

TAMS – HOUSTON BUS POOL 2024-25

Hello Houston Area TAMS Parents and Students:

The Houston TAMS Bus pool has been running since 2003 except for one year during COVID. It is a voluntary effort managed by TAMS parents to provide safe and reliable transport between the TAMS Dorm on the UNT campus and the Houston metro area (Woodlands/Katy/Sugar Land) on weekends when the dorm is closed. The bus pool is typically a large motorcoach with restroom and wifi. We are once again inviting all Houston area families to participate!

The bus pool saves families from the stress and time of making the 10+ hour drives back and forth each month. Public buses, albeit cheaper, require students to travel alone to an off-campus bus stop and a transfer at downtown Dallas. Note that each trip would end late in the evenings, making them riskier for minors travelling alone.

If you are interested to find out more, please email Soo Pang Tang (soopang.tang@shell.com) with the following information:

- Student Name
- Student Cell #
- Student Year (Junior/Senior)
- Parent Name
- Parent Cell #
- Preferred Bus Stop (Woodlands/Katy/Sugar Land)

TAMS has [9] closed weekends over the 2024-25 school year when it will be mandatory for students to vacate the dorm. The following is the **preliminary trip schedule** for our bus:

TAMS - HOUSTON BUS SCHEDULE FALL 2024				
Trip #	UNT - Houston	Houston - UNT	Days Between	Notes
1	08/30/24 (Fri)	09/02/24 (Mon)	3	Labor Day Weekend
2	09/27/24 (Fri)	9/29/24 (Sun)	2	
3	10/25/24 (Fri)	10/27/24 (Sun)	2	
4	11/22/24 (Fri)	12/01/24 (Sun)	9	Thanksgiving Break
5	12/13/24 (Fri)	01/12/25 (Mon)	31	Winter Break

TAMS - HOUSTON PRELIMINARY BUS SCHEDULE SPRING 2025.				
Trip #	UNT - Houston	Houston - UNT	Days Between	Notes
6	01/31/25 (Fri)	02/02/25 (Sun)	2	
7	02/21/25 (Fri)	02/23/25 (Sun)	2	
8	03/07/25 (Fri)	03/16/25 (Sun)	9	Spring Break
9	04/11/25 (Fri)	04/13/25 (Sun)	2	

**Spring 2025 schedules have not been finalized* 2/21/2024

Bus Stops & Estimated Time of Arrival/Departure

			TAMS-HOU	
DENTON-HOU			Arrival	Departure
No.	Name	Address		
1	McConnell Hall	1705 W. Sycamore St, Denton TX	3:15 PM	3:30 PM
2	Springwoods (St. Luke's Health Springwoods Village Hospital)	2255 E. Mossy Oaks Rd, Spring TX	7:45 PM	7:55 PM
3	Cinemark Katy	1030 N Grand Parkway, Katy TX	8:45 PM	8:55 PM
4	University Branch Library - Fort Bend	14010 University Blvd, Sugar Land TX 77	9:25 PM	
HOU-DENTON			HOU-TAMS	
No.	Name	Address	Arrival	Departure
1	University Branch Library - Fort Bend	14010 University Blvd, Sugar Land TX 77	12:45 PM	1:00 PM
2	Cinemark Katy	1030 N Grand Parkway, Katy TX	1:30 PM	1:45 PM
3	Springwoods (St. Luke's Health Springwoods Village Hospital)	2255 E. Mossy Oaks Rd, Spring TX	2:30 PM	2:45 PM
4	Buc-ees Madisonville	205 IH-45 South Madisonville TX	3:45 PM	4:05 PM
5	McConnell Hall	1705 W. Sycamore St, Denton TX	7:30 PM	

Arrival/Departure Time Notes

1. This is a co-op, so we all need to be flexible for this to work.
2. **Our default schedule is the OFFICIAL MCCONNELL HALL CLOSURE DATES. We will not change the dates without 100% consensus from the group.** Every year before long breaks, many professors will suspend classes days earlier, inevitably leading many parents to request that the bus leaves early. Unfortunately, we are unable to do so even if a majority of parents are supportive unless everyone is okay.
3. If the bus is running early or late from one stop to another, please communicate it through our WhatsApp. This may mean arriving a few minutes early or waiting a few additional minutes.
4. The bus route may not be identical each time due to traffic conditions.
5. Post a message (including your home bus stop) in our WhatsApp if you are late or need a few minutes to catch the bus. Our site parent volunteers will hold the bus for you.

The Bus

- This year we tentatively plan to continue using Western Motorcoach, a Houston based bus company. They were our provider last year. The company profile, the bus fleet, and service are at [Western Motorcoach | Texas' Premier Charter Bus Rental Company](#).
- In addition to the contract cost of each bus trip, we budget for a customary driver gratuity.
- If there are extra funds, we plan on giving a modest reward (gift cards) to student volunteers (one senior, one junior – traditionally) who help lead the bus headcounts along the way; and some TAMS staff who help coordinate boarding at Denton.

Financials

- **Final Pricing will depend on the number of committed families. You decide after knowing the firm price.**
- **For reference, in 2023-24, we had 18 committed families and pricing was about \$2000 per student for 18 trips (to-and-fro) or \$111 per trip. For 2024-25, there are [x] students living in the Houston metro area but not all of them may be joining us.**
- **Fees are to be paid upfront via Zelle.**
- The price is per student for the academic year and will be the same regardless of which stop you use.
- No refunds will 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 co-op, we are dependent on each other to fund the buses with no need for additional payments.
- To maintain transparency, a financial statement will be sent out at the end of each semester.

Communication/Rules

- We plan on communicating largely via email and WhatsApp (real time).
- All real time information about the bus pool will be communicated via WhatsApp. This is a link to our chat group. chat.whatsapp.com