

Carpool Planning and Tips

Once a carpool has been formed, encourage members to discuss several issues:

- Will everyone take turns driving?
- If not, how/when will non-drivers pay?
- Will we include part-time or occasional carpool members?
- Where and when will we pick up/drop off?
- What policies do we need: smoking, eating/drinking in the car, radio programs, lateness, etc.?

If only one person drives, you'll want to charge each rider a reasonable fair. Here's one way to do it:

$$\frac{\text{Carpool round-trip mileage} \times \text{Cost per mile}^*}{\text{Number of carpoolers}}$$

*Operating costs average about 70.7 cents per mile for gas, maintenance and tires. This includes ownership costs such as insurance, licensing and depreciation. This is the average for sedans ranging from small to large. The average increases for vans and SUVs. Source: AAA, "Your Driving Costs," 2008 edition. You may also want to include any other costs shared by the members of your carpool, such as parking costs, tolls, etc.

Carpool Courtesies for Riders:

- Notify members of carpool a day in advance if not riding in the pool
- Keep a record of members' work and home phone numbers
- Do errands on your own time instead of asking members to make stops
- Adhere to daily pre-arranged schedule

Carpool Courtesies for Drivers:

- Honor set routines and time schedules
- Advise riders of any necessary time changes
- Fill up vehicle's gas tank before picking up passengers
- Plan extra time in inclement weather
- Drive carefully
- Keep vehicle in good condition, both mechanically and aesthetically
- Check insurance for rider coverage as well as possible reduction in premiums