



It's how we get there

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The Return of the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration the Focus of Latest TDA *On The Go* Podcast

MADISON, WI – EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) AirVenture, described as the closest thing America has to a national airshow, returns to Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh July 26 through August 1 after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. In the latest episode of the *On the Go* Podcast, TDA Executive Director Debby Jackson speaks with Dick Knapinski, director of communications for EAA, about this extraordinary event.

"I like to call it aviation's family reunion from all over the world," Knapinski said of the event. "It is a place where all of aviation is celebrated – from the smallest ultralights up to 747s and C5 cargo airplanes from the US Air Force and everything in between."

The greatly anticipated return of AirVenture will include new features and attractions in addition to safety-minded COVID protocols. This year's event will salute aviation's vital role in assisting humanitarian efforts around the globe, commemorate the 75th anniversary (plus one) of the end of World War II, feature the aircraft and personnel of the Air Force's specialized mission group, and much more.

New in 2021, all kids 18 and under are admitted free, with support from Boeing. As Knapinski pointed out, this makes the event more affordable for families to come and enjoy the fun.

Over the years, Whitman Regional Airport has evolved to become a critical piece of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure beyond AirVenture. "Most people don't think of Wittman outside of AirVenture because it doesn't have commercial air service," stated Knapinski. "But throughout the year, it is one of the four busiest airports in Wisconsin due to aviation training, general aviation traffic, and corporate air traffic."

AirVenture has a significant economic impact on the Fox Valley. In 2019, more than 640,000 attendees and 10,000-plus airplanes came to the Oshkosh region, the home of the world's largest fly-in convention and the event known as The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration.

Aviation fans from around the world are ready to return to Wisconsin. "The wait is over. Come on back to Oshkosh for EAA AirVenture," Knapinski enthused.

The *On The Go* podcast is available on all popular podcasting platforms and via this link: <http://onthego.tdawisconsin.org/>.

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About TDA

From the buses in Racine to the Port of Green Bay to the rail lines in Superior to the Waukesha County Airport to the roads we use every day, Wisconsin's transportation network is the key to connecting goods to market and people to jobs. Founded in 1971, the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin promotes the vitality and safety of the state's transportation system, including public transit systems, airports, railroads, commercial ports, and roads. TDA's members include businesses, labor unions, citizen groups, units of government, and individuals.

Contact us at: www.tdawisconsin.org and Twitter handle @TDAWisconsin.