

# WISH GRANTER NEWS

## **REGIONAL WISH TRAVEL POLICY UPDATE**

As a result of reduced COVID-19 case numbers and increased vaccination rates across the country, Make-A-Wish America in consultation with our National Medical Advisory Council and Reemergence Task Force, has expanded our definition of “regional travel” to **allow for travel by personal vehicle to a destination that can be reached in two days or less (approximately 1,000 miles) with an overnight stay along the way.**

The original policy from January 2021 allowed for one-day drives (approximately 500 miles) so this change enables wish families to travel farther. A maximum of five nights is possible at the wish destination, potentially resulting in a 7-night trip, including up to two travel days and one travel night on either side of the 5-night stay at the wish destination.

While traveling and at their destination, each wish family should practice physical distancing and avoid large gatherings, such as visits to theme parks, water parks, concerts, sporting events, festivals, or other large public gatherings. Approval of each wish is dependent on clearance from the wish child’s medical team, assessment of COVID-19 risks and any restrictions in the destination, consideration of any applicable travel orders upon the family’s return home, availability of accommodations and desired activities, and access to medical care if needed.

We need at least 60 days to plan a regional travel wish after we receive completed wish paperwork, so please create a sense of urgency for your wish family if they want to travel this summer.

Wishes involving public transportation (e.g., air travel) or large gatherings (e.g., theme parks) are not likely to resume in 2021. For more details, please read [FAQs: Wish Granting Through the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

## **STAFF TRANSITIONS AND OPENINGS**

Wish Experience Manager **Lauren Levin** is leaving Make-A-Wish Illinois after 10+ incredible years to pursue a new career as a physician's assistant. Lauren's last day will be Tuesday, April 27. If you would like to share a tribute to be included in a keepsake gift for Lauren, please email your tribute by April 22 to Bridget O'Connell at [boconnell@illinois.wish.org](mailto:boconnell@illinois.wish.org).

**Brian McMeans** will succeed Lauren as our next wish experience manager. Please join us in congratulating Brian on his promotion! If you or someone you know would excel as our next wish volunteer manager, please review the job description and apply online at <https://apply.workable.com/make-a-wish-illinois/j/E1E4F86698/>.

Bilingual Wish Experience Architect **Marcella Joyner** will leave Make-A-Wish Illinois in mid-June to pursue an MBA at UCLA. If you or someone you know is fluent in Spanish and would thrive as a bilingual wish experience architect, please review the job description and apply online at <https://apply.workable.com/make-a-wish-illinois/j/FEAD1F8447/>.

**Danielle Ruben** joined our wish experience architect team on a temporary basis in January and is now a permanent member of our team. Please join us in congratulating her! Danielle is a seasoned professional, currently working toward a master's in social work. She completed a yearlong internship with us, is a volunteer wish granter and is a wonderful permanent addition to our team!

# MARCH WISHES

Thank you to the volunteers who helped grant **28 life-changing wishes** for children in March. Your passion and creativity are inspiring!

[Wishes List](#)



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For more information about Make-A-Wish Illinois, visit [wish.org/illinois](https://www.wish.org/illinois). To help transform the lives of children with critical illnesses, please [make a donation](#).

Please add [Make-A-WishIllinois@mail.wish.org](mailto:Make-A-WishIllinois@mail.wish.org) to your address book to ensure future delivery.

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