

Senior Car Care Badge

STEPS

- 1. Get a handle on basic car maintenance**
- 2. Investigate vehicle safety**
- 3. Research safe driving practices**
- 4. Find out what to do in case of an emergency**
- 5. Drive for a greener world**

When you've earned this badge, you'll know tips for driving safely and how to take care of a car.



Driving is an exciting step towards independence, a chance to have fun going to new places—and a big responsibility. In this badge, you'll master maintenance tips that keep your car in top form and driving skills that will help you rule the road safely.

STEP 1: GET A HANDLE ON CAR MAINTENANCE

Find out about basic maintenance procedures—check the list below for ideas. If you're working around cars, tie back loose hair, don't wear loose clothes or jewelry, and put on safety goggles and gloves when necessary.

Watch this [video](#) of our Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana staff and learn how to do the following car maintenance tasks:

- Change a flat tire
- Check tire pressure and wear
- Change windshield wiper blades
- Use jumper cables to restart a car
- Check levels and replace fluids
- Change air filters

Join Girl Scouts of Western Ohio as they lead you through all 5 steps by watching this [video](#)!

Or, find out what kind of training a service technician needs.

STEP 2: INVESTIGATE VEHICLE SAFETY

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is a great resource for gathering accident statistics and learning about features that make cars safer.

Using [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov) or Consumer Reports articles, research features that engineers have developed to make vehicles safer. Once you learn about some you think are important, select a car make and model and find out which safety features it offers as standard. Many vehicles offer additional safety features that cost more, so it's important to know this for when you decide to purchase your own vehicle in the future.

Now that you know more about safety features, be a safety innovator. Sketch a design or make a prototype of a new car safety feature or an improvement on an existing one.

STEP 3: RESEARCH SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

Pay extra attention to how people in your community drive. How can they drive more safely? If you drive, keep your own driving practices in mind as you do this activity. Remember, you're learning about driving safety not only to ensure that you are safe, but also to help keep the roads safe for other drivers.

Everyone sees bad driving habits on the road. It's important to be aware of your own driving practices so you can stay safe and help keep the roads safe for others. What do you think is the number one cause of distracted driving