



## How to Get a Southwest Companion Pass in 5 Easy Steps

So, you've decided the Southwest Companion Pass is for you and want to know how to get one quickly? Just follow these 5 easy steps to get a pass of your own.

*Disclaimer: I am not a finance expert (heck, I'm not even very good at math), and I take no responsibility for your personal actions. I am simply explaining the easiest way we have found to get a companion pass. I highly suggest only following these steps if you are in good financial standing and are able to pay off what you put on your credit cards monthly. This option is definitely not for everyone.*

### **Step 1: Sign up for a FREE Southwest Rapid Rewards Account**

In order to earn points toward your companion pass, you must have a Southwest Rapid Rewards number. When you sign up for the Chase Southwest credit cards you will also be prompted to put in your rewards number. If you don't have one already, you will need to create an account at [www.southwest.com/rapidrewards](http://www.southwest.com/rapidrewards).

Also, note that any points you have already earned within the current calendar year will go towards the total you need for the companion pass. However, anything earned outside the current calendar year will not count.

### **Step 2: Sign up for a Chase Southwest Credit Card**

Southwest has four options for credit cards: Premier and Plus, as well as Business Premier and Plus. There are rapid rewards point bonuses for applying to these cards. The best bonus we have seen is 50,000 points, but a 40,000-point bonus seems to be pretty common as well. Make sure you can meet the minimum spend before applying, otherwise there is no point.

Also, note that there is an annual fee associated with these cards, but you should receive bonus points at the time the fee is due each year which helps balance it out (we get 6,000). Just read everything beforehand so you don't have any surprises. These rules are always changing, and – again – I am not a professional.

### **Step 3: Spend the Minimum Amount to Earn the Bonus**

In order to receive the bonus, you have to spend a certain amount within the first couple of months that you have the card. Currently, you have to spend \$1,000 within the first three months to receive 40,000 points. When we applied, it was \$3,000 in the first three months for 50,000 points. This obviously varies throughout the year.

The easiest way we found to spend the minimum is putting all of our usual expenses on our card and paying it off before the bill to avoid interest fees. It definitely helps if you can use the card to pay for a big expense or vacation.

A few creative ways to spend the minimum amount that we have read about:

- Use your card to pay for family/friends expenses and have them pay you back
- Pay ahead on bills you will have to pay eventually anyway
- Buy gift cards to use later (\*I'd double check that they were activated correctly before leaving the store, though)

#### **Step 4: Repeat Steps 1-2, and Earn Any Additional Points Needed**

After spending enough to earn the bonus on your first card, repeat the process with another Chase Southwest card. Some people apply for both at the same time, but I think doing them separately is much safer to ensure you can meet the minimum.

If you were able to get 50,000-point bonuses each time, depending on your minimum spend, you need less than 10,000 more points to get your pass! (Since our minimum was \$3,000 on each card we only needed 4,000). Just continue to use your card for everything, [look for other bonuses for using certain Southwest partner companies](#), and see if you have any other points on cards that are eligible to transfer to Southwest.

#### **Step 5: Wait for Your Companion Pass and Set it Up**

After reaching 110,000 points, you will be notified by Southwest that you have earned a companion pass. If you do not receive a notification from them, definitely reach out to make sure nothing went wrong. You are prompted to add your companion when you are first notified and they will be mailed their companion pass. You may change your designated companion up to three times each calendar year. Although we've never been asked for it, Southwest states that you should bring your companion pass with you to the airport when you book a flight using it.

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This process took us about three months, but if you have a lot of expenses coming up that you can put on your cards, you could probably knock this out much more quickly. Conversely, you could spread the minimum spend out over the 3 months for both cards and have your card in about six months, if that works better for you.

**BONUS STEP:** Once you get your Southwest Companion Pass let us know about your first trip! Just tag us using @TrailingAway on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.

And, if you haven't yet, read why we love our pass here: [4 Reasons Why We Love the Southwest Companion Pass](#)