**It’s Cool to Pool! Not that kind of pool! Getting Started: Create Your Profile with RideFinders and Call to Register the Carpool.**

**Carpooling offers numerous benefits, ranging from cost savings to reducing stress and environmental impact.**

**Fewer cars on the road results in less pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – not to mention reducing traffic congestion, avoiding traffic incidence, and minimizing parking challenges.**

**Benefits of Carpooling:**

1. **Flexibility:** Carpool arrangements can be tailored to fit your schedule whether it's driving your own car or taking turns. Carpooling can be daily, weekly, monthly, or on occasion, according to your preferences. The more you pool, the more you save.
2. **Cost-savings:** Sharing commuting costs can lead to significant savings, especially considering the high expenses associated with operating a car.
3. **Stress Reduction:** Sharing the driving burden and utilizing HOV express lanes during rush hours can lead to a calmer commute, boosting morale and reducing stress levels.
4. **Eco-friendly:** Carpooling reduces the number of single occupancy vehicles on the work commute, resulting in lower pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Carpooling Etiquette Guidelines:**

1. **Create a Schedule:** Establish a clear schedule with contact information to avoid confusion.
2. **Agree on Pick-up Locations and Times:** Determine whether to pick up riders at their homes or meet at a central location and decide on pick-up times.
3. **Set Rules:** Establish rules regarding lateness, and other logistics for the group. Decide how long you’ll wait for latecomers (three – five minutes is common practice), and whether confirmation for riding in the carpool is required the night before.
4. **Payment Policies:** Reach consensus on payment arrangements, including sharing expenses or taking turns covering costs. Prioritize upfront payment before the commute trip to prevent falling behind on financial obligations and potentially straining relationships within the group.
5. **No Stops on the Commute:** Ensure that the commute serves its purpose; no unnecessary stops.
6. **Agree on Preferences:** Discuss radio use, smoking policies, scents, seating arrangements, and other preferences beforehand.
7. **Have a Backup Plan:** Establish a protocol for unexpected illness, emergencies, or car issues. This allows carpool members to implement the backup plan and ensure timely arrival to work.
8. **Insurance:** Driver’s keep an up-to-date auto insurance card in the vehicle as proof of insurance.
* **In the event of questions, troubleshooting, or concerns related to the carpool arrangement, all members should direct their inquiries to RideFinders not to their employers. RideFinders serves as the primary point of contact for addressing issues and providing assistance to ensure the smooth operation of the carpooling program.**
* **Everyone in carpools registered with RideFinders receive the Free Guaranteed Ride Home Benefit.**