

Behind the Scenes: Wish Assists and Celebrity Wishes

Ever wonder what goes into making a celebrity wish come true or how we support wishes that take place outside of our chapter's territory? These types of wishes are extra special, but they often require additional coordination, flexibility and communication.

Wish Assists

A wish assist occurs when a child's wish experience takes place in a chapter's territory different from their own. Host chapters and originating chapters work together to coordinate a wish experience tailored specifically to the Wish Child. Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina can act as either a host chapter or the originating chapter.

Host chapter: A child from Wisconsin wishes to visit the Outer Banks (OBX). Our chapter will coordinate with the Wisconsin chapter on logistics of the wish, including travel plans, desired experiences and lodging arrangements, ensuring the Wish Child has a truly memorable experience.

Originating chapter: A child from Eastern North Carolina wishes to visit the Grand Canyon. Our chapter coordinates with the Arizona chapter on logistics of the wish, including travel plans, desired experiences and lodging arrangements, ensuring the Wish Child has a truly memorable experience.

Celebrity Wishes

Celebrity wishes are a special type of wish assist involving a meeting or interacting with a well-known figure, such as an actor, athlete, musician or influencer.

While incredibly meaningful, these wishes also come with unique challenges:

- Celebrity schedules are often unpredictable
- Security and privacy must be carefully maintained
- Requests must go through official national channels and sometimes through third-party representatives
- We cannot guarantee that a celebrity wish will happen until we receive confirmation from Make-A-Wish America
- Celebrities cannot provide enhancements for wishes that are unrelated to meeting them
 - For example - a celebrity cannot announce to a child that they are going to Disney World

Because of these factors, we ask volunteers not to reach out to celebrities or their teams directly, even if you have a personal connection. If you know someone who may be helpful, please share that information with staff so we can explore it appropriately.

Example: A child from Eastern North Carolina wishes to meet the Philadelphia Eagles. Our chapter, as the originating chapter, works with the Philadelphia, Delaware & Susquehanna Valley chapter, the host chapter, to coordinate an unforgettable wish experience.

What to Expect as a Volunteer

Timing & Flexibility

- Per national standards, host chapters are asked to provide a full itinerary at least 10 days before the wish. However, timelines can vary, and updates may come closer to the wish date.
- Final wish day details, especially for celebrity wishes, may not be available up until the day before the wish takes place.
- Families may receive limited information ahead of time. Your flexibility and reassurance can make a big difference.

Who should the family contact

- Flights, Car Rentals, and Credit Card Issues: Contact the originating chapter
- Hotels and Activities: Contact the host chapter

Always refer to the wish notes for contact details or check with the Wish Manager if you're unsure.