

Volunteer Driver TurnKey Kit

Planning Implementation Evaluation



20 TIPS FOR RIDERS

Transportation means independence and freedom. All of us have different needs, but we also have different capabilities. However, as with everything in life, we get out of life what we are willing to put into it. The following 20 TIPS will help riders get the most out of volunteer driver programs.

1. Understand that everyone needs help sometimes and that there is no shame in taking a turn at being the recipient of care and concern.
2. Be realistic and admit to having a problem with mobility when such a problem exists.
3. Do not be paralyzed by useless emotions like pride and embarrassment.
4. Demonstrate real courage and personal independence by taking actions necessary to resolve the problem, including asking for the help that is needed.
5. If recruiting your own volunteer, try to ask people you know and who you think will be interested in your well-being. Get referrals of possible volunteers from friends and family members. It is not a good idea to just ask anyone off the street.
6. If someone refuses to help, don't waste time thinking about it – ask someone else. Keep a positive attitude.
7. Always be considerate of volunteers who offer to help. Treat them with respect.
8. Think of volunteers as friends. Show genuine interest in their lives and families.
9. Be generous to volunteers. Be concerned for their feelings and comfort.
10. Be conversational and fun to be around.
11. Be organized and plan your travel as far in advance as possible. Never change travel plans on a whim.
12. Try to schedule appointments for times and days when you know a volunteer will be available.
13. Group things that can reasonably be done in the same area on the same day to limit the number of times you will need volunteer assistance.
14. Do not expect too much of your volunteer. Consider their capabilities and limitations.
15. Always thank volunteers for their help. A hearty, "Thank You!" is always welcome. Maybe you can send them a thank you card.
16. Show kindness to volunteers. Maybe you can give them something they will appreciate – flowers from the garden, or cookies.
17. If you can, carry a cell phone that is pre-programmed to dial 9-1-1 should an emergency occur.
18. Always follow program guidelines and rules.
19. Keep alert to others who might also benefit from similar services and let them know about the program.
20. Wear your seatbelt!