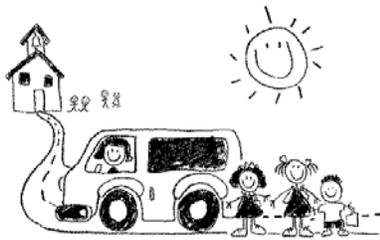


11 Ideas for SchoolPoolers



There are lots of great benefits of sharing the driving responsibilities to and from school. Time, money, helping the environment, and even making new friends can all be achieved through the right carpooling arrangements.

You as parents are the best judge in determining if a schoolpool arrangement will work for your family. To get you going in the right direction, here are some suggested tips to help you plan your schoolpool arrangements:

1. **Arrange to have coffee with a potential schoolpool parent before you start "pooling".**

A personal meeting is more helpful than a phone conversation or e-mail when establishing if a schoolpool arrangement will work.

2. **Traffic Records & Insurance Policies**

Exchange traffic records and insurance policies if you decide to proceed with a schoolpool arrangement.

3. **Draw up a driving schedule.**

If you decide to share driving duties, assign a particular day (or days) of the week to each driver. This way others in your family can use the car regularly. Many poolers find rotating drivers weekly or monthly to be the most practical carpool arrangement.

4. **Agree upon a regular pick-up schedule and be punctual.**

Each pooler should know when and where to meet the schoolpool every day. Agree to wait five to ten minutes for all poolers to arrive. Be sure to contact poolers if you are running late.

5. **Keep your fellow schoolpoolers' home, work, and cell phone numbers handy.**

Make sure you are able to notify each other if your child(ren) will not be going to school, or in cases of emergency. Let pool partners know if your child(ren) will miss a day's ride, either to or from school - **COMMUNICATION IS EVERYTHING!**

6. **Keep your car in good mechanical condition.**
Perform all regular maintenance to reduce emissions and prevent breakdowns.
7. **Select a meeting spot or have the school designate one.**
All of the students in the schoolpool should know exactly where and when to meet the driver. The spot should be in a safe area where it is easy for them to get into the car and that doesn't require crossing the street, if possible.
8. **Consult your insurance agent.**
Find out if your company offers lower rates for reduced driving or requires increased coverage for higher liability limits.
9. **Plan to run your errands on your own time.**
Your carpool is for taking children to and from school. Unless previously agreed upon, stopping for "quick errands" on the way can drastically increase commute time and lessen the value of a carpool.
10. **Lay a few ground rules.**
Set some rules on things like radio stations and volume that may make the commute uncomfortable.
11. **Establish a policy for driver reimbursement.**
If everyone takes turns driving, you shouldn't need to calculate driving expenses. However, if one person or family is doing the majority of the driving, agree upon a cost per mile for gas, add parking fees (if necessary), and divide by the number of riders in your schoolpool. Schedule payments on a weekly or monthly basis.

REMEMBER, CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS CARGO - DRIVE SAFE!!!