

Canada/USA Mathcamp 2025 Travel Awards Policy

Welcome to the how-to document for Travel Award recipients about financial matters! This document describes the Mathematics Foundation of America's systems for reimbursements. (MFOA is the official name of the non-profit organization that houses Canada/USA Mathcamp.) Here's what is addressed in this document:

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If you have any questions, please email admissions25@mathcamp.org and we'll be happy to help.

Travel Award Policy

Mathcamp is grateful to acknowledge [our generous supporters](#) who are making our 2025 summer program possible. With their help, we will be providing need-based financial aid awards to make Mathcamp accessible to all qualified students, regardless of financial circumstances.

For families receiving travel awards: MFOA will pay for directly, or reimburse award recipients for, the cost of tickets for round-trip travel from home to camp. (If you have another source of funding—for example, an external scholarship that will pay for expenses—that will defray the cost of your trip, please use that funding source as primary and MFOA as secondary. We are a small nonprofit and it will make a difference to us!)

Typically, Mathcamp staff will purchase tickets directly for award recipients so as to eliminate the reimbursement step. In some circumstances (such as non-standard travel itineraries), families may prefer to purchase tickets directly and request reimbursement; in such cases, *please discuss your plans with Mathcamp staff before purchasing your tickets*. Note that the reimbursement amount will not exceed the cost of a reasonable itinerary for round-trip travel between the camper's usual residence and camp. (See below for what we mean by "reasonable"!)

If the camper has more than one place of residence (for example, if they are in boarding school), again, talk to us!

Expenses must be substantiated with receipts and submitted with a request for reimbursement within a reasonable amount of time after incurring the expense. The request for reimbursement can be made prior to camp (e.g. at the time of registration), and the final deadline for reimbursement requests is **August 15, 2025**. We cannot reimburse expenses incurred that are not adequately substantiated. (See below for details on how to substantiate mileage reimbursements; [contact us](#) with questions about other expenses without receipts.)

Travelers are welcome to use their own mileage program numbers to earn points/miles when traveling. (You can add this to your tickets yourself when you check in with the carrier.)

Travel to Camp by Air, Train, or Bus

How will MFOA determine reimbursement amounts?

- MFOA will cover the cost of standard economy class tickets. (Airlines often offer a discounted "saver" or "basic" class of service, but this typically comes with very restrictive policies; to provide appropriate flexibility, MFOA will cover the cost of "standard" economy seats.)
- MFOA will cover the cost of the least expensive *reasonable* flight. What is a reasonable flight? It is a flight which is not an unnecessary red-eye, reaches the destination before midnight, is non-stop or has reasonable layovers, and is on a major carrier (as opposed to an ultra-low-cost carrier like Spirit or Ryanair). This may not be strictly the least expensive option (and prices naturally fluctuate), and it's reasonable to elect (for example) to take a non-stop flight rather than a slightly cheaper but much less pleasant trip with layovers. Nonetheless, we encourage travelers to plan ahead and shop economically. If you have questions about whether your preferred itinerary is reasonable, check in with the Mathcamp staff before selecting an itinerary.
- MFOA will cover baggage fees for up to 2 pieces of checked luggage.
- Airfare change fees will qualify if the change was requested by MFOA; fees for flight changes due to personal reasons do not qualify for reimbursement.
- The same standards apply to train and bus travel. (To illustrate the parallels: it's reasonable to elect to take an Acela rather than a train with local stops; we do not cover the upgrades to First-class tickets.)

As always: if you are purchasing your own tickets and requesting reimbursement, don't forget to save each receipt (including, for example, checked bags fees): you will need all receipts for reimbursement requests.

What if I want to book more complicated travel?

We will reimburse up to the amount of a *reasonable* itinerary on the route and dates which you would typically travel to Mathcamp. Here are some example scenarios to illustrate:

- **Upgrades.** If you elect to upgrade your seat, you should submit a reimbursement request at the level of the standard economy fare for the same itinerary.
- **Multi-city trips.** If you are away from home before and/or after the program and therefore not traveling from and/or to your home, MFOA will cover either the cost of the multi-city trip (your actual flights) or the cost for the typical round trip (from/to your home), whichever is less.

- **Making stops on the way.** If you would like to, e.g. visit colleges in Boston on your way from Europe to Mathcamp, MFOA will cover either the cost of the trip with extra stops (your actual flights) or the cost for the typical round trip (from/to your home base without additional stopovers), whichever is less.
- **Extended dates.** If you want to arrive earlier or depart later, and if it is more expensive than on the standard dates, you should submit a reimbursement request for the fare for the itinerary on the standard dates.

If your travel is nonstandard and you will be requesting MFOA to cover less than the full amount of your trip cost, please submit the receipt for your purchased itinerary (on your preferred route) and, if different, proof of the cost for a reasonable itinerary on the route and dates for which you would typically travel to camp.

Driving To/From Camp

MFOA will reimburse the cost of gas to/from camp, up to the reimbursement cap. You may request reimbursement by submitting a mileage log as an attachment to the expense reimbursement request along with gas receipts. (An image or PDF of Google Maps showing the round trip mileage will suffice as a log.)

Other Participant Expenses

Some need-based financial aid awards include grants for additional expenses, such as covering the cost of medical insurance for the duration of the program dates, or covering fees for visa applications. The same systems apply for those expenses as well.

How to Submit Reimbursement Requests

We are in the process of setting up new reimbursement systems and will share instructions in May. In the meantime, you should save all your receipts, and you may email us when you wish to make a reimbursement request. You may do this as early as you wish, and you may make requests in multiple stages or all at once. Please submit all requests no later than August 15, 2025.