

Nebraska Innovation Campus encourages carpooling.

Benefits

Environmental

Each carpool (4 riders) will reduce greenhouse gases by 12,000 pounds annually; the equivalent of 500 gallons of gasoline.

Financial

Carpool parking permits will be issued at a reduced cost.

Guidelines for Carpooling

It is important for prospective carpoolers to meet under comfortable conditions to determine the feasibility of ridesharing. As you make contact with potential rideshare partners, suggest a meeting on common ground to discuss compatibility. Invite several people to the meeting. If all the schedulers and pickup points do not mesh, perhaps more than one pool is a possibility.

When a compatible group is formed, the following should be discussed and all members should agree to:

- Select the route or routes the carpool will take to and from work and designate pickup points which may be at each member's home or at a common meeting point such as a parking lot.
- Determine the morning arrival and afternoon departure times based on compatible work schedules. Allow extra time for the occasional traffic tie-up or other unforeseen events.
- Choose the departure locations at work where carpool members will gather for the drive home.
- Determine who is going to drive. Will some or all carpool members share driving responsibilities by alternating on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis? Or will they select a designated driver?
- Calculate commuting costs to determine the amount non-drivers will pay to cover the expenses of the driver(s). This normally can be determined by multiplying the daily round-trip miles by the drivers cost per mile and dividing the total by the number of carpool members. Some carpools simply cover gas expenses. Set regular payment dates.
- Determine which days of the week each person will carpool. While many carpools are five days a week, many other carpools operate quite well on a part-time basis. To accommodate individual needs some full time carpools include a part time member(s). Be creative.

- Create communication lines between pool members so that an agreed upon alternative plan can be rapidly implemented in case of illness or other problems. Make certain that all members of the carpool have exchanged phone numbers.
- Also appoint a Carpool Captain responsible for maintaining these communications.

Establish "Rules of the Road"

By establishing these understandings ahead of time, a carpool is far less likely to experience social friction. Issues to be covered and recommended rules to establish include the following:

- The first rule is to agree to have rules.
- Agree to be on time. Depending on the length of the commute, most carpools allow two to five minutes for late passenger, but some reach an understanding not to wait.
- Detours for personal errands, such as picking up a carton of milk on the way home, should be avoided.
- Establish a smoking policy. Smoking should not be allowed unless everyone in the carpool is a smoker or everyone agrees smoking is acceptable.
- Take a vote about the radio. On or off? Music or news? Classical, top 40, rock, progressive rock, country, or whatever?
- Agree on dos and don'ts concerning personal habits, such as reading, talking, and eating in the car.
- Driver responsibilities include keeping the vehicle clean, in good working condition, and adequately fueled for the round-trip commute. Naturally he or she is also responsible for driving safely and for maintaining adequate auto insurance.

Once these initial arrangements have been made, the carpool should be ready for a trial period. It typically takes four weeks to get it all running smoothly.