

PENN STATE



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Coordinated by the Penn State CT Valley alumni chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

To: Parents of PSU students from New England (and parts of NY)

From: Greg Malone
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For over 25 years, the New England Chapters of the Penn State Alumni Association have coordinated charter buses between University Park and New England at Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Fullington Bus Company of State College provides the coach buses and last year nearly 400 students took advantage of the service.

Trips will be organized for the following holidays: note Thanksgiving and Winter break trips are one-way only

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Depart PSU</u>	<u>Depart New England</u>	<u>Cutoff date</u>
Thanksgiving	Saturday, Nov. 21 10:00 am	N/A	Sat, Nov 14
Winter Break	N/A	Sunday, Jan. 10	Wed, Dec 30
Spring Break 2021	TBD (expected March 6)	TBD (expected March 14)	TBD

Departures from Penn State: The buses depart from a driveway/alley between Eisenhower Auditorium (North side of the alley) and the Huck Life Sciences building (South side). The alley is bounded by Shortlidge Road on the West and the Eisenhower Parking Deck on the East.

Drop-off and pick-up locations in New England and cost per trip are as follows: **Price** (Spring TBD)

1. Danbury, CT	I-84, Exit 2 @ commuter parking lot (see Directions file)	\$150
2. Manchester, CT*	I-84, Exit 62 @ commuter parking lot (see Directions file)	\$150
3. Newton, MA	Riverside MBTA Train Station, 390 Grove St.	\$180

Departures from New England are promptly at the following times:

Newton, MA: 10:00 am Manchester, CT*: 11:30 am Danbury, CT: 12:30 pm

Students who are late must find alternative transportation.

***NEW FOR 2020-21:**

- Manchester has replaced East Hartford as a drop-off and pickup location.
- Buses will run at half capacity for Thanksgiving and Winter break trips and students must wear masks.

Sign-up process

- Fill out the attached reservation form for the appropriate trip(s). Make check payable to **Penn State Chapter of CT Valley** and mail form and check to "PSU Chapter of CT Valley, c/o Greg Malone" at the address above.
 - For students who carried over a credit from the 2020 spring break trip (see posted list on the website for your credit amount), please reduce the amount of your check by the credit.
- Read the liability waiver contained in this letter and acknowledge it by checking the appropriate box on the reservation form. Your reservation will not be complete without your checking the box.

- The cutoff date will be strictly enforced. Checks need to be received by the cutoff date to secure a reservation so please build in a few extra days for potential delays in mail delivery. It is not feasible for us to differentiate between and prioritize among late exception requests as an individual student's travel plans change.
- Please do not send your reservation form in a fashion that requires the receiver to sign for it upon delivery.
- **There will be no individual e-mail confirmations.** An ongoing list of students with currently confirmed reservations for the next bus trip will be posted on the website and updated approximately weekly. The final list will be posted shortly after the cutoff date.

Reservation changes

- You may make a change to a reservation prior to the cutoff date. If an additional amount is owed, the change will be processed when payment is received. If no additional payment is necessary, please e-mail the change request to the address above; you should receive an acknowledgement of the change and the next website posting should reflect it (if not, please reach back out via e-mail or phone).
- If making a cancellation by the cutoff date, you will have a credit that can be used for the remainder of the school year. Unused credits will be refunded after the spring break trip or carried over to the following year.
- No changes, refunds or credits will be accommodated after the cutoff date.

Waiting List

- The only time a waiting list will be established is if the "last" bus to be reserved does not have a sufficient number of riders. In this case, you may not see your name on the posted list even though you have submitted payment before the cutoff date (and possibly had your check cashed). Generally, this situation will only arise if your payment is submitted close to the cutoff date.
- A student will only be placed on the waiting list if payment has been received before the cutoff date.
- If there are cancellations before the cutoff date, those seats will be assigned to those on the waiting list.
- If there are enough riders on the waiting list, we may add another bus to accommodate them.
- Students who remain on the waiting list as of the cutoff date will either not have their checks cashed at all or will receive a refund after spring break. No student will be added to the waiting list after the cutoff date.

