



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: 2024-2025 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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Website: www.psuctvalley.org/bus

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 over 400 students took advantage of the service.

Trips will be organized for the following holidays:

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Depart PSU</u>	<u>Depart New England</u>	<u>Cutoff date</u>
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 23 10:00 am	Sunday, Dec 1	Sat, Nov 16
Winter Break	Sat, Dec 21 10:00 am	Sunday, Jan 12	Sat, Dec 14
Spring Break 2025	Sat, Mar 8 10:00 am	Sunday, Mar 16	Sat, Mar 1

Departures from Penn State: The buses depart from Science Drive, between Eisenhower Auditorium (North side) and the Huck Life Sciences building (South side). The area 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 are as follows:

		Round trip / one way
1. Danbury, CT	I-84, Exit 2 @ commuter parking lot (114 Mill Plain Road)	\$240 / \$120
2. Manchester, CT	I-84, Exit 62 @ commuter parking lot (1515 Pleasant Valley Road)	\$240 / \$120
3. Newton, MA	Riverside MBTA Train Station (390 Grove Street)	\$290 / \$145

Please see the Times and Directions document for additional information.

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.

Reservation process

- Fill out the attached reservation form for the appropriate trip(s)
 - Make check payable to **Penn State Chapter of CT Valley** and mail both form and check to “PSU Chapter of CT Valley, c/o Greg Malone” at the address above.
 - Check the liability waiver box on the reservation form after reading the liability waiver contained in this letter. Your reservation will not be complete without your checking the box.
 - If you are making a one-way reservation, indicate which travel day you are reserving.
- Check the website to see the posted list of students with currently confirmed reservations. An ongoing list for the next bus trip is updated approximately weekly and the date is noted; **no individual confirmations are sent.** If you do not see your name on the list after a reasonable time has elapsed from sending in your form, please reach out via e-mail. The final list will be posted shortly after the cutoff date.

- 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.
- 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; if you do, it is fine to only fill out the student and parent contact information once on the form and use just one check to pay for all trips. Remember to check the liability waiver box for each trip.
- Reservations must be made using the attached form, no secondary trades or swaps will be honored.
- Please do not send your reservation form in a fashion that requires the receiver to sign for it upon delivery.

Reservation changes

- You may change 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 on or before the cutoff date, you will receive a credit that can be used for the remainder of the school year. Unused credits will be refunded after the spring break trip.
- No changes, refunds or credits will be accommodated for changes requested after the cutoff date.

Waiting List

- The only time a waiting list will be established is if the "next" bus to be reserved does not have a sufficient number of riders. In this case, the posted list may be relatively dated as we wait for that bus to fill up and your name may not be on the list despite having submitted timely payment and possibly had your check cashed. In general, payments received close to the cutoff date are the ones most in jeopardy of ending on a waiting list.
- 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 receive a credit (see section above). Student will not be added to the waiting list after the cutoff date.

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

- **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 to board.
- **Luggage: Space is limited.** Each student may bring 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:** please check the website in the days leading up to and on all travel days rather than sending individual queries around potential scheduling changes. Severe weather may require a change in the departure time or date (almost certainly later than scheduled). If no update is posted, the normal schedule is still in place.
- **Non University Park Students:** You are responsible for your own transportation to and from 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 www.alumni.psu.edu.

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)

**Penn State New England Charter Bus
c/o Greg Malone
22 Clover Drive
South Windsor, Connecticut 06074-2931**

To the Parents of



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Coordinated by the Connecticut Valley chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

Charter Motor Coach Bus Service from the University Park Campus to New England:

Danbury, Connecticut

Manchester, Connecticut

Newton, Massachusetts

THANKSGIVING (11/23/24 – 12/1/24)

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: _____

Drop off (circle one)	Danbury, CT	Manchester, CT	Newton, MA
Round trip / One way*	\$240 / \$120	\$240 / \$120	\$290 / \$145

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

*One-way? Please circle your travel date: 11/23 or 12/1



WINTER BREAK (12/21/24 – 1/12/25)

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: _____

Drop off (circle one)	Danbury, CT	Manchester, CT	Newton, MA
Round trip / One way*	\$240 / \$120	\$240 / \$120	\$290 / \$145

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

*One-way? Please circle your travel date: 12/21 or 1/12



SPRING BREAK (3/8/25 – 3/16/25)

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: _____

Drop off (circle one)	Danbury, CT	Manchester, CT	Newton, MA
Round trip / One way*	\$240 / \$120	\$240 / \$120	\$290 / \$145

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

*One-way? Please circle your travel date: 3/8 or 3/16

If different from above

Please fill in even if same as above

If different from above

Please fill in even if same as above