



## Drive Rite: Keys to Smart Driving

### Facilitator-led Monthly Curriculum Lessons

#### **RESPONSIBLE DRIVING: A REALITY CHECK**

Lesson Purpose: There is probably not a driver on the road who hasn't heard, "You need to be a responsible driver." But, what is responsible driving? In this lesson, drivers identify responsible driving practices, expanding upon traditional teachings of obeying traffic laws and practicing defensive driving. Participants learn the dynamics of conscientious and deliberate driving.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Define what it means to be a responsible driver.
2. Identify elements of focused driving.
3. Understand the interactions among thoughts, feelings, and behaviors

#### **DEALING WITH DRIVING DISTRACTIONS**

Lesson Purpose: More teen drivers end up in traffic incidents resulting from driver inattention and distractions than you would expect from population numbers. In this lesson, drivers learn how driving distractions interfere with safe driving practices and how factors such as age and life experience influence driving knowledge and skills. Most importantly, drivers learn how to recognize distracted driving, develop strategies to avoid or reduce driver inattention, and learn defensive driving skills.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Identify factors leading to inattention or distracted driving.
2. Demonstrate strategies for dealing with distractions.
3. Recognize components of defensive driving in driver safety.

#### **AVOIDING AND DEALING WITH CAR CRASHES**

Lesson Purpose: In 2003, there were 8,666 persons killed in crashes involving young drivers age 15-20. Teen drivers are at highest risk between the ages of 16 and 17, when the crash rate per mile is almost three times higher than that of 18- to 19- year-old drivers. In this lesson, drivers investigate the leading causes of crashes and ways to avoid crashes by planning ahead and using safe driving strategies.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Identify the leading causes of crashes.
2. Demonstrate safe driving strategies to avoid car crashes.
3. Describe the steps a driver should take immediately following a crash.



## CRASH SCENE AFTERMATH – LAWS & LOGISTICS

Lesson Purpose: In the previous lesson, participants learned about the leading causes of crashes, strategies for avoiding crashes, and steps to take immediately following a crash. This lesson expands on the previous lesson by focusing on responsibilities following a crash. Parents and teens learn from one another and from guest speakers personally impacted by a crash. This session can help young drivers and their parents recognize the short- and long-term impact of car crashes.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Understand laws dictating driver responsibility following a crash.
2. Demonstrate the steps a driver will take following a crash.
3. Recognize the potential long-term consequences of a car crash.

## VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

Lesson Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to introduce youth to the responsibilities of vehicle ownership. Youth learn how to research different vehicles to find a vehicle that offers the highest safety rating for the price. Youth also learn the importance of vehicle care in maintaining a safe motor vehicle. Finally, youth learn about insurance, what it covers, who it protects, and how their driving record influences insurance rates.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Be able to list strategies to determine vehicle safety.
2. Recognize the relationship between vehicle maintenance and safety.
3. Realize that some vehicle alterations limit warranty benefits.
4. Understand the benefits and limitations of insurance.

## CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lesson Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to give youth and parents the opportunity to demonstrate lessons learned throughout the five-month Drive Rite program. Youth and parents work together to determine a lesson or topic that really hit home with them. Together, they develop a poster or project display to teach others in the class about this important topic. Don't worry if more than one person chooses the same lesson or the same topic, the point is that they are demonstrating learning and celebrating their knowledge gain.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Identify lessons learned from at least one lesson or topic from the class.
2. Realize the benefits of safe driving practices.
3. Celebrate personal accomplishments achieved through the program.