

# *carpool* GUIDE



SAFE ROUTES  
TO SCHOOLS  
MARIN COUNTY

A TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS



## CARPOOL TOOLKIT

Benefits of a Carpool

Starting a Carpool with Another Family

Child Safety Guidelines

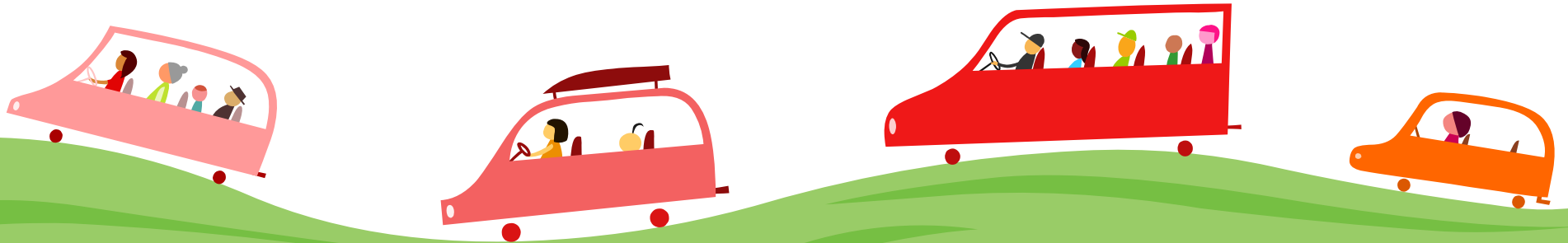
Maintaining Your Carpool

How to Organize Neighborhoods



## BENEFITS OF A CARPOOL

- Bonds neighbors, classmates and friends on the commute to school
- Parents drive less and gain more personal time
- Reduce school traffic
- Saves gas money
- Provides a feasible green travel solution for families living in a hilly topography, or a far distance from their school
- Reduces air pollution and climate change
- Carpools are fun and social





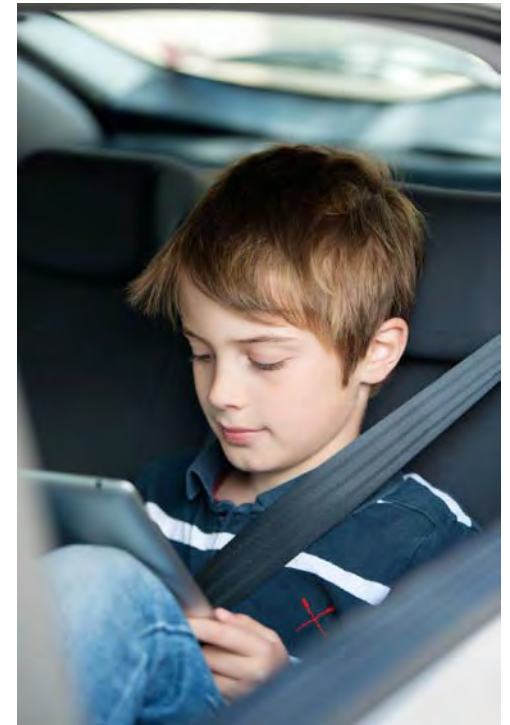
## STARTING A CARPOOL WITH ANOTHER FAMILY

- Check your school directory for families that might live on your street or neighboring roads.
- For parents in the Ross Valley, Mill Valley, and Larkspur/Corte Madera School Districts, you can register at [www.schoolpoolmarin.org](http://www.schoolpoolmarin.org) to find others in your neighborhood.
- Decide if your carpool will be door-to-door or at a designated neighborhood location for pick-up.
- Pick one day to start. Invite the other family to your home for coffee/tea before the carpool begins as an opportunity to nurture a friendly relationship.
- Exchange cell phone numbers, landlines and email addresses. You can use the free application: <http://www.kangadoapp.com> to help facilitate communications.
- Take a carpool test drive. If your child feels uncomfortable at first, then go in the carpool with them on the first trip.



## CHILD SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Children under age 8 and under 57 inches in height must be properly secured in a child restraint system. All other children age 8 to 16 must be secured in a properly fitted seat belt.
- Children under age 8 must be restrained in a child passenger restraint system in the rear seat.
- California law specifically requires children to be properly restrained, meaning the lap belt is low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt is crossing the center of the chest.
- Children in rear-facing car seats may not ride in front if there is an active passenger air bag.
- Violation of the child passenger safety law is a standard offense.





## MAINTAINING YOUR CARPOOL

- Create a driver schedule with dates and post it in your home. Using Kangado will help with this.
- Discuss expectations.
- If your child is sick or has to miss school, then let the other family know as far in advance as possible.
- Procedures for student behavior. What to do if:
  - a driver is sick
  - a child is late and misses the carpool, or a child unexpectedly brings a friend with him/her
  - in the event of an automobile collision



## HOW TO ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOODS

- **Use mobile phone application KangaDo:**

KangaDo is a free application for iPhone and Android that helps busy parents connect and get instantly organized.



- **Grassroots:** For schools not yet in the SchoolPoolMarin system, print out a large-scale map and identify enrollment neighborhoods. Post the map at school in a central place and ask interested families to sign up if interested in a carpool. Ask them to mark on the map where they live.
- **SchoolPoolMarin.org** – for Ross Valley, Mill Valley and Larkspur/Corte Madera Districts:

### 1. Find Your Neighborhood

The SchoolPool program brings together families in a neighborhood who are interested in sharing the duties of getting their children to and from school. The first step in finding potential SchoolPool partners is to identify your neighborhood. Go to MAPS and select your school from the pull-down menu. Once you find your school, look at your school's neighborhood map to locate the name of your neighborhood. The map is also available for download.

### 2. Register

Once you know which neighborhood you are in, you are ready to register. Go to the Registration page in order to set up your login, as well as provide your school, neighborhood information, child's grade, and preferred mode of travel.

