



Welcome, Odyssey of the Mind World Finals 2025!

Between May 21 and 24, thousands of students, teachers, parents and volunteers from around the globe will travel to Michigan State University for the 45th annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. It's an educational competition whose mission is to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

Rotating between MSU and Iowa State University every other year, the OOTM World Finals give our community a multi-million-dollar boost as participants patronize local hotels, restaurants, retail shops, businesses and tourist attractions.

As trusted partners of OOTM, Michigan Flyer and our parent company, Indian Trails, will play a key role in making it a success. Together, we have dozens of buses ready to transport thousands of participants between Detroit Metro Airport and East Lansing.

The cost per person is \$29 one way or \$45 round trip for two or more people traveling together. If you're planning to participate in the OOTM World Finals, make your reservations without delay at www.MichiganFlyer.com.

MSU shuttles will provide transportation between our location at the East Lansing Marriott and select locations near MSU residence halls, where many participants will be staying. More details [HERE](#).



What It's All About

Competing at MSU will be up to 800 teams of seven members each, whose performance will be assessed by hundreds of volunteer judges. Each team chooses one of [these competitive problems](#) to solve under the guidance of an adult coach.

Teams from states across the U.S.—including Michigan—have been working on their solutions all year and previously reached championship status through competitions at the state level. So have their international counterparts.

Among the nations who've previously sent their best students are Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. However, due to America's current political climate of mass deportations and international trade wars, it remains to be seen which countries will be represented at MSU this year.

Regardless, the Odyssey kids will fill MSU's residence and dining halls, and form life-long friendships with both teammates and opponents from around the globe.

Ultimately, on Saturday, May 24, at MSU's Breslin Center, 19 teams in various age groups will be named World Champions of Creative Problem-Solving.

If you happen to see any OOTM participants wearing their distinctive T-shirts on the streets of Lansing or East Lansing, we encourage you to extend a very warm welcome.

Spirit Airlines Expands to Give You 40+ Nonstop Destinations from DTW



Florida-based [Spirit Airlines](#) has come roaring back into competition with other major carriers after emerging from years of losses, debt, failed mergers, and [bankruptcy](#). It has new financing, new leadership, and a new determination to rebrand itself as a premium airline.

Most importantly for Michigan Flyer passengers, Spirit recently announced 10 new and six resuming nonstop routes from Detroit Metro Airport—all to destinations served by Delta Air Lines. Potentially, the head-to-head competition could mean lower fares for passengers of both carriers.

Starting on various dates in May and June, Spirit's new and resumed destinations from DTW are Austin (AUS), Birmingham (BHM), Charleston (CHS), Hartford (BDL), Louisville (SDF), Kansas City (MCI), Milwaukee (MKE), Norfolk (ORF), Phoenix (PHX), Punta Cana (PUJ), Richmond (RIC), Salt Lake City (SLC), San Diego (SAN), San Juan (SJU), and St. Louis (STL), plus Savannah (SAV) in October.

Overall, these additions will give travelers the choice of 41 nonstop routes from DTW. (To see them all, [click here](#), enter "DTW" in the From box, then click inside the To box.) All are for sale now. In terms of the number of direct flights offered by carriers at Detroit Metro, this will make Spirit second only to Delta.

While visiting Spirit's website, be sure to take note of the [new options it offers to customize your on-board experience](#), ranging from "Go," "Go Savvy," and "Go Comfy," to the first-class "Go Big." As for pricing, see our sample airfares below.

Sample Fares for Fall Getaways



Spring is the perfect time to start planning for a fall vacation. That's because the sooner you plan your getaway, the less expensive your airline tickets are apt to be. Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for domestic roundtrips leaving Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Friday, Oct. 3, and returning on Sunday, Oct. 12. Among our search criteria: Flights had to be nonstop in both directions, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 or 10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton and East Lansing.

