



## ***Vehicle Safety Tips for Great Trips***

Before beginning any trip, please review these safety tips designed to increase driving safety and awareness. In addition, we have included a Safe Driver Pledge at the end of this information for you to copy and have signed by all drivers before your trip begins (available on our web site – [www.girlscoutspc.org](http://www.girlscoutspc.org)). This pledge requires a commitment from the driver to the idea that safety is his/her responsibility.

### ***Tips for the Safety of Drivers and Passengers:***

<p><b>Pre-Trip:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be sure to have all important passenger information with you (this includes a copy of the Trip Information Form and permission forms).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check that the vehicle is ready to go: wipers, tires, lights, signals, and horn are all in good working order.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Put a first aid kit, flashlight, and cellular phone on board. (However, do not use a cell phone while driving.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Know where you are going. Get directions and review a map if necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Seatbelts:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Require all passengers to buckle up before you start the vehicle. Follow the current state child safety seat restraint laws.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Driving Anytime:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be visible. Drive with your headlights on. Do not drive in blind spots of other vehicles, especially large trucks.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Always use your turn signals when changing lanes or preparing to turn.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep radio volume low enough to hear other vehicles' horns.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Always keep the proper distance between you and the vehicle ahead. During bad weather, increase the distance because it will take longer to stop. This is also the case if you are driving a vehicle loaded with lots of gear.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drive only the safe, legal speed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Always pull off the road and stop before using a cellular phone; put car in park, turn on flashers and then dial (this applies to receiving calls also).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bad Weather:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Don't drive in bad weather, or, if on the road, SLOW DOWN or stop after pulling as far as you can off the roadway. Bad weather causes increased chances of accidents due to poor visibility; moisture on the road causes hydroplaning; wet roads reduce traction, which increases the distance needed to stop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Factors:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do not drive while tired or taking medication that could make you drowsy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stop and stretch every two hours.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rest up for the trip.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Distractions:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do not take your eyes off of the road for any reason.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pull safely off the road to settle disputes, check a map, or use a cellular phone.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anticipation:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continuously check mirrors. Know what is going on around your vehicle.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch the brake lights of the cars ahead or for warning signs along the road.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look before backing up.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Always yield right of way!</li> </ul>



### **Troop/Group Leader Checklist:**

- Review *Safety-Wise* and collect signed Safe Driver Pledge forms for all drivers
- Check for drivers' insurance limits
- Establish a realistic itinerary
- Recruit adults to supervise/relief drive
- Ensure there are first aid kits in each of the vehicles
- Plan to drive in daylight hours
- Plan rest stops at least every two hours
- Check cars for number of seatbelts in each
- Ensure that drivers have checked all vehicle equipment
- Pre-arrange meeting places for vehicles on the trip
- Plan for all to drive with headlights on
- Review council policies & procedures & submit Palmer & Cay driving forms for ALL drivers
- Obtain drivers' insurance information
- Review council emergency policies
- Go over trip & rules with girls
- File a trip plan with your at home contact, making sure they have trip information sheet.
- Talk over your expectations with drivers
- Give passenger information to drivers
- Plan route, obtain map & necessities
- Ensure that drivers have checked all vehicle fluid levels
- Do not start a trip if weather will impair visibility and reduce safety
- Contact council when planning trip for rental vehicle information

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As the driver for a Girl Scout activity, I understand it is my responsibility to transport girls safely to the scheduled activity and back to their parents/guardians. To ensure the safety of the girls, I pledge to:

# Safe Driver Pledge

- Make sure that the vehicle is in safe operating condition before the trip.
- Be sure that everyone is wearing a seatbelt any time the vehicle is moving and to obey the current state child safety seat restraint laws.
- Drive within posted speed limits.
- Use turn signals for all turns and traffic lane changes.
- Yield to all oncoming traffic and be extra careful when making left turns.
- Keep at least a four-second interval between my vehicle and the vehicle in front of me when highway driving.
- Drive with extra caution during hours of darkness when visibility is reduced.
- Plan extended trips to avoid driving in the dark.
- Never drive when sleepy.
- Take a rest break every 2 hours and alternate drivers when a break is needed.
- Drive no more than 6 hours a day.
- Never use a cellular phone while driving. I will pull over and stop, put the car in park and put on flashing lights before dialing or receiving a call.

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DRIVER

DATE