General info: please check the website for ongoing communications and updates

- Reservations are on a first come basis determined by date of receipt of check. Reservations will only be accepted through mail (not phone) and a check must accompany the form. You may reserve more than one trip at a time and can use just one check to pay for all of them. Remember to check the liability waiver box.
- **Tickets are not issued** for the bus; the final list of students from the website posting is provided to the bus company and only those students will be allowed to board. Students should bring a form of ID.
- **Luggage: Space is limited.** Since we are running at half capacity, each student may bring double the usual allotment of one large suitcase / duffel bag, and one carry-on about the size of a backpack. If your student has additional packages, they must be shipped. Skis are not allowed and bus drivers may disallow any luggage or package at their discretion.
- **Meals:** A meal / rest stop will be made on all trips.
- **Weather updates:** Severe weather may require a change in the departure time or date (either earlier or later than scheduled). Any change or update in travel plans will be posted on the website so please check it in the days leading up to and on all travel days. If there is no update posted, assume the normal schedule is still on.
- **Non University Park Students:** You are responsible for your own transportation to University Park.
- **Penn State Alumni Association, New England Chapters**
Penn State alumni chapters are part of the Penn State Alumni Association and provide a number of activities and events organized by volunteers for alumni, current students, family, friends and fans of Penn State. Find out more about the chapter in your area by going to the website www.alumni.psu.edu/groups/chapters.

Maine-New Hampshire: <http://mainenhpsualumni.wordpress.com>

Vermont: <http://directory.alumni.psu.edu/chapter-vermont>

Greater Boston: <http://www.psuboston.org>

Southeast New England: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/1623077551285248>

Southern Connecticut: <http://directory.alumni.psu.edu/chapter-southernct>

TRAVEL AND TRIP RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LIABILITY WAIVER FOR BUS TRIPS

The Connecticut Valley alumni chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association coordinates charter buses between Penn State and New England during various school breaks as advertised each school year. The dates and charters offered are subject to change at the discretion of the Connecticut Valley chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association.

This is to certify that the registrant has full permission to, and/or has voluntarily agreed to, utilize the charter buses between Penn State and New England coordinated by the Connecticut Valley chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association, and hereby certifies as follows:

I understand that participation in trip activities could involve risk of physical injury, illness, death or property loss, and despite safety precautions, The New England Chapters of the Penn State Alumni Association, including the Connecticut Valley, Greater Boston, Maine-New Hampshire, Southeast New England, Southern Connecticut and Vermont chapters, and Greg Malone (hereinafter "Releasees") cannot guarantee safety thereof, as all risks cannot be prevented. The Releasees do not provide health and accident insurance for trip participants, and I understand that any medical expenses, property loss, or other personal expenditures that result during or from this travel/trip, will be the responsibility of the student/participant, or by their parent or guardian (if student/participant is a minor). I also hereby consent, give authorization to, and release from liability; the Releasees to secure any emergency medical treatment in event I am unable to, and I agree to be responsible for the costs thereof.

In consideration of the opportunity afforded by the above described chartered bus trips, with full knowledge and acceptance of the risks associated with this trip and any recreational activities noted within; and with full understanding of the above issues/conditions and risks, I voluntarily hereby release, indemnify and hold the Releasees, its officers, volunteers, employees and agents from all form and manner of risks inherent in, and from all claims, causes of action, and demands of any nature arising from participation in said trips or activities, and any and all liability to me, my personal representatives, estate, heirs, and assigns. In entering this waiver and release, I am not relying on any oral, written or visual representations or statements from the Releasees not expressly described herein.

(Updated February 2018)

2020-21 Home for the Holidays PSU Bus Reservation form

Student Name: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Home Address (Street/PO Box): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Phone (incl. Area Code) Cell: _____ Other: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Student Email Address: _____

THANKSGIVING to New England (11/21/20)

Drop off location (circle one)	Danbury, CT	Manchester, CT	Newton, MA
	\$150	\$150	\$180

WINTER BREAK return to PSU (1/10/21)

Pick up location (circle one)	Danbury, CT	Manchester, CT	Newton, MA
	\$150	\$150	\$180

I have read and agree to the conditions of the liability waiver contained within this bus letter.

Spring break reservations (expected travel dates March 6 and 14, 2021) are not yet being accepted and the one-way / round trip price is TBD depending on whether buses run at half or full capacity.