

## LAWA suggests that families:

Call TSA Cares at 1-855-787-2227 and pre-arrange for special screening. More details are available at [www.TSA.gov](http://www.TSA.gov).

When you arrive at the airport let the check-in counter know that you are traveling with a family member who has autism. They will note that on your reservation and will be better able to assist you if it becomes necessary.

Notify the flight crew when you board the aircraft.

## Suggestions from parents who travel with family members who have autism:

Bring a bag with items to help keep the child's attention. Suggestions include Rubik's Cube, Silly Putty, stress ball, stretch cloth and similar items.

Have the child wear the least amount of clothing to get past TSA screening (to decrease the chance that additional pat-down and touching will be necessary, and to show TSA that the child does not have liquids or other contraband). Once beyond screening, dress the child more appropriately for the trip.

Don't sit the child next to a window because of the noise.

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**VOLUNTARY**

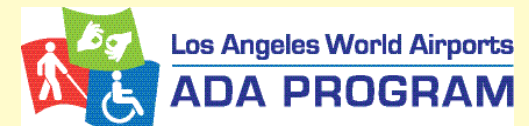
**SELF IDENTIFICATION**

**PROGRAM**

**FOR TRAVELERS**

**WITH AUTISM**

LAWA's autism self-identification program is a collaboration of members from the LAWA airport community and the LeRoy Haynes Center. Though not inclusive, key partners of the program include:





## What is LAWA's self-identification program?

The Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) self-identification program allows persons with autism to share that they have an intellectual disability to create a better understanding and appreciation for the challenges they face in an airport environment.

The self-identification program is the result of input received from families with autism who expressed fear of flying with family members with autism. They were concerned that loved ones with autism might become confused in an airport environment, creating an outburst that could result in a negative police response. In actuality, the person may only be trying to communicate or is reacting to stress from being in an unfamiliar environment.

## Do we have to self-identify?

No, the program is totally voluntary. An individual or family of a person with autism determines whether to self-identify. The program was created because families with autism want those around them to understand that the behavior they are encountering is not the result of deviance.

## How much does it cost?

The program is totally free. The program is sponsored by LAWA and airline partners.

## Where can I get self-identification stickers?

Autism self-identification stickers are available for free from participating airlines listed on LAWA's ADA website at [www.lawa.org/ada](http://www.lawa.org/ada). Simply ask at the ticket counter and a set of two stickers will be handed to you.

## How do I use the self-identification stickers once I get them?

Place one sticker on the upper left chest and one sticker on the upper right back so that the person with autism can be easily identified by responding airline or law enforcement personnel at a distance.

Airline personnel and police are trained to recognize persons wearing the sticker as someone with autism and can defuse situations affecting individuals with autism.

This Autism Logo was the winner of a design contest. The winning design was created as part of a team effort comprised of 13 students ranging in age from 10 - 17 from the LeRoy Haynes Center. Their teacher is Ms. Suzanne Evans who is assisted by Ms. Laticia Lerma, teacher's assistant.

## Can I use the autism sticker at other airports?

Unfortunately, no. This program is unique to Los Angeles World Airports. However, it is possible that other airports have similar programs using other forms of self-identification. LAWA will be working with the aviation community in developing a similar program nationally and internationally.

