



Cure SMA Travel Checklist



Use this checklist as you plan your next adventure via airplane! Broken up into the stages of planning to help you stay organized, you can check off each task as you plan and go!

BEFORE YOUR TRIP

- ☐ Call airline to inform them of travel accommodations needed.
- ☐ Gather information about your chair (the type of chair you have, model, weight, and type of batteries) to bring with you to the airport.
- ☐ Contact [TSA Cares](#) and make arrangements for navigating security and the airport (call at least 72 hours prior to flight).
- ☐ Take photos of your chair to document current condition (in case of damage).
- ☐ Fully charge your batteries.
- ☐ Pack your charger.

AT THE AIRPORT

- ☐ If you've made arrangement with TSA Cares prior, meet with the agent who will assist you through security.
- ☐ Check in with gate agent to confirm accommodations are in place for you to board plane and your wheelchair to be stowed.
- ☐ Position your joystick inside the armrest to provide protection. Consider covering it with bubble wrap or fabric.
- ☐ Attach custom wheelchair tag and any handling instructions to your chair.
- ☐ Consider securing a GPS tracking device to your chair (like an Apple Airtag)
- ☐ Put your chair into manual/freewheel mode to allow it to be pushed by crew members. Ensure they know how to lock wheels once safely stowed.
- ☐ If your chair reclines, consider reclining it completely to help it fit better within the cargo hold without being turned on its side.
- ☐ Remove parts that can be easily damaged and stow in a carry-on (footplate, headrest, etc).
- ☐ Connect with crew members who will be stowing your chair to give instructions. Request that your chair be kept in an upright, stable condition and review any other instructions.
- ☐ Take your cushion with you to sit on during the flight for comfort.
- ☐ And most importantly - speak up and advocate for your needs. They are unique to you and airline employees want to help you get you (and your chair) to your destination safely and comfortably.

MY CHAIR IS DAMAGED! NOW WHAT?

- ☐ File a report immediately upon arriving at the airport. Request to speak to the Complaints Resolution Officer for assistance in doing so.
- ☐ Document the damage.
- ☐ Airlines are required to pay for damages to wheelchairs and provide a loaner chair in the meantime. They can arrange these repairs or you can bring your chair to a trusted vendor.
- ☐ Contact the Department of Transportation and file a formal complaint - [Air Travel Service Complaint Form](#). It's important that formal complaints are filed through DOT every time there is damage or an incident so that the frequency of these events are communicated accurately to the DOT.