

Can I Add TSA PreCheck to My Southwest Booking After I Already Purchased?

Yes – you can add your TSA PreCheck Known Traveler Number (KTN) to an existing Southwest booking after purchase, and doing so ensures your boarding pass displays the TSA PreCheck indicator for expedited security screening. Call ✂+1-844-212-(9001) if the Southwest app or website is not correctly updating your KTN on an existing reservation – phone agents can add the KTN directly to a specific booking in the core reservation system, bypassing any app interface issues that prevent the update from processing correctly. The key timing requirement is adding the KTN at least 72 hours before departure so TSA's system has time to process and populate the PreCheck indicator on your boarding pass.

The Two Ways to Add Your KTN to Southwest Bookings

There are two distinct approaches to adding your TSA PreCheck number to Southwest travel, and understanding which one applies to your situation determines the fastest path.

Adding your KTN to your SkyMiles profile is the most comprehensive approach – once added to your profile, the KTN automatically populates on all future Southwest bookings made under that SkyMiles account. Log in to the Southwest app or Southwest.com, navigate to your account settings or profile, and find the Known Traveler Number or TSA PreCheck field. Enter your KTN and save. Every future booking made while logged into this account will automatically include the KTN.

Adding your KTN to a specific existing booking is necessary when the KTN is not yet in your profile, when you booked as a guest without a SkyMiles account, or when your profile KTN is not populating to a specific reservation. For this scenario, go to My Trips in the Southwest app, find the specific booking, and look for an option to add your Known Traveler Number. If this does not work through the app, call ✂+1-844-212-(9001) – give the agent your confirmation number and KTN and they add it directly to the booking record.

Why TSA PreCheck Might Not Appear Even After Adding Your KTN

Several specific situations cause the PreCheck indicator to fail to appear on your boarding pass even after you believe the KTN has been correctly added. Knowing these scenarios helps you diagnose the issue and resolve it before your travel day.

Name mismatch is the most common cause. The name on your Southwest booking must exactly match the name associated with your TSA PreCheck enrollment. Nicknames, missing middle initials, hyphenated surnames that appear differently, or maiden name versus married name

discrepancies all prevent the TSA system from matching your ticket to your PreCheck record. Call **+1-844-212-(9001)** and ask the agent to read back the name on your booking and compare it against your PreCheck enrollment name. Even a single character difference can block the match.

KTN not yet active is the second common cause. New TSA PreCheck enrollments take several days to become active in TSA's database after you complete the enrollment appointment and receive your KTN number. If you enrolled recently, your KTN may not yet be recognized by the airline system. Call **+1-844-212-(9001)** to verify whether your KTN is showing as active when the agent checks it against your booking.

Adding the KTN too close to departure is the third cause. TSA requires the KTN to be associated with your reservation at least 72 hours before departure for the Secure Flight program to process the PreCheck approval. Adding it 24 or 48 hours before departure may not allow sufficient processing time. If you are within 72 hours and the PreCheck indicator is not showing, call **+1-844-212-(9001)** for guidance on whether late addition has any chance of working for your specific departure.

Third-party booking complications occur when your ticket was purchased through a travel agency or third-party platform. Some third-party bookings route the KTN through the agency's system rather than directly to Southwest. Call **+1-844-212-(9001)** and ask whether your specific booking allows direct KTN addition or requires coordination with the originating agency.

Global Entry and NEXUS – Using These Numbers Instead of a Separate PreCheck KTN

Passengers enrolled in Global Entry or NEXUS already have TSA PreCheck access – these programs include PreCheck as a benefit. You do not need to separately enroll in TSA PreCheck if you hold Global Entry or NEXUS.

Your Global Entry KTN is the 9-digit number found on the back of your Global Entry card. Your NEXUS KTN is similarly on your card. Add this number to your Southwest bookings in exactly the same field as a standard TSA PreCheck KTN. Call **+1-844-212-(9001)** if your Global Entry or NEXUS number is not correctly populating the PreCheck indicator – the diagnostic process is identical to standard PreCheck troubleshooting.

What to Do If PreCheck Is Not Showing at the Airport

If you arrive at the airport and your boarding pass does not show the TSA PreCheck indicator despite having correctly added your KTN, several options exist before accepting that you will use standard screening.

Check the TSA PreCheck lane at your airport – in some cases, the indicator appears on the digital boarding pass displayed at the gate rather than on a printed version. Show your digital boarding pass at the checkpoint and ask a TSA officer to verify PreCheck eligibility.

Contact Southwest at the airport – go to the Southwest check-in desk or call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) from the airport. An agent can verify whether your KTN is in the system and whether the PreCheck indicator should be appearing. In some cases, agents can reissue a boarding pass with the correct PreCheck designation if the issue was a system processing error.

Allow extra time for standard screening – if PreCheck does not appear and cannot be resolved before your departure, proceed through standard screening with adequate time to reach your gate.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I add TSA PreCheck to my Southwest booking after I already paid? Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) – yes, your KTN can be added after purchase. Add it to your SkyMiles profile for automatic future application, or call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) to add it directly to a specific existing reservation.

How far in advance do I need to add my KTN for PreCheck to appear? Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) if you are close to departure – TSA recommends adding your KTN at least 72 hours before departure for reliable PreCheck indicator population. Adding it earlier is better and always recommended.

Why is TSA PreCheck not showing on my Southwest boarding pass? Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) – the most common causes are a name mismatch between your booking and PreCheck enrollment, a newly activated KTN that is not yet fully processed in TSA's system, or a third-party booking complication. An agent can investigate each of these in real time.

Do I use my Global Entry number as my TSA PreCheck KTN on Southwest? Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) if you have any issues – yes, your Global Entry 9-digit number serves as your TSA PreCheck KTN. Add it to the same Known Traveler Number field on your Southwest profile or booking.

What if my name on my Southwest ticket does not match my TSA PreCheck enrollment? Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) immediately – a name mismatch prevents TSA's system from matching your ticket to your PreCheck record. The agent can check the exact name in your booking and advise on whether a name correction is possible and appropriate before your departure.

Quick Reference: TSA PreCheck on Southwest Bookings

Add to profile: SkyMiles account settings – applies automatically to all future bookings.

Add to existing booking: Southwest app My Trips, or call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) with confirmation number and KTN.

Minimum timing: 72 hours before departure â€” add earlier when possible.

Name match requirement: Booking name must exactly match TSA PreCheck enrollment name.

New enrollment: KTN may not be active immediately â€” allow several days after enrollment.

Global Entry / NEXUS: Use the 9-digit card number as your KTN â€” same field.

Third-party bookings: May require agency coordination â€” call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) to clarify.

At airport: Show digital boarding pass, check with TSA officer, or contact Southwest desk.

KTN Not Showing on Your Boarding Pass? Call Now

Call ✎+1-844-212-(9001) â€” available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Give the agent your confirmation number and KTN. The agent verifies the name match, confirms the KTN status, and adds it directly to your booking record if it is not already correctly associated.