

Press Release

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FULL FLIGHTS KICK OFF SPRING BREAK AT WRWA Travelers Are Reminded to Allow Plenty of Time

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 7, 2013 – Spring break is imminent and WRWA expects a busy airport and full planes. All of the airport's airlines have reported sold-out flights for many days during the annual holiday. This means longer lines at the ticket counters and at the checkpoints.

Unlike weekly business travelers, who travel light and efficiently navigate screening, spring-breakers typically check more bags and carry more items through the checkpoint. The airlines, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the airport, all recommend that passengers arrive at the terminal at least an hour and half before departure time. This will allow plenty of time to park the car, check bags, pass through security and board the aircraft.

Other things travelers should keep in mind:

- ***The recently announced TSA change allowing small knives in carry-ons does not go into effect until April 25. Existing restrictions are still in place during the spring break period, so leave pocket knives at home.***
- With more people carrying on luggage to avoid baggage fees and more travelers printing out boarding passes at home, the lines at the checkpoints can swell in a matter of minutes. While an average wait is 15 minutes or less, there are certain times of the day where that wait can be much longer. Early morning, mid-morning and mid-afternoon are generally peak times, however, charters, group travel and delays or cancellations can all impact the wait times at the checkpoint.
- Many airlines now close flight check-in, both online and at the ticket counter, 25-30 minutes prior to departure to ensure on-time departures. This means that if you have not checked-in by that time you will not receive a boarding pass. Rebooking can be tough, since flights are very full and available seats are at a premium.
- Travelers should be prepared to go through the checkpoint. This means making sure that liquids and gels are 3 ounces or less and contained in a clear, zip-lock bag, that carry-on luggage is not over-packed and cluttered, and laptops are removed from their bags. Also, wearing shoes that can easily slip off and on (children under 12 and adults 75 and older can leave their shoes on) and minimizing jewelry or items that might set off the screening machines will help the line move more quickly.
- Passengers with special medical concerns can arrange for a TSA Passenger Support Specialist to assist them by requesting it through TSA Cares at www.tsa.gov, or at the checkpoint.

More travel tips, ticket counter hours, and flight information can be found on flyokc.com.