



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 10th 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.

● **South Dakota programs**

- **Primary airport:** Rapid City Airport (RAP) 🌐 Rapid City Regional Airport
 - Map of the Rapid City Airport: <https://rapairport.com/map/>
 - If your child is traveling alone, we recommend you and your child go over this map in advance so they are better able to navigate to the baggage claim area.
 - Being a pretty small airport, asking an airport employee for assistance should result in fairly easy directions.
- **Arrival logistics:**
 - Our staff team will have members on-site and set up in a hotel near the airport the day before camp starts. We recommend students arriving the day before camp begins book a room in the same hotel. For safety reasons, the exact hotel will be disclosed in a separate communication.
 - We ask that students arrange for their flights to arrive no later than 1:00pm local time the day camp starts.
 - Staff will meet arriving students at baggage claim #1 around their communicated scheduled arrival time.
 - Once they have gone to their own baggage claim and successfully collected their luggage, they should begin looking for our staff member. If they do not immediately spot one of our staff members, we recommend doing a lap around the baggage claim #1 area before concluding that we do not have a staff member on-site to meet them.
 - If a student has waited for the full unloading of all the luggage at their correct baggage claim site and their bag is not present, they should talk to an airport employee adjacent to the baggage claim before coming to find our staff member. Once they have taken this step and provided their or their parent's contact information, they should go let the staff member know about the situation. Depending on specifics, the program staff may communicate with parents and/or airport staff about arrangements for recovering the student's luggage.
 - If a student cannot find one of our staff members at baggage claim #1 after a reasonable amount of looking, please get in touch with us. It may be that the staff member is delayed in traffic or due to some other reason. In such a case we try our best to be proactive with status updates, but sometimes those communication pathways also get delayed. One way or another, we will have someone from our staff team pick up your child, even if they are a bit late due to unplanned circumstances.
- **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.

- Students will be taken to the RAP in time to arrive at least two hours in advance of their flight.
 - Staff will use short-term parking to accompany students into the airport to guide them through the bag-check and ticketing procedures.
 - Staff will be checking flight and weather status in the hours before transporting students to the airport to make sure there are no foreseeable delays. We will encourage students to do the same.
 - 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.
 - If you are picking your child yourself or have another authorized individual doing so on the last day of camp, please let us know so we can coordinate specific arrangements.
- **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.
 - Our staff are off-duty as of 5:00pm on the closing day. We cannot guarantee any ability to help with on-site situation logistics if a student’s flight is cancelled or delayed after that time.