

# Drive Like You Care!

What does it mean to drive like you care? First of all, it means never putting your friends at risk by always trying to be a safe driver. Driving safely means following the rules of the road. Those rules include the state and local traffic laws as well as general safety standards, especially those laws geared toward teens. So, did you know the following?

- Your speed in the SHS parking lot should not exceed 15 miles per hour.
- If you are 16,
  - you may not drive with more than one non-family member, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. The police can stop and ticket you for this offense alone.
  - you may not drive between midnight and 6 AM (1 AM and 5 AM if you are 17) unless you are with a parent or guardian or if you are going to a school activity, you are in an emergency situation or you are going to or from work with a note from your employer.
  - and you commit a moving violation during the first six months of having your license, you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever driving a car for six months or until you turn 17.
- The City of Solon's curfew is 11 PM Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday for kids under 18.

# Ride Like a Friend!

It is also important to make some rules of your own. Sometimes you probably feel like a taxi driver and even good friends can forget to respect your car and your driving. You can set some ground rules to prevent your passengers from driving you nuts. Let them know how they can ride like a friend, so you can keep your sanity and your mind on the road.

- Obviously, no drinking or drugs allowed.
- Require your friends to buckle up and keep those arms and legs inside the car. Two-thirds of teens who have died in car crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- Don't let friends pressure you to speed or take more passengers than allowed. The faster you go the higher the crash risk. Having one friend along for a ride doubles your risk of a crash and bringing three or more increases the risk four to five times.
- Ask your friends to reply to text messages or phone calls for you. Cell phone use quadruples your risk of a crash and texting while driving is even more dangerous than driving drunk.
- Ask your friends to help with directions and be quiet and turn the music down in stressful driving conditions like bad weather, heavy traffic or poorly lit roads.
- If you're too tired to drive, don't. Your lack of sleep makes driving tired just like driving drunk.
- And of course, let them know to leave the presets on your radio where they are!

*These tips are provided by the Solon High School PTA with some help from State Farm Insurance and The Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia at <http://www.ridelikeafriend.com/>.*