

Carpool Guide

What is a Carpool?

A carpool is two or more commuters who share the ride to and from work or college in their personal vehicles. Commuters

either share the driving or, if a commuter does not have a vehicle, provide gas money to the commuter that drives.

- Commuters in a carpool can be spouses, relatives, neighbors, coworkers or students, or even individuals who meet through RideFinders.
- There is no minimum number of days that commuters are required to carpool – RideFinders asks that commuters just carpool as often as they can.

Form a Carpool

1. Click [Create a New Commuter Profile](#) to register with RideFinders free ridematching service or call **(314) 621-7433**.
2. Obtain a Carpool Matchlist of commuters with similar commutes to yours from the ridematching service.
3. Contact the commuters on your Carpool Matchlist to discuss forming a carpool using these questions:

- **Frequency:** How many and which days will you carpool?
- **Driving:** Will you take turns or will one person drive?
- **Timing:** What time will we leave to/from work or college?
- **Places:** Where will we meet to leave for work or college? When you register to find a ride, you can receive a Park & Ride Matchlist of lots to meet at and obtain directions.
- **Costs:** How much will non-driving commuters pay? Here is a chart you can use to obtain a suggested daily amount for non-drivers to pay to drivers for fuel and other costs:

Non-Driver Daily Cost Calculator	Daily Round-Trip Commute Miles	X	Vehicle Operating Cost Per Mile*	/	Number of Commuters in Carpool	=	Daily Amount From Each Non-Driver to Driver
Sample Commute	30 Miles	X	\$.20	/	3 Commuters	=	\$2.00
Your Commute	___ Miles	X	\$.20	/	___ Commuters	=	\$___

*Vehicle operating cost from AAA Driving Costs

4. If you are able to form a carpool, complete a free Carpool Registration Form or call (314) 621-7433 to register the carpool over the phone to receive a free Guaranteed Ride Home if you have an emergency.
- Formed a carpool without RideFinders free ridematching service? You can still register your carpool for free with RideFinders to receive the Guaranteed Ride Home.
5. If you are unable to form a carpool, log-in to RideFinders free ridematching service by clicking Access Your Commuter Profile and modify your profile and/or obtain a new Carpool Matchlist or call **(314) 621-7433**. Check back regularly, as new commuters join the RideFinders database regularly.

Carpool Benefits

- **Save Money:** Save hundreds or thousands of dollars in gas, maintenance, tires and other commute costs annually compared to driving alone.
- **Reduce Stress:** On days you do not drive, enjoy free time to read, work, sleep or simply relax without the stress of driving.
- **Ease Traffic:** Carpools remove nearly 649,000 driving miles from our region's roadways monthly – easing traffic congestion for everyone.
- **Improve Air Quality:** By reducing the number of vehicles on the road, carpooling helps eliminate over 2 million pounds of air pollution annually – allowing everyone to breathe easier.
- **Guarantee Peace of Mind:** Carpoolers receive up to four \$125 Guaranteed "taxi" Rides Home per year if they have to work late or leave early, guaranteeing peace of mind.
- **Receive Vital Transportation:** Carpooling offers an essential transportation option for commuters without access to a vehicle or public transit, or who are unable to drive.

Carpool Tips

1. **Set ground rules.** Decide on common carpool issues such as the radio, conversation, smoking, reading, eating and side trips.
2. **Establish a driving schedule.** Develop a regular driver schedule to reduce misunderstandings and confusion.
3. **Make a "clean car" policy.** The carpool vehicle(s) should be kept clean and regularly serviced in ensure the comfort and safety of passengers.
4. **Avoid side trips.** To have a lasting carpool, agree in advance that no one makes unnecessary side trips.
5. **Be punctual.** Both drivers and riders need to be reliable to be ready to go on time.
6. **Establish a backup plan.** This is so adjustments can be made with minimum delay if you are suddenly unable to carpool.
7. **Drive safely.** Speeding, taking chances, using a cell phone or being negligent should never be tolerated.
8. **Call your insurance agent.** Liability coverage is usually adequate but make sure of it. Many insurance companies also offer reduced rates for carpoolers.
9. **Be willing to modify your personal habits.** This may mean not smoking or listening to music, or other habit you have when driving alone.
10. **Carpooling is a cooperative effort.** Dependability, courtesy, planning, and accommodation are essential to an ongoing and successful carpool.



RideFinders.org | (314) 621-7433