



FAQ - TRAVEL TO THE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Can I afford to attend the Telluride Student Symposium if I am accepted?

Attending the program does come with costs, but there are ways to make any budget work, especially if you plan early (in other words, you'll need to be in touch with us the moment you get accepted into the program if you're concerned about costs.)

While travel, lodging, and meals will ultimately be your financial responsibility, there are things we can and will do to help. Our experienced staff will be available to guide you through every step of the process. Below you'll find further information on costs and the support we can provide.

Is it expensive to get to Telluride?

Traveling to and from Telluride can be expensive, but planning ahead and organizing with your fellow students will really help. We will provide additional detailed travel information if you are accepted into the program, as well as contact information for your fellow students.

If you don't live within driving distance and need to fly to the Telluride area, you will also need to plan for ground transportation to Telluride from the airport (see below).

How do I get to Telluride by plane?

The best airports to fly into are (in order of closest to farthest): Montrose (MTJ), Grand Junction (GJT), Durango (DRO), Gunnison (GUC), or Cortez (CEZ). Flying into Denver (DIA) or Albuquerque (ABQ) – both six-hour drives from Telluride – may be even more cost-effective, especially if you can share the expense of a vehicle and drive the rest of the way with other students.

You may find the best deals on flights by doing your own research online. Alternatively, the Telluride Film Festival works with a wonderful travel agent named Ann Denney, who has experience with the Festival specifically and can assist with your airline reservations. She can be reached at ann@ski.com. We recommend contacting her.

How do I get to Telluride from the airport I choose and back again?

For the closer airports (Montrose, Grand Junction, Durango, etc.), you can book a van shuttle through Telluride Express. The drive from Montrose to Telluride is about 90 minutes; Grand Junction is 2.5 hours; the rest are 2-4 hours' drive. A one way van trip to Telluride is approximately \$75 (MTJ) to \$125 (GJT). The "shared ride" option will be the most affordable. The costs change according to airport and date, as well as whether or not the van is full - which it generally is around Festival travel dates. Be sure to book your ride both to and from Telluride.

If you fly into Grand Junction or Montrose, you could also use Bustang: The Colorado Department of Transportation's Interregional Express bus service. The bus connects commuters along the mountain corridors and runs once a day in each direction. The tickets range between \$11 - \$22.

Drive/rent a car/car sharing - this is an affordable option for those coming from Denver or Albuquerque and may also be cheaper than a shuttle from the closer airports if you split the cost with multiple students. Please note there are no rental car returns in Telluride, so any car rentals will have to last the length of the festival and be returned elsewhere.

Where do I stay in Telluride, and how much will it cost?

As in most resort towns, affordable lodging can be tough to come by. However, there are budget-friendly options - especially if you book early (as soon as you receive notification that you are accepted into the program). These include:

- The local hostel, The Bivvi, will cost you anywhere from \$74 - \$120 per night. VERY IMPORTANT: The Bivvi is a little ways out of town so you or other students will need a vehicle to get to and from Telluride if you stay here.
- Reserving and sharing a condo/house/room with other students. We will provide further details on this option upon acceptance.
- Camping. We only recommend this option if you're a seasoned camper. The weather can be highly variable during this time of year.

If you are worried that you will not be able to afford housing, please do not let this stop you from applying. We have other ways we can support you. If you are accepted, tell us what is going on – email Erika (address below) - and we will help. We will also provide more details regarding housing upon acceptance.

Will I be responsible for all my meals?

You will be responsible for most of your meals when in Telluride. However, on Thursday evening after the orientation, we will provide dinner to you and your fellow students. Friday, you'll attend the Opening Night Feed (i.e. picnic) for all passholders. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings, we'll feed you coffee, snacks, and pastries at the morning meetings, and we will provide snacks during your midday symposia. On Monday, all passholders will gather to eat at the Labor Day Picnic. In addition, the Symposium provides a cash stipend of \$200 to each student upon arrival in Telluride.

If I am accepted, can I come late or leave early?

VERY IMPORTANT: If you are accepted, you will be required to participate in the entire program from 4pm on Thursday, through Monday, September (departure on Tuesday). If you are unable to commit to this requirement, please let us know so that we can offer your spot to another candidate who is able to commit to the entire experience.

What if I have a scheduling conflict with my school or job?

We are happy to call and/or provide a personal Telluride Film Festival letter to your school or employer that explains the merit of the Student Symposium program.

Still have questions?

Email us at:

Austin Sipes, Student Symposium Manager symposium@telluridefilmfestival.org
Erika Moss, VP/Filmanthropy & Education education@telluridefilmfestival.org