

NUTS ABOUT SOUTHWEST



Contents:

April 18, 2011

Page 1- The Southwest Nomad

Page 2- Jersey Cares

Page 3- Adopt a Pilot

Page 4- Big Blue

The Southwest Nomad

By: Emily Richardson

I'll be the first to admit working for an airline has great perks. Having the ability to travel at a moment's notice is fun and exciting, and feeds my adventurous spirit. My flight privileges are more beneficial to me now than ever before, since I became a nomad.

In my experience, it's never good when your landlord calls you. At best, it's about a maintenance issue. At worst, you're asked to move out. The latter happened to me last September. My roommate and I had lived in our house for over three years and were no longer in a lease (I'd negotiated a month-to-month agreement) so when the owner's daughter needed a place to live, we were kindly asked to move out to accommodate her.

My roommate found a new place to live and in our mad rush to move out I didn't. Instead of hastening to find another apartment, I decided to sell all of my belongings and couch surf until a suitable opportunity presented itself. (Don't worry Mom and Dad--I'm staying with friends, not strangers!) After talking to other Southwest Airlines Employees, I discovered that I wasn't the first to adopt this lifestyle. A flight attendant I met couch-surfed for two years and plans on doing it again. Two former Marketing Employees lived out of their cars for extended periods of time, one while she was a Flight Attendant and the other just last year while he was working at Headquarters. I wonder if Southwest attracts adventurous people or if they develop a taste for exploration from working here. I imagine it's a little bit

Continued on Page 3



Jersey Cares, and So Does Southwest!

By: Jenna Williamson

Newark is OPEN!

This is huge. From our newest airport, you can hop a train to Penn Station, and faster than a “Friends” rerun, you’re in the heart of New York City: home of the Yankees and the Mets, Broadway, and 5th Avenue. Land of 20,000 restaurants. The place never sleeps. What’s not to love?



On the first Southwest Airlines plane to land in Newark, I was sitting beside Bob D., Dallas Assistant Chief Pilot. As we flew over New Jersey, his home state, Bob pointed out the airport where he learned to fly. His eyes danced as we approached the runway, with New York City in clear view to our right. “If you told me that Southwest Airlines would ever be flying into Newark,” he said, “I would have called you crazy.” His mom met us at the gate with huge smiles and hugs, thrilled to have her son home.

While in New Jersey, I was able to take part in Southwest’s Share the Spirit event at South 17th Street School, located just minutes from Newark Liberty International Airport.

For this project, Southwest partnered with Jersey Cares, an organization that connects Volunteers to Community needs throughout the state. I headed into New Jersey with a small but mighty group of Southwest Warriors. Brian Dean, Executive Director of Jersey Cares, welcomed us to the school with open arms. We all felt like kids again, eating lunch in a school auditorium while huge cut-outs of Alvin and the Chipmunks loomed on stage. During lunch, the community outreach coordinator of South 17th Street School explained the tasks of the day.



One group braved the cold to beautify the school’s front entrance. Another group decorated and stuffed environmental goody bags for the students. The third group—my group—painted a mural in one of the hallways.

As Southwest Employees, we are encouraged to “color outside of

the lines,” so we knew that filling in the floor-to-ceiling sketch might be tricky for our group. But we grabbed paint cans, rolled up our sleeves, and got to work.

The hours flew by. We danced to Justin Bieber and mixed paints like pros. John J., who is part of our Graphic Design and Creative Services department, worked harder than anyone, making the rest of us look good with his touch-up skills. It felt so good to see it all come together. Halfway through the afternoon, when paint fumes were making us a bit loopy, a Newark Cargo Employee dropped by to surprise the entire group with warm pretzels and delicious mango ices. Gotta love that Southwest Spirit!

Nomad continued...

(or a lot) of both.

Currently, I’m in my fifth month of nomadic living. When I started in November, I had no idea what I’d face in this journey but it’s been an invaluable learning opportunity. There are pros and cons, but overall the experience has allowed me to take advantage of my flight privileges a lot more and evaluate what aspects of life are the most important. I’ve traveled to Vancouver, Seattle, Las Vegas, San Diego, Phoenix, Austin, Oklahoma City, and St. Louis and have a handful of other destinations to visit before I settle down. If you’ve ever considered going nomadic, here’s a list of the top ten things you have to gain:

A fresh start. Selling all of your possessions is simultaneously terrifying and liberating!

Self-reliance. No one else is going to find you a place to sleep!

Appreciation. For the little things, like having a roof over your head!

Stories. Some good, some bad, some weird, but all cool.

Extra cash. No rent or utility bills allows you more money for travel, fun, and savings!

Friends and family. You get to see them more and realize how much they care! Just be sure not to overstay your welcome.

No chores. However, pitching in around the place you’re staying is a great way to thank your hosts!

Flexibility. When opportunity knocks, there’s not much holding you back!

Organization. It’s the key to sanity in this situation. Learn it or risk losing your

Southwest Pilots Volunteer Across the Country and in a City Near YOU!

By: Kati Tucker



In honor of National Volunteer Week, we wanted to give you a peak into a program that includes Volunteering, Southwest Airlines Pilots, and thousands of children across the United States! What do you get when you mix them all together? Why, its Adopt-A-Pilot!

Encouraging fifth graders to follow their dreams is what Southwest Airlines Adopt-A-Pilot (AAP) is all about. More than 800 Pilots volunteer each year, sometimes driving hours to get to more than 1,300 classrooms, teaching students about the importance of their education and shooting for the stars! AAP is one of Southwest Airlines’ long-standing

volunteer programs, and every year our Pilots give more than 10,000 hours of volunteer time to classrooms across the US.

A way for students in AAP to show what the program means to them is through our annual Tie Contest. For the 2010 AAP Tie contest, we received more than 4,700 entries but one talented student, Rylee Arnott, who attends Hubert Bancroft Elementary in Sacramento, swept us away with her entry which truly captured what Southwest is about. Her winning tie will be worn with honor by all of Southwest Airlines Adopt-A-Pilot’s.

Big Blue Experiences Southwest

By: Bob Haster

College basketball teams, fans, and school officials experienced a little Southwest Culture over the past few weeks, including Butler's adorable mascot, Big Blue! It was an even bigger success for Southwest Airlines, as we transported a number of these teams, fans, and mascots on our charter flights all across the country.



Over the past three weeks, while Big Blue supported his team throughout the tournament, Southwest Airlines Employees and Customers celebrated their wins alongside him. IND Ramp Agent Andy W. and IND Ramp Sup Selena H. received some mascot tips before their big trip to HOU!

Here, Blue received a personal tour of the cockpit!

HOU Ops Agent Adrian O. hangs out with Blue in the gate area!

Throughout the season, we carried 11 men's basketball teams to their game sites, including the two teams in the championship game, UConn and Butler. On the women's side, we carried five teams. Additionally, we carried fans and alumni from five different teams to watch their favorite teams play. In total, we had 27 trips and carried more than 3,000 Customers during the season including:



Men's teams: Butler, UConn, FSU, Gonzaga, Morehead State, Richmond, Arizona, UT, Wisconsin, UNLV, Illinois

Women's teams: TTU, Kansas State, Hampton, Fresno State, Wisconsin-Green Bay

Fans, School Officials, and Mascots: Kentucky,

Kansas, VCU, Butler

Thank you to the teams, fans, and mascots, for flying Southwest Airlines, and many thanks to our Southwest Employees who made these charter flights a success!

**Contact Us at:
Southwest Airlines
P.O. Box 36647-1CR
Dallas, Texas 75235**

1-800-I-FLY-SWA