

THUNDER OVER DOVER OPEN HOUSE FAQs

Q: What is an Open House?

A: An Air Force open house is an invitation to the community to learn about the military and the host base's contributions to national defense. Thunder Over Dover "opens" Dover Air Force Base to the public, demonstrating its readiness to provide rapid global airlift and showcasing our trained Airmen and the capabilities of our modern weapons systems.

Q: What is special about this Open House?

A: The Air Combat Command F-22 Demonstration Team will perform precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the unique capabilities of its fifth-generation fighter aircraft. The team will pair up with Air Force Heritage Flight, exhibiting the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support these aircraft. Of note, this event is open to the public with free admission!

Q: What are the times of the Open House?

A: Gates open to the public at 9:30 a.m. The opening ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m., and aerial demonstrations begin at 11:30 a.m. The show runs until 4:30 p.m. Please note that there is no overnight parking on base.

Q: Where can I park?

A: We will invite the public to join us on base and park on our main ramp, on the very same parking spots that our mighty C-5M and C-17A call home. Handicapped parking will be available.

- Spectators traveling from the north need to go into Dover AFB's North Gate entrance via Exit 97 from Route 1, from which point they will be directed to park on the ramp.
- Spectators traveling from the south need to go into Dover AFB's Main Gate entrance via Exit 93 from Route 1, from which point they will be directed to park on the ramp. We request personnel requiring handicapped parking also enter through Dover AFB's Main Gate.
- DoD ID cardholders may enter through the AMC Museum gate, accessible via Route 9, from which point they will be directed to park on base near the east end of Atlantic Avenue.
- Distinguished Visitors may enter using the South/Commercial Gate.

Q: Can I bring non-DOD guests in through the DOD gate if I am a DOD ID cardholder?

A: DOD ID cardholders may accompany non-DOD ID cardholders as they enter the designated DOD gate next to the AMC Museum, so long as they are in the same vehicle as the DOD ID cardholder.

Q: What will happen if I lose my child or get separated from my group?

A: When you arrive, you will have the opportunity to receive wristbands for you and your child. Your phone number will be written on the child's wristband. In the event you and your child become separated, you will be called by an Open House representative, who is ensuring the safety of your child. If a child is missing, please inform the nearest Open House representative.

Q: What should I bring?

A: Ensure you wear comfortable shoes, and bring the following items: water in a refillable container (free water will be available), a handheld camcorder or camera, binoculars, hearing protection and non-aerosol sunscreen and bug repellent in a non-aerosol container. You are also welcome to bring strollers and folding chairs. Camera bags/diaper bags/purses should be no larger than 12"x12".

Q: Can I bring a cooler? How about a backpack?

A: Please leave your coolers at home. Food and drinks will be available for purchase from vendors. Small bags are permitted, but items larger than a cubic foot are prohibited.

Q: Can I bring my camera?

A: Bring your camera, but please leave your tripods and any large accessories or photography equipment home. As a reminder, camera bags must be no bigger than 12"x12".

Q: Can I bring a service animal?

A: Service animals and service animals-in-training will be allowed; however, the animal must be equipped with a proper identifying harness, and its owner must provide proper documentation.

Q: What can I not bring?

A: Please do not bring large backpacks, bags or coolers. In addition, all visitors are subject to search by Security Forces at any time on the installation and will NOT be allowed to pass through security with weapons of any kind (e.g., pocket knives, tools, scissors, box cutters, nunchucks, billy clubs, large/heavy chain-link jewelry or belts, mace/pepper spray, firearms, etc.). Please do NOT bring toys resembling firearms! Also prohibited are drones, laser pointers, aerosol cans (i.e., spray paint, bug spray, spray-on sunscreen, etc.), silly string, glass containers of any kind, alcohol and illegal drugs, fireworks, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, large umbrellas or portable tents, and pets (service animals are allowed).

Q: What are some of the aerial acts?

A: Some of the aerial acts include the F-22 Demo Team, the Black Daggers: the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Team, a C-17 demonstration team, World War II aircraft, Jack Link's "Screamin' Sasquatch" 1929 Waco biplane, Fighter Jet Inc's MiG-17, and much more.