

Automobiles

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 persons, including the driver (more than 10 persons, including the driver, in California), the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).**
3. **An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.**
4. **The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth member exception: When traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:**
 - a. **Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)**
 - b. **No record of accidents or moving violations**
 - c. **Parental permission granted to the leader, driver, and riders**
5. **Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.**
6. **Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.**
7. **All driving, except short trips, should be done in daylight.**
8. **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. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.**
9. **Do not exceed the speed limit.**
10. **Do not travel in convoy (see "Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings," No. 2).**
11. **Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently.**

Don't drive drowsy. Stop for rest and stretch breaks as needed. Fatigue is a major cause of highway accident fatalities.

Reference: *Tours and Expeditions*, No. 33737

Tour Permits

If a unit plans a trip within 500 miles of the home base, it is important that the unit obtain a local tour permit. A national tour permit is required for trips in excess of 500 miles from home or outside the continental United States. (See samples of both in the appendix.)

Tour permits have become recognized by national parks, military institutions, and other organizations as proof that a unit activity has been well planned and organized and is under capable and qualified leadership. These organizations may require the tour permit for entry.

Most short, in-town den trips of a few hours do not require a tour permit; however, it is recommended that dens obtain permission slips from parents.