

# FLYING WITH A POWER WHEELCHAIR

- Arrive as early to airport as possible
- Speak to check in agent to receive wheelchair tags and ask them to alert gate agents
- Have brand, color, weight, battery type (non-spillable most common) and visible damage available to record on airline tag accompanying chair.
- After going through security, check in at gate and ask to speak with ramp coordinator if possible, STRESS to them that the chair is to be rolled and not lifted
- Have a small bag attached to the chair with wrenches etc (may need to go through security).
- If you get the ramp coordinator directly, tell him/her how to disengage motors (label free wheel lever/switch) and push the chair. Always kindly remind them that these ARE the legs of the chair user. All caution should be taken. **Take pictures of power chair before turning over to crew.**
- Once the individual has been transferred from the power chair, I remove the joystick, cushion, headrest and stow them, in a gym bag, on the plane. All loose parts should be removed and bagged which do not count as carry-on. Fold down or remove the seat back. **Make the chair as compact as possible.**
- Download [laminated signs](#) in English and Spanish hanging on my chair with directions.
- Tape cell number and user name visibly for assistance with handling.
- Remove your chair cushion and sit on it while on the plane.
- Fully inspect power chair upon return (gate or baggage claim) for damage. Take pictures of any damage to compare to pictures taken pre-flight.
- Know how to speak to complaint resolution officer if anything goes wrong
- Read [disability bill of rights](#)
- FAA "[Traveling with a Disability](#)" Resource Information website
- TSA Cares  
Call 72 hours in advance of travel, TSA will provide assistance to air travelers with disabilities as they navigate airport security and get to the gate  
Toll-free: 1-855-787-2227