

This is the time of year when our Fall flight planning really takes off and today we are announcing that the Badger Honor Flight Board of Directors has decided to cancel our Fall 2020 flight season. When we weigh the risks – known or unknown – of flying our nation's Heroes to Washington, D.C., in the midst of a pandemic, we feel it is in everyone's best interest to wait until we can safely fly and give our Veterans, Guardians, and Volunteers the patriotic and celebratory Honor Flight experience we have all grown to love and cherish.

Like everything during the past few months, it is complex and difficult. Badger Honor Flight is built on a vast network of volunteers, sponsors, and partners who always give their very best to honor our Veterans. They are all pillars of Badger Honor Flight but just as Badger Honor Flight has safely flown over the past 10 years, we must maintain the safety of all involved.

No one can predict what challenges or opportunities we may be facing by September but we need to make decisions now based on what we know today, not what we hope things will be like by September. Right now, as the country works to slowly re-open, and walks, not runs, to getting back to some sense of normalcy, it's no time to put our most vulnerable at risk.

Badger Honor Flight has come to be a full-on celebration; whether at the Send-Off when we greet our Veterans and Guardians at 4:30am or when the band plays one of the military branch hymns while 5,000 spectators welcome back our Veterans and Guardians, shake a Veteran's hand and thank them for their service.

Part of what makes Badger Honor Flight so unique is our dedicated volunteers. We are grateful you have continued to stay engaged and hope you will work with us as we implement new ways to safely honor our Veterans during a time when we cannot fly. We want to build on the past 10 years and maintain the strength and commitment to Veterans that Badger Honor Flight is known for. We must be creative and innovative while we work together to come back and fly in 2021.