Joint Protocol between Air Charity Network Organizations

Angel Flight Central works cooperatively with other organizations in the Air Charity Network [ACN] to assure passengers on flights of up to 900 nautical miles can reach their destinations.

PURPOSE of the JOINT PROTOCOL is to,

- Communicate clear expectations for flight requests from passengers
- Expedite the handling of linking flights between organizations
- Widen the pilot search for flight legs and give more pilots opportunity to fly (shared legs)
- Equitably assign flight legs to pilots from all ACN organizations
- Clarify communication between pilots for missions that link between organizations
- Provide a basis for proactive communication, and a chain of resolution, if needed.
- Serve as a basis for operational standards and best practices for charitable aviation

SHARED AND LINKED FLIGHTS UNDER THE JOINT PROTOCOL

- The flight set-up is done by the ACN organization that serves where the passenger lives.
  - If a passenger lives in MO - AFC will set up the flight
  - If a passenger lives in KY – AFMA will set up the flight
- The organization that sets up the flight determines which legs will be “shared” with other ACN organizations to look for pilots to fill each leg and has the responsibility for final decisions regarding shared and linking flights.
- In most circumstances, five (5) to seven (7), or more, business days are required to set up linking flights, depending on an organization’s resources, at the time of the request. Requests may be discussed on a case-by-case basis between ACN coordinators.
- Final actions, for linking flights, are made by noon the business day before the flight. (Monday flights by Friday noon); in consideration for the passengers, pilots and other organizations.

PILOT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Pilots may request a leg designated to another organization or request multiple legs of a linking flight through the AFC coordinator. Legs are assigned pending review with the linking organizations’ coordinator.
- Pilots who fly for multiple ACN organizations should request the flight from only one organization and report back to that organizations’ mission coordinator for a specific ACN linking mission.
- Pilots scheduled to fly the first-leg of a linked mission are advised to be the primary pilot [lead pilot or PIC] contact to passengers and linking pilot(s) prior to the mission. Leg one pilot will also establish
communication with leg two pilot regarding mission details. For missions with three legs, the second leg pilot is advised to communicate with the first and third-leg pilots regarding mission details.

- **ALL LINKING PILOTS** should agree on alternate plans for delays, late starts or any unforeseen circumstance which may terminate a flight before it reaches its destination and MUST notify their coordinator as soon as a decision has been made.
- Pilots MUST report back to the AFC coordinator if they have a delay at a linking airport of one hour or more or link at a different airport from that listed on the itinerary. The AFC coordinator will then immediately contact the affected organization(s).
- Pilots MUST report to the AFC coordinator, as soon as possible, when there is substantial deviation from a mission itinerary or a flight cancels for any reason.
- Pilots will notify the AFC coordinator of possible media involvement with any mission. If a passenger is from another ACN member’s service area, the lead coordinator from each organization should communicate the intentions of pilot(s) and media.

**JOINT PROTOCOL FOR CAMP FLIGHTS**
- The ACN organization for passenger screening and mission setup will, in general correspond to the location of the camp not where the camper’s primary residence is. Not all ACN organizations participate in camp missions. It is at the discretion of their organization.