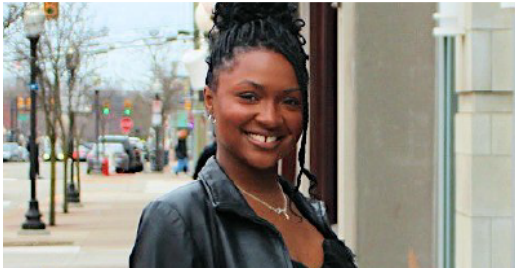
NOTE: Lower prices than these are usually available for anyone who's flexible about the dates of travel, or willing to change planes enroute to their destinations. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

Minneapolis, MN (MSP) Spirit \$138
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Spirit \$178
New York, NY (EWR) Delta \$184
St. Louis, MO (STL) Spirit \$185
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit \$186
Washington, DC (BWI) Spirit \$190
Boston, MA (BOS) Spirit \$199
Miami, FL (MIA) Delta \$199
Tampa, FL (TPA) Delta \$199
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Spirit \$212
Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta \$219
Denver, CO (DEN) Delta \$237
Charlotte, NC (CLT) Spirit \$240
Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Delta \$249
Durham, NC (RDU) Spirit \$254
Orlando, FL (MCO) Delta \$269
Chicago, IL (ORD) American \$275
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Delta \$279

San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$289
Myrtle Beach, NC (MYR) Spirit \$290
Charleston, SC (CHS) Spirit \$292
Lexington, KY (LEX) Delta \$299
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$299
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Delta \$299
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Spirit \$306
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$324
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Spirit \$330
Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$339
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$379
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta \$387
Houston, TX (IAH) United \$405
Portland, OR (PDX) Delta \$469
Salt Lake City, UT (SLT) Delta \$499
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$499
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,220



Why Jenascia Scott Chooses Michigan Flyer



When Michigan Flyer was launched in 2006, the idea was to offer a shuttle service to carry folks from East Lansing, and points in between, to Detroit Metro Airport and back.

Over the years, mid-Michigan residents have also found it to be a convenient, cost-effective way to travel to and from the campuses of Michigan State University or the University of Michigan. Students and faculty of MSU and U-M often take the Flyer to visit one another. Others ride it to work and medical appointments, to visit friends and relatives, attend art exhibits and performances, go shopping, and more.

Currently, Jenascia Scott chooses the Flyer as a safe way to travel between Brighton and East Lansing to visit her boyfriend.

The Advantages

She began riding with us last year at the suggestion of her boyfriend's mother. While Jenascia lives in Redford, Mich., her car wasn't the most reliable. "I felt comfortable driving it to Brighton and leaving it in the parking lot there to hop on the Flyer," she says. Though she has since bought a more reliable car, she still rides the Flyer about once a week.

Jenascia, who recently completed her training as an esthetician at the Douglas J Aveda Institute in Royal Oak, Mich., says she wasn't expecting much when she boarded the Flyer the first time. "I was thinking it would just be an ordinary bus. But the Flyer motorcoaches are so up-to-date, safe, and comfortable."

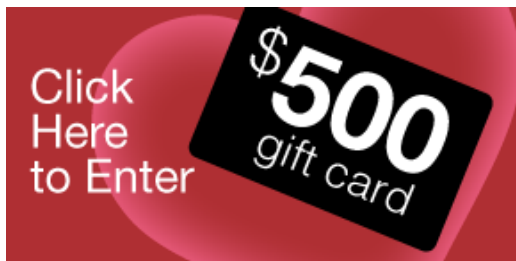
Other things she appreciates include the professionalism of our drivers, restrooms on board, our bus tracker app that lets passengers see the exact location of their bus in real time, and our customer service staff. "Whenever I've contacted the Flyer office, they're so nice and really work with you to help accommodate your needs," she says.

And while Jenascia has not yet ridden with us to Detroit Metro Airport, her boyfriend has. "He likes it because he can just hop on and not worry about driving or parking,"

she notes. "I like it because it's nice not having to drive myself, especially at night or during the winter months."

Another benefit: Riding the Flyer helps ease her father's mind: "My dad is really protective of me, so he's happy with the way I'm getting to East Lansing. He worked in IT for Delta Air Lines and often saw the Flyer at the airport in Detroit."

Tell Us Your Love Story, Win a Big Prize!



The clock is ticking on your opportunity to enter our new "Love Connections" essay contest, and take advantage of your chance to win a \$500 gift card Top Prize, or one of five \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes!

To enter, just tell a great—but true—story about how Michigan Flyer helped to connect you with a special person, place or adventure dear to your heart. In addition to the gift card, all winners will have their stories and photos published in our E-news for the enjoyment of fellow passengers.

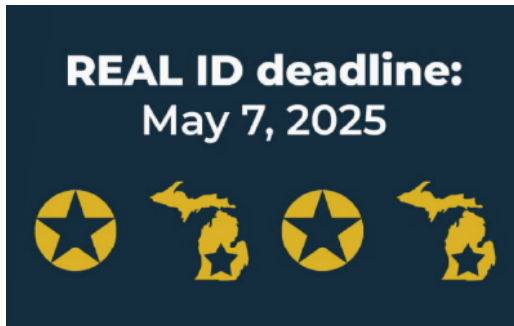
Just submit your story of up to 300 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) between now and May 22, 2025. We'll notify the winners sometime after that by phone or email. Entries will be judged by Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants, based on which stories best fit the contest theme. Good luck!



Travel Alerts

Reminder: Beginning May 7, a REAL ID will be Required to Fly in the U.S.

If you're planning to take a domestic flight in the U.S. on or after May 7, be aware that the Dept. of Homeland Security will then require everyone to have a state-issued Real ID driver's license, U.S. passport or passport card, or other [credentials acceptable at TSA Checkpoints](#)



Book Early: Student Exodus Ahead

If you're planning to ride with Michigan Flyer-AirRide in early May, it's best to buy your tickets without delay. The end of term at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University means full motorcoaches for us as students depart their campuses. Commencement activities for U-M students will be held May 2-3; for MSU students, commencements are May 2-4.

Complimentary Travel to/from Avelo Airlines at DTW

Until June 12, 2025, Michigan Flyer is offering passengers transportation—at no charge—between East Lansing, Brighton or Ann Arbor and [Avelo Airlines](#) at Detroit Metro Airport's Evans Terminal. It's our way of making it easier for you to try Avelo's new nonstop service between DTW and Connecticut's [Tweed-New Haven Airport](#) (HVN).



The flights operate on Mondays and Fridays, and fares are as low as \$39 one way. For more details, including terms and conditions, visit [MichiganFlyer.com](#).

Earth Day Seed Giveaway

In celebration of Earth Day this week, driver Doug Hamlin and other Michigan Flyer staff members handed out free seed packets that passengers can use to plant a special

mix of wildflowers. These provide nectar and pollen to honey bees, wild bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators. [Without pollinators, the human race and all of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive.](#) In other words, they're more than just bugs. We literally can't live without them.



Top Coming Events – We Can Get You There!

East Lansing





East Lansing Art Festival

Celebrating its 62nd year, East Lansing Art Festival (in downtown East Lansing, right next to Michigan Flyer headquarters at the Marriott) will display works by over 180 jury-selected artists from across the country.

In addition, there will be a full line-up of performers, plus an artist demonstration area offering interactive and learning experiences. It's happening on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—and it's FREE!



The terrific [MSU Spring Arts and Crafts Show](#) is also on May 17 & 18, and it too is a free event. Just cross the street from the Art Festival to visit the show on the grounds around MSU's Union Building. The Arts and Crafts Show brings some 300 artists from across the nation to display and sell handmade items including candles, furniture, jewelry, clothing, toys, paintings, photographs, pottery, sculpture and more.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar: www.lansing.org/events.

Brighton

Brighton, like other communities in Livingston County, offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar: visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/.

Ann Arbor

Lady Blackbird at The Ark

In every Lady Blackbird song is the unmistakable sound of freedom. With a mighty voice that effortlessly embodies power and yearning, Lady Blackbird has imbued her compositions with deep emotion since her 2021 critically acclaimed debut album, "Black Acid Soul."



Hers is an instantly recognizable sound capable of evoking joy one moment and heartache the next, while effortlessly moving through musical genres as varied as jazz, soul, gospel, psychedelic rock, and pop. Catch her live performance at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$30 + fee general admission.](#)

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: annarbor.org/events/.

Detroit



Shakira - Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran - World Tour

Global superstar Shakira brings her "Women No Longer Cry" world tour to Little Caesars Arena—2645 Woodward Ave. in Detroit—on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Known for her electrifying and energetic performances, Shakira will showcase songs from her latest album, along with hits from her outstanding catalog. This new, high-tech production promises to be an unforgettable experience. Shakira's recently released "Soltera," an infectious Afrobeats female anthem, has already climbed to the

Global Top 50 on Spotify, as well as #1 on radio in several countries. [Tickets \\$229-\\$955+](#).

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area riders to and from this event. Little Caesars Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.

To learn more about what's happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: visitdetroit.com/events/.



Tips for Smarter Travel

Know How to Find Us at DTW (click the link for each terminal)

Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this Link

Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Just visit one of these websites to write a quick review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!

facebook

 **tripadvisor**

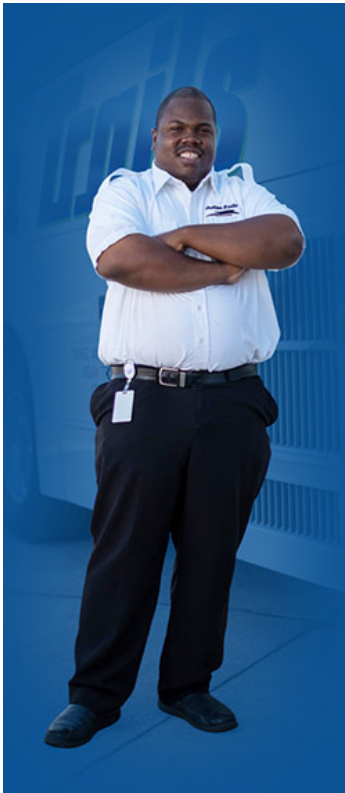
yelp 

Customer Comment

"I have had great experiences with great drivers each time I've taken the Flyer. Reliable service at a reasonable price."

—Lisa J., Waterbury, VT.





Bus Drivers Wanted

No experience necessary! Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a starting hourly rate of \$23.00, provide a 5-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Among other benefits, full-time drivers receive:

- Two weeks of paid time off in the first year
- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- 401(k) retirement program with employer match
- Annual safety bonus

Worth noting, too, drivers with the highest seniority currently earn \$33.82 an hour. Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 115-year-old, family-run company that values fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence. [Click here to learn more and ask to get in touch with our recruiter, Jennifer Freeman.](#)

Happy Mother's Day!



In 2025, Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 11. Did you know? Celebrations of motherhood go back as far as the ancient Greeks and Romans, and take place in some 40 countries. But the American version only came about because a woman named Anna Jarvis relentlessly championed the cause from 1908 until it became an official U.S. holiday.

Raised in Grafton, W.V., Anna Jarvis moved to Philadelphia with her mother in 1902 after the death of her father, a minister. Her mother—Ann Reeves Jarvis—had been a Sunday school teacher who helped start "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to teach women how to care for their children.

During a lecture in 1876, she had prayed that someone would establish a day to honor mothers for their service to humanity. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis vowed to answer that prayer.

She organized the first Mother's Day service at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton in 1908. Then, with support from her friend John Wanamaker, she helped stage a celebration that drew thousands of people to his Philadelphia department store.

Jarvis then began a years-long, letter-writing campaign, urging politicians to create an annual Mother's Day. She wanted the celebration to be held on the second Sunday of May—the Sunday closest to her mother's death date—and in 1914, Congress and President Woodrow Wilson agreed.

Ironically, Jarvis—the Mother of Mother's Day—never married or had children. In her later years, upset by the commercialization of the holiday, she actually campaigned against it. Even so, virtually everyone loves their mother, which is why more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year.



Why Drive?

Booking is easy, click here to view schedules.



333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823

www.michiganflyer.com



