



Scouting Safety Reminders: Automobile Transportation

It is essential that adequate, safe, and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips. General guidelines are as follows:

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. 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).
3. The drivers must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth participants are not insured under the Boy Scouts of America, including participants who are 18 years old but still youth participants in programs such as Exploring, Venturing & the Order of the Arrow.
4. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab. The use of 15-passenger vans manufactured before 2005 will no longer be allowed in connection with Scouting programs and activities. Any 2005 or later 15-passenger vans may be used if equipped with Electronic Stability Control and seat belts for all passengers including the driver. This applies to all vehicles, regardless of ownership.
5. 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. **The driver's insurance is primary.** The Greater St. Louis Area Council Risk Management Committee recommends that coverage limits are at least \$100,000/\$300,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers should have limits of \$1,000,000. **The driver's insurance is primary for all Scouting activities.** Excess and/or secondary insurance through the Greater St. Louis Area Council or Boy Scouts of America *may* be available to a volunteer for loss arising from ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle while engaged in an official Scouting activity.
6. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours in one 24-hour period regardless of the number of drivers available. Driving time must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and/or recreation stops. The intention is to include sleep and thorough rest breaks while traveling long distances. Don't drive while drowsy. Stop for rest and stretch breaks as needed. Fatigue is a major cause of highway accident fatalities. It is recommended that two adults ride in a vehicle whenever possible.
7. Obey all laws, including the speed limit.
8. Drivers must refrain from using hand-held cell phones while driving. Text messaging while driving is prohibited. Hands-free units are acceptable but must be used sparingly while driving.

If an auto accident occurs during or driving to or from a Scouting activity, it is important that the accident is **reported immediately to the Greater St. Louis Area Council through the Safe Scouting Specialist at safe.scouting@stlbsa.org or by calling (314) 256-3114.** Additional information on the health & safety programs of the Boy Scouts of America can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/>.

