

Good Vibes, Safe Plans: Away Game Safety Planning

Traveling to an away game means being in an unfamiliar city, staying in shared or unfamiliar lodging, and often being farther from your usual support network. Use this guide to help plan before your big trip but remember to trust your instincts. If a situation feels unsafe, it's okay to leave or ask for help.

Before You Leave Campus

- Share your travel plans with a friend or family member not attending the trip: who you're going with, where you're staying, and when you expect to be back. Remember to share your live location and determine how often you will check in.
- Save the away city's non-emergency police number.
- Screenshot important details such as the address of where you will be staying, room number, and rideshare or parking plan so it's accessible even without cell service.
- Double check your packing list. Remember to bring your ID and insurance cards, any necessary medications, and an emergency kit.
- Have a backup plan. Situations can change quickly and it can be easier to plan ahead than in the moment.

Travel & Lodging

- Drivers must have a valid driver's license and vehicles must have up to date registration. Drivers should take rest breaks and everyone in the vehicle must wear seatbelts.
- Know your own room number and the room number for at least one other person in your group if staying in a hotel.
- Keep your doors and windows locked. Know who is on the other side of the door before opening it for visitors.
- Set your boundaries in advance and agree on expectations around guests in shared rooms.
- Follow the rules of your lodging and know how to contact the host or manager if there is a problem.

Game-Day Gatherings

- Agree on a buddy system with your group: who will check in with whom and how often.
- Watch your own drink from pour to finish and do the same for people in your group.
- Arrive and leave the event as a group. If someone wants to leave early, help them find a safe way to do so and remember the buddy system.
- Agree on a signal or code word your group can use if someone needs an exit from an uncomfortable situation. No questions asked.
- Agree on a reunification plan if your group gets split up in the crowd (a gate number, a landmark, a time).
- Stay aware of your surroundings. If you feel unsafe or see something concerning, trust your gut and find somewhere safe to go.

Alcohol & Impairment

- Drinking while under the age of 21 is illegal. If you are 21+ years of age and you choose to drink, please drink responsibly.
- If you or your group choose to drink alcohol, ensure you are pacing your drinks and not drinking past your limits. Check in with friends on how they are feeling.
- Plan for hydration, food, and a place to rest if someone needs to sober up before traveling further.
- Remember that alcohol impairment affects a person's ability to consent.
- If someone in your group seems too impaired to make decisions about who they're leaving with, that's a moment for the group to step in and intervene.

- If you or your group are planning to drink and you have not designated a sober driver, ensure to secure a ride share back to your lodging.

Post-Game Activities

- Agree as a group on plans for after the game before you're in the moment. Decisions are easier to make sober and in advance.
- Adjust your buddy system as needed. Avoid leaving a member of your group alone with people they may not know well or just met.
- If the group decides to split up, consider sharing your live locations to make it easier to meet back up.
- Have a plan for getting back to where you are staying that doesn't rely on a stranger's offer.

Peer Safety & Bystander Intervention

- Normalize checking in with each other without judgment. Saying, "Hey, are you good?" is enough.
- If someone discloses that something happened to them during the trip, listen without pressing for details or passing judgment. Help them know what resources are available and let them lead next steps.
- Follow the BeVOCAL model to be an active bystander:
 - Recognize potential harm whether it is interpersonal violence, substance misuse, hazing, or other concerning behavior.
 - Choose to respond after you assess the situation.
 - Take action, either directly or indirectly, to prevent further harm. Do not put yourself in an unsafe situation and remembering that calling someone else for help is still taking action.

Consent

- The standard for consent doesn't change just because you're away from campus.
- Consent must be clear, knowing, voluntary and expressed prior to engaging in and during each sexual act.
- Consent cannot result from force, coercion, or incapacitation. Threatening someone with harm, unreasonable pressure, and being physically helpless are examples of situations where consent cannot be given.
- Unsure if you have consent? Check in with your partner before proceeding.

Seeking Help, Resources & Support

You do not need to wait to return to Austin or campus to seek support. The following resources are available to all students. If there is an emergency, do not wait and call 911.

Dallas Resources:

- Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center: 972-641-7273
- Genesis Women's Shelter and 24/7 Helpline: 214-946-4357

UT Austin Resources:

- Title IX Office — report an incident or learn about support, resources, and accommodations.
 - 512-471-0419
- Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) — confidential mental health support
 - Main Line: 512-471-3515
 - 24/7 Crisis Line: 512-471-2255
- Behavioral Concerns & Awareness (BCAL) — share concerns about a friend's behavior or situation
 - Call: 512-232-5050
 - Text: 989-564-4676
- UTPD non-emergency line: 512-471-4441 ext. 9

National Hotlines

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- Crisis Lifeline: 988