to make sure students make it to the Hays Airport at least 60 minutes prior to their flight's scheduled boarding time. This can sometimes mean a very early flight out of the Hays airport. This is fine, and something we are very accustomed to.
  - Parents/guardians are welcome to pick up students any time between 10am and 5pm on the closing day at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. This assures we have time for breakfast and any needed cleanup.

- While we do have some activities planned for the closing day, they are meant as wrap-up activities rather than any kind of central curriculum. We want to make sure students are having a great time right up until they leave, but if they need to depart earlier in the day to make logistics work, that is fine.
- **Special considerations:**
  - If your child is traveling as an unaccompanied minor, please let us know so we can provide necessary details required to use that travel status and service.
  - The only flights to Hays are through Denver International Airport on United Airlines. Here is a map of the DIA gates to help your child better understand the airport layout before they arrive. There is a train between sections A, B, and C that arrives and departs frequently.
    - <https://www.vspproviderhub.com/dam/jcr:1a2894cf-3f7e-4833-85ea-fbba69ed6eca/Denver%20Airport%20Map.pdf>