



# GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

### Roundtable Safety Spotlight

### Transportation Guidelines and Vehicle Safety

#### Driver Qualifications

- All drivers must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason.
- **Age Exception:** A Scout at least sixteen (16) years of age with six months driving experience as a licensed driver and no record of accidents or moving violations may operate a vehicle when traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult tour leader at least 21 years of age **if** parental permission is granted to the leader, driver, and riders.
- If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 people, including the driver, the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).

#### Insurance

- All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed.
- Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of at least \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.

#### Do's and Don't's

##### **Do:**

- Obey all traffic laws, including the speed limit.
- Refrain from using cell phones (including hands-free units) and text messaging devices while driving.
- Seat belts are **required** to be used by the driver and all occupants.
- When going on an extended trip, tell someone your planned route and estimated time of arrival.
- When backing in congested areas and/or around children, use a spotter.

##### **Don't:**

- **Do not allow passengers to ride in the back of a pickup truck or in a trailer.**
- **Do not travel more than 10 hours in one 24 hour period, including rest time, regardless of the number of drivers available.**

#### Vehicle Inspection Checklist

- Operational seat belts for every passenger? \_\_\_\_\_
- Tire treads OK and tires properly inflated? \_\_\_\_\_
- Spare tire present and properly inflated? \_\_\_\_\_
- Tire jack present? \_\_\_\_\_
- Brakes OK? \_\_\_\_\_
- Windshield wipers operate? \_\_\_\_\_
- Windshield washer fluid in reservoir? \_\_\_\_\_
- Headlights and turn signals operating? \_\_\_\_\_
- Rear view and side view mirrors present and adjusted? \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle is currently registered and has passed state inspection? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Winter Driving Safety Tips\*\*

- Clear frost and ice from all windows and side mirrors. Clearing just a peephole violates Utah law and restricts one's vision.
- Clear your entire vehicle of snow. Snow left on the roof and hood can easily end up on your windshield or rear window, obstructing your view.
- Slow down. Posted speed limits are meant for ideal conditions. Reduce your speed when encountering wet or slick road conditions even if operating a four-wheel drive vehicle.
- Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- At first sign of brake lights, start slowing down. Try to avoid slamming on the brakes.
- If you have anti-lock brakes do not pump them. Keep constant, firm pressure on the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.
- If you start to skid, take your foot off the pedal and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go. Do not hit the brakes or accelerate.

#### Trailers

- Use caution in towing trailers, boats or campers as a vehicles performance, steering, and braking abilities will be altered. Consider these safety tips:
  - Get the correct trailer for the vehicle and the correct hitch for the trailer. Distribute and anchor the load.
  - Allow extra time to brake. Changing lanes while braking can jackknife the trailer.
  - Add safety equipment as directed by common sense and state laws (mirrors, lights, safety chains, etc...)

#### Weather Conditions\*\*

- Weather conditions can change quickly and unexpectedly. For the latest updates on road conditions around Utah 24-hours a day:
  - Call 511 in Utah
  - Call 866-511-UTAH outside Utah, or
  - Visit [www.CommuterLink.utah.gov](http://www.CommuterLink.utah.gov)

#### Sources

- **Guide to Safe Scouting**  
[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss11.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss11.aspx)
- **\*\*Winter Safety Driving Tips**  
[www.wcgroup.com/winter-driving-safety-tips](http://www.wcgroup.com/winter-driving-safety-tips)

#### Additional Resources

- **Towing a Trailer Safely**  
[www.nhtsa.gov/cars/problems/equipment/towing/towing.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/problems/equipment/towing/towing.pdf)
- **Passenger Van Safety**  
[www.nhtsa.gov/CA/10-14-2010](http://www.nhtsa.gov/CA/10-14-2010)
- **Drowsy Driving**  
[www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/drowsy\\_driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/drowsy_driving)
- **Watch Out for Animals on the Road**  
<http://learningcenter.statefarm.com/safety-2/auto-2/watch-out-for-animals-in-the-road/>