



## TAMS – HOUSTON BUS SERVICE 2022-23

Houston TAMS Bus 2022-23 is a volunteer entity managed by TAMS parents serving TAMS students living in Greater Houston Area, by providing a bus service between the TAMS McConnell Hall on the UNT campus and selected locations in the metro Houston area on weekends where the hall is closed. The bus service has been running since 2003 (excluding 2020-2021 due to COVID). Below is the information about the service. Contact [DonghongPei@gmail.com](mailto:DonghongPei@gmail.com) and [mostrowicki@gmail.com](mailto:mostrowicki@gmail.com) for any questions.

TAMS will have 9 closed weekends over the 2022-23 school year. The plan is to charter a bus for each weekend. Below is the proposed trip schedule:

<b>TAMS - HOUSTON PRELIMINARY BUS SCHEDULE FALL 2022</b>				
Trip #	UNT - Houston	Houston - UNT	Days Between	Notes
1	Friday, September 2, 2022	Monday, September 5, 2022	3	Labor Day Weekend
2	Friday, September 30, 2022	Sunday, October 2, 2022	2	
3	Friday, October 28, 2022	Sunday, October 30, 2022	2	
4	Wednesday, November 23, 2022	Sunday, November 27, 2022	4	Thanksgiving Break
5	Friday, December 16, 2022	Monday, January 16, 2023	31	Holiday Break
<i>updated 8/5/22</i>				
<b>TAMS - HOUSTON PRELIMINARY BUS SCHEDULE SPRING 2023</b>				
Trip #	UNT - Houston	Houston - UNT	Days Between	Notes
6	Friday, February 3, 2023	Sunday, February 5, 2023	2	
7	Friday, February 25, 2022	Sunday, February 27, 2022	2	
8	Friday, March 10, 2023	Sunday, March 19, 2023	9	Spring Break
9	Friday, April 14, 2023	Sunday, April 16, 2023	2	
<i>updated 8/5/22</i>				

We have contacted and would like to continue the relationship with Cowtown Charters as they have provided satisfactory service with an exemplary safety record. They are a locally owned bus company based out of Fort Worth, their drivers are posted on their website, and they are familiar with our program. <https://cowtowncharters.com/>. In addition to the contract cost of each bus trip, we budget for a driver gratuity, and we also plan on giving a modest reward (gift cards) to students (one senior, one junior – traditionally) who help lead the bus headcounts along the way.

### Volunteers

This bus service needs volunteers. Volunteers are always needed especially at the bus stops where we will be looking for at least two families for each stop.

Volunteers will be expected to remain at the stop until all dropped students are picked up.

Volunteers will be expected to help determine that all riders are present at local pickup. We will be looking for a couple of student volunteers to conduct roll call at each departure.

## Communication/Rules

We plan on communicating largely via email and text, but will provide a roster to all participants.

We will be asking for confirmation of intent to board for each trip.

We will provide a travel roster for each trip and expect everyone to be timely.

We will be on a tight schedule and expect participant families to be at pick up and drop off on time, and/or coordinate ahead of time.

Every passenger's parent, after confirming participating, will be required to complete the Indemnity Form and Bus Rules & Regulations Form prior to any travel.

## Financials

- Preliminary pricing for 2022-23 is **\$1337.19** for 9 round trips. Individual round trips will be priced at \$200, with individual one-way trips priced at \$120.
- Preliminary pricing based on 35 families participating, 9 round trips over the school year, and up to three stops in Houston as has been done previously. The following table shows that the cost decreases as more families are participating – which is our goal!

<u>Number of Riders</u>	<u>Single Trip Cost/Ride</u>	<u>Nine-Trip Cost/Ride</u>
35	\$148.58	<b>\$1,337.19</b>
36	\$144.45	\$1,300.05
37	\$140.55	\$1,264.91
38	\$136.85	\$1,231.62
39	\$133.34	\$1,200.04
40	\$130.00	\$1,170.04
41	\$126.83	\$1,141.50
42	\$123.81	\$1,114.32
43	\$120.93	\$1,088.41

- Final price will naturally depend on number and location of participating families, number of stops, final bus contract price, etc.
- Final pricing will be per student for the year and will be the same regardless of which stop you use.
- Upon committing to the bus service, we will ask for full payment of your portion up front. Money will be kept in a personal checking account; all accounting will be done in a transparent manner and at the end of the year any remaining portions of the balance will be returned equally to full-year participants.
- Refunds will not be given if a trip is missed; if your child stops attending TAMS for some reason during the year we will try to work with you, but being a coop – we are all depending on each other to fund the buses with no need for additional payment throughout the year.
- An individual trip option with trip cost will remain based on availability, but these types of trips are not counted on for budgeting purposes. Any money from these trips will go to the general collection and be distributed at year end as appropriate.

## FAQ

1. Where does my student stay during close-weekends?  
In Fall semester, McConnell Hall will be closed during the closed weekends as follows:  
Weekend 1: Friday 09/02 (Hall closed by 7 pm) - Monday 09/05 (Hall opens at 2 pm)  
Weekend 2: Friday 09/30 (Hall closed by 7 pm) - Sunday 10/02 (Hall opens at 2 pm)  
Weekend 3: Friday 10/28 (Hall Closed by 7 pm) - Sunday 10/30 (Hall opens at 2 pm)  
TAMS encourages the all students to re-connect with their families on closed weekends. For students who live in places that are hard to commute to during closed weekends, TAMS provides Host Family Program. Reach out to TAMS early if your student needs a Host Family.
2. How about flight option?  
Several airlines serve Dallas - Houston flights. The cost of flights is typically higher than bus fee. Ticket prices could fluctuate during holiday break weekends when McConnell Hall is scheduled to close. If your students are planning to take flights, don't forget to incorporate all the details of getting to the airport – timing, cost, flights bumped, etc. TAMS does not provide transportation to airports.
3. How about other transportation options?  
This summer, a TAMS student used the Flixbus: <https://www.flixbus.com/bus/denton-tx> to Houston, The bus stop is 2 blocks from McConnell. There was a hiccup on return trip for the bus canceled the return trip and the student returned a day late.
4. Have you looked at other bus providers?  
We have asked other vendors for the bus service. Their quote is much higher than the one from Cowtown Charters. For example the quote price for one-way trip from the First Class Tutors was \$3454.32, which is much higher than Cowtown quote of \$2365.17. Unlike Cowtown, they cannot give me a fix rate quote for nine trips.
5. Other question-answer will posted here in the future