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Southwest

COMPANION PASS GUIDE

Fly Together for (Almost) Free



By: Points by Rosie



**“Bring someone with you on every flight —
you only pay the taxes and fees.”**

@pointsbyrosie

WHAT IS THE COMPANION PASS?

The Southwest Companion Pass is one of the best perks in all of travel. It allows you to take one person with you on every flight you take for free — you only pay the taxes and fees on their ticket. It's essentially buy one get one free flights for up to 2 years!

Good to know: You're allowed to change who is listed as your companion up to three times a year, so it doesn't have to be the same person on every trip.

This means every Southwest flight you book — for work, a weekend trip, or a family vacation — you can bring someone along for essentially just the taxes and fees on their ticket. Over a year of travel, this could save you thousands of dollars.

HOW TO EARN IT

To earn the Companion Pass, you need to earn **135,000 Southwest points** within a single calendar year. Once you reach that number, you're rewarded with the Companion Pass for the **remainder of that year, plus the entire following year**. And those points you accumulated to earn the pass? **Those points are still yours to book travel!**



THE MOST POPULAR STRATEGY

- 1** Sign up for a [Southwest personal credit card](#) and earn its welcome offer.
- 2** Sign up for a [Southwest business credit card](#) and earn its welcome offer.
- 3** Combine the points from both welcome offers, plus your everyday spending, to reach the 135,000 point threshold.

Many people earn the Companion Pass by signing up for **2 Southwest cards** — a personal card and a business card — in the same year. Between the two welcome offers, you can get most, if not all, of the way to 135,000 points before you even count your everyday spending.

BEST TIME TO START: TIMING IT RIGHT

The best time to start working toward the Companion Pass is **a few months before the end of the year**. The goal is to strategically finish earning your points for both cards at the very **beginning** of the next year — that way your pass is active for two full calendar years instead of just one.

⚠ **Crucial Timing Warning:** Do not hit your credit card spending threshold until **after your January statement closes!** Southwest counts points toward the Companion Pass in the calendar year they post to your account. If your bonus posts in December—even by a few days—you will drastically shorten your pass's lifespan. You'll either have to rush the spend on your second card to get a single year of benefits, or miss out on the two-year Companion Pass completely. The points bonus for both cards needs to hit in the same year in order to earn enough points to earn this benefit.

In practice, this means applying for your cards in the fall, making your everyday purchases as usual, and watching your point total closely as you approach year-end so you can hold off on that final push until January. I recommend not getting within \$500 of the minimum spend, and remember that your statement may not show all new charges immediately so make sure you are tracking your spending closely.

A NOTE FROM ROSIE

Learn from my mistake!

I totally messed this up last year — I accidentally reached the spend on our personal card before the end of the year! (And I knew better!!) If you'd like to avoid the same mistake, or just want more details on how to time it perfectly, let me know and I'll walk you through exactly what happened and how to plan around it.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

 **Last year, Southwest ran some elevated offers in the fall.** I'm keeping an eye out for those again and will let you know as soon as any come out, so you can time your applications to take advantage of them!

*Timing alert for the Southwest [business card](#): There is a fantastic elevated welcome offer right now, but **do not apply just yet!** The absolute earliest you should apply for this card is **October 15th**. Applying on or after this date pushes your 3-month minimum spend deadline into January, ensuring your massive sign-up bonus points post in the new year. Since this elevated offer is scheduled to end on **November 2nd**, your perfect application window is between **October 15th and November 2nd**.

QUICK RECAP

1

The perk: Bring one companion on every flight for just taxes and fees. Change your companion up to three times per year.

2

The goal: Earn 135,000 Southwest points within one calendar year.

3

The strategy: Open a personal and a business Southwest card to fast-track your points.

4

The timing: Start in the fall, finish in January, and enjoy the pass for two full years.

5

The watch-list: Keep an eye out for elevated fall offers — I'll let you know when they drop!



You've Got This!

With the right timing and a little planning, you and your favorite travel companion could be flying together for free for the next two years.

Follow me on instagram and facebook for more travel tips and tricks!

@pointsbyrosie



Same you. More flights.