



*I wish to go on
Disney Cruise Line®*

Mason, 5
brain tumor

Make-A-Wish®

OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA

A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO WISHING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TERMINOLOGY	3
A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO JOINING MAKE-A-WISH	3
STARTING THE JOURNEY	4
OUR PROMISE TO YOU	4
WHAT CAN YOU CAN EXPECT?	5
WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR WISH JOURNEY	5
WHAT TO PREPARE FOR YOUR MISSION DISCOVERY SPECIALIST	6
<i>Photocopies</i>	
<i>Forms and Signatures</i>	
WISH DISCOVERY MEETING	7
ONGOING PLANNING AND CONTACT	8
<i>Approvals</i>	
<i>Scheduling the Wish</i>	
THANK YOU FROM MAKE-A-WISH	9

TERMINOLOGY

Wish Discovery Meeting: the meeting where your child's wish is determined

Mission Discovery Specialist: Make-A-Wish staff member who will gather initial paperwork and discuss wish ideas with your family

Mission Fulfillment Specialist: Make-A-Wish staff member who will plan your child's wish experience

A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO JOINING MAKE-A-WISH



We are thrilled to welcome you to our Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana family and invite you to embark with us on a journey! The joy of Make-A-Wish lies not only in the wish itself, but in the dreaming, planning and anticipation along the way. Our aim is to create a lasting impact of hope, strength, and joy with every step of the Wish Journey, and beyond. We thank you for allowing us into your lives through this experience and are honored to make your child's wish come true.

Throughout the wish process, we want your child to lead us through this journey from their personal perspective. Their definition of what brings them joy is important to us.

Here are some tips to help spark your child's imagination as they decide their one true wish:

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES! Speak with your child about their interests and ask your child to imagine themselves during their wish experience. What are they feeling? What part is most exciting? What would they be doing? Where would they go? Who would they meet? Please take notes about the details your child envisions during their wish. These are the details that our team will use to make the wish extraordinary!

ENJOY THE JOURNEY! Please give your child time to decide their one true wish and don't feel as though you need to pressure them into making a decision. We believe the wish journey is just as important as the actual wish itself, helping renew hope, strength and joy for your child along the way.

GET EXCITED! Make wish planning fun! Use the wish experience as an opportunity for your child and family to spend quality time together away from the hospital and doctor's office imagining the exciting possibilities of the wish.

STARTING THE JOURNEY

As we embark on this adventure together, it's important to remember a few things:

- **Granting your child's wish is a process.** We rely on the generosity and support of medical professionals, donors, volunteers, and communities to make wishes possible.
- **Planning a wish takes time.** A wish experience can take up to 24 months to plan. Every wish involves coordinating a diverse network of support in order to make a child's unique wish come true.
- **Make-A-Wish is a non-profit with finite resources.** Our vision is to grant the wish of every eligible child. To achieve this, we operate under a set of guidelines designed to appropriately allocate our donors' contributions to ensure every wish is granted in a fiscally responsible and safe manner.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Please be assured that we have your child's best interest at heart. Over the next several months, this experience is designed to help answer questions, shape your child's wish journey and build anticipation of what's to come.

As a team, we strive to:

- Provide a wish experience full of hope, strength and joy to your family.
- Offer a team of caring, responsible and well-trained staff and volunteers to guide your family on your wish journey.
- Cover all approved expenses related to the granting of the wish. Generally, participants include two adults and any siblings living in the home under the age of 21.
- Be available to answer your questions and address your concerns throughout your wish journey.
- Create moments of anticipation leading up to your child's wish.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

By working together, we will create an experience filled with hope, strength and joy for your child and family to cherish for a lifetime.

We invite you to join our Make-A-Wish family and:

- Participate in each stage of the journey.
- Help your child consider interests, hobbies, places, and heroes that hold a personal meaning to them when imagining their wish.
- Relay important updates regarding changes in your child's medical condition(s), treatment protocol, procedure dates, and overall progress.
- Trust our team to create an experience that may include a few fun surprises along the way.
- Understand that the gift we offer is more than just a one-time experience; it's an impactful journey that will extend for years to come.

WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR WISH JOURNEY

The Wish Journey is made up of several milestones leading up to and including your child's wish experience. At this time, our chapter staff has processed your family's information, connected with your child's treating physician, and determined that your child is eligible to receive a wish.

The next step is for your wish child to start thinking about ideas for his or her wish. After that, you will need to complete all the necessary paperwork, obtain the necessary signatures and send copies of your required personal documents to your Mission Discovery Specialist.

Your Mission Discovery Specialist is there to help you discuss wish ideas and to answer any questions you have while completing our initial paperwork. Once a wish has been selected and all paperwork has been received, you will begin working with one of our Mission Fulfillment Specialist. This specialist will work with you as they plan your child's wish experience.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR YOUR MISSION DISCOVERY SPECIALIST

PHOTOCOPIES

Please make **PHOTOCOPIES** of the following documents and send the copies to your Mission Discovery Specialist. These can be mailed or emailed copies.

1. Parent's/Guardian's valid photo ID or driver's license as well as a copy for any participant over the age of 18 residing in the home.* Generally, participants include two adults and any siblings living in the home under the age of 21.
2. Birth certificates for wish child & siblings under the age of 18 residing in the home.*
3. A photo of the wish child to keep on file.(optional)
4. A copy of your car insurance declarations page. This is the page that states coverage and deductible information.



FORMS AND SIGNATURES*

For our team to legally and responsibly coordinate your child's wish, we require specific forms to be completed and signed.

- **Parent/Guardian Signatures:** Make-A-Wish is legally bound by parental rights (not to be confused with custodial rights) to obtain **signatures from both biological parents on paperwork involving wish participants, travel, liability, safety, and approval(s)**. Signatures from both biological parents are required for **ALL** wish participants under the age of 18 **EVEN IF:**
 - The child resides with one biological parent
 - The child does not reside with either biological parent
 - The biological parent(s) will not be participating in the wish
- If both biological parents are unable to be present, Make-A-Wish staff will contact you to discuss next steps.

****It is important to remember that all wish families are required to return these forms before we can begin to plan your child's wish.***

Upon completion, the forms will be delivered to Make-A-Wish, where they will be securely stored.

WISH DISCOVERY MEETING

The Wish Discovery Meeting is designed to determine your child's wish. A Make-A-Wish Representative will ask your child:

“WHAT IS YOUR WISH?”

During the Wish Discovery Meeting, we may offer some guidance and direction to your child, but in the end, we want this to be your child's own wish.

Although we try to fulfill even the most imaginative wishes, our team operates under Make-A-Wish America's Performance Standards and Policies designed to ensure the safety and well-being of your child, all wish participants and our organization.

Please note, due to a record number of children waiting for wishes nationwide due to COVID-19, limited availability of everything from rental cars to lodging, and other restrictions, for some of our families this wait time could be more than two years. If you would like to explore a wish we may be able to grant much sooner, many non-travel wishes remain as options for your child.

Be advised that your child's wish may be affected by these policies. Additionally, please review the list below with your child to note wishes we are unable to fulfill before your child begins envisioning their wish:

- Wishes involving international travel or cruises
- Therapeutic swim spas
- Therapy / service dogs
- To use or gift firearms or other weapons
- Money or financial assistance
- Medical treatment or life-sustaining equipment
- In-ground swimming pools
- Cars, motorcycles, power boats, or van conversions
- Housing or structural renovation to a house
- Transportation to treatment or airfare to a medical facility

ONGOING PLANNING AND CONTACT

After Make-A-Wish receives the required paperwork from the Wish Discovery Meeting, your Mission Discovery Specialist will review the details of your child's wish and begin the wish approval process. He or she is dedicated to working with your family to plan your child's wish.

WISH APPROVALS

To achieve approval, Make-A-Wish must ensure the wish falls appropriately within our internal safety and budgetary policies. Additionally, we require confirmation from your child's treating provider(s) that the wish is medically appropriate from a safety and timing perspective.

Please understand that the approval of your child's wish can take some time. Your child's wish must be reasonable, attainable and appropriate for your child's age and medical condition(s). Identifying a wish during the Wish Discovery Meeting in no way guarantees wish details, timing, reservations, and/or fulfillment until the wish has met our internal standards of approval.

In the case that your child's wish cannot be granted, we will work with your child, family, and medical team to establish an alternative wish still aimed at bringing your child and family an impactful experience full of hope, strength and joy.



SCHEDULING OF THE WISH

We will do our best to plan your child's wish experience at a time most conducive to your family's schedule.

Additionally, Make-A-Wish's availability can reach capacity, especially during peak seasons. Given the nature of the wish, we are unable to guarantee timing or fulfillment of celebrity-, professional sports- or entertainment-related wishes.

As an organization that grants wishes for children battling critical illnesses, we acknowledge that unexpected and unpredictable medical complications can occur at any time. **If medically necessary, Make-A-Wish will cancel, postpone, reschedule, expedite, or adapt any wish. If your child experiences any changes or complications in his/her condition(s), please notify your Mission Discovery Specialist as soon as possible.**



*I wish to go to
Walt Disney World® Resort*

Maxwell, 3
nervous system disorder

THANK YOU

We are dedicated to granting wishes like your child's for one reason: we care. We care about you and your family, and your experience with our organization and team. The opportunity to bring hope, strength and joy to children, families, and communities through granting wishes is immeasurably rewarding to our staff and volunteers. Working closely with families like yours makes our work all the more meaningful. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of sharing in your family's wish journey. We are looking forward to planning your child's most heartfelt wish!

If you'd like to learn more about Make-A-Wish, visit our chapter website at www.oki.wish.org where you will find information, pictures and inspiring stories about our wish children and their unique journeys. We also encourage you to follow us on social media [@makeawishohkyin](https://www.instagram.com/makeawishohkyin).

If you have any questions or your child's medical condition changes, please call your Mission Discovery Specialist directly or our toll-free line at **(877) 206-WISH(9474)**.