

Will Rogers World Airport

For Immediate Release: Thursday, December 30, 2004

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Airport to Fill With Sooners As Fans Head to Florida

OKLAHOMA CITY – With 20 charter flights, and regularly scheduled flights filled to capacity, the airport will fill with Sooners this weekend as fans head to Florida for the Orange Bowl.



The busiest travel day will be Sunday, January 2. Thirteen of the 20 charters are scheduled to depart that day, with 11 of the departures scheduled between 6:00am and 10:00am. In addition, the airlines report that all regularly scheduled carriers are booked solid, many with Orange Bowl-bound passengers.

Airport officials along with the airlines, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and airport vendors have been working together to help the departure process go as smoothly as possible. Additional Oklahoma City police officers and security guards have been added to help people with directions and vehicle traffic. Food and retail outlets will open at 4:00am when the security checkpoints open. TSA is bringing in a dog team and additional personnel from Wichita and Lawton to help with screening.

“As soon as we knew that OU was going to the Orange Bowl, we began planning for the additional traffic,” said airport director Luther Trent. “Every entity involved will have additional personnel and TSA has added supplemental screening methods. Even so, it will be a very busy Sunday morning at the airport.”

Because there will be an unusually high number of people flying and significantly more baggage to be checked and screened, airlines and charter agencies are recommending that travelers arrive at the airport two hours before their departure time. This is important for all passengers flying, not just bowl-bound flyers.

Travelers who are checking in for a charter package should look for their travel agent representative who will then direct them to the proper ticket counter. There is not curbside check-in for charter flights.

TSA strongly urges travelers to review the items in their carry-on and checked luggage to ensure that they are not carrying prohibited items. This will help speed the process, particularly at the checkpoints. TSA provides a complete list of items that are allowed in both carry-on and checked luggage at www.tsa.gov



Being prepared at the security checkpoint will not only be easier on the traveler but will keep the lines moving. Avoid clothing and accessories that might set off the metal detector and try to limit the number of carry-on items. Remember that only one carry-on and one personal item such as a purse or laptop are allowed.

Travelers waiting in line can do the following to facilitate passing through the screening area smoothly: place all metal items in the carry-on bag, take laptops out of the cases, and take off coats, including sports coats and athletic jackets. Place those items in the bins provided by TSA.

Additional Tips

CONSTRUCTION:

- Use caution when driving in and out of the airport
- The upper roadway is now open. Departing travelers can drop off in front of the terminal building.
- Inside the terminal, newly erected construction walls have changed some familiar paths. Look for directional signs.
- Take advantage of the different services provided at the airport: automated check-in kiosks, shuttle parking for long-term travel, one hour free parking when picking up arriving passengers, and the information booths.



SECURITY:

- Pack smart. Think about the items that are being packed in both checked and carry-on luggage. Could they be a security problem?
- Be sure to put identification on the inside *and* outside of your luggage.
- Don't wrap gifts. Wrapped packages in both carryon and checked baggage may require additional inspection, which means – unwrapping the present.
- Plastic containers are now being provided at the security checkpoint. Place all loose items, including cell phones, pagers, keys, change, coats and jackets into the containers, and then place on the conveyor belt.
- Avoid clothing and accessories that will set off the metal detector including shoes.
- For a comprehensive list of security travel tips, check the TSA's website:

www.tsa.gov.

GENERAL:

- Only one bag and one personal item, such as a purse or laptop computer, to be carried onto the plane
- Take advantage of the airlines automated kiosks for quicker check-in
- Be prepared to show your boarding pass and your photo ID at the security checkpoint
- Allow plenty of time.
- Do not leave car unattended in front of terminal building
- Ticketed passengers only are allowed beyond the security checkpoint. If a unaccompanied minor or elderly person needs to be escorted to the gate, check in at the airline ticket counter about the possibility of a pass
- Always carry medicine, cash, jewelry, passports, visas, business papers and other valuables such as cameras onboard with you



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