

Carpooling Guidance

Looking for ways to promote carpooling on your trips? Carpooling can be a great way to make your events more inclusive and allow more people to get on your trips that otherwise might not be able to. Making things easier on the drivers and putting as little pressure on them as possible can be a great way to encourage them to offer rides and take others along with them.

Here are some ideas for things we can include in our trip postings and pre-trip emails;

- **Set the example by carpooling as the leader.** This can encourage participants to start their own carpool. If this is not an option for you, encourage the other leaders on the trip to carpool.
- **Provide suggestions about how drivers can split gas costs amongst passengers.** Do not be bashful about this. For example, you could include the following in the 'Information for Participants' section in REGI:

“For participants willing to drive and offer a ride to the trailhead, we suggest asking those who carpool with you to contribute to the cost of gas and tolls. Estimate how much gas/toll dollars your car will use for the round trip to the destination, then split that cost with the number of participants in your car. Depending on the type of car, the distance traveled and the number of passengers, the cost will likely be in the range \$10-30 per person”.

- **Provide resources/tools/systems for how drivers and passengers can go about it.** Here's a [link to a spreadsheet](#) you can share with participants to help them organize carpools. If you post your trip to REGI, there's already a built-in system to organize carpooling.
- **Talk about safety.** Be sure to cover all the basics like wearing a seatbelt. The driver and all passengers should be comfortable with everyone's masking/vaccination preferences (the driver can require masks, for example), and the drive should be inclusive and a safe space for everyone (we encourage sharing the feedback link that's sent to you in the automated "post-trip to do email" so that participants can let the Committee know if there are any issues).
- **Provide suggestions for meet-up locations from where to carpool.** Popular places include;
 - Dascomb Road Park and Ride on I-93
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/andover-dascomb-road-park-and-ride>
 - Tyngsborough Park and Ride on Rt 3
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/tyngsborough-park-and-ride>
 - Hooksett Park and Ride on I-93
<https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/rideshare/lots/hooksett.htm>
- **Make it fun** - Talk about how having other participants along for the ride can be a great way to meet more people, start to build the group dynamic and make the ride to and

from the trailhead more enjoyable. Feel free to share our webpage [Carpooling for Fun](#)
(try to submit your own story!)

Feel free to reach out to the HB Committee if you have questions or ideas for other ways to promote carpooling.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Keith Watling
Chair, Hiking/Backpacking Committee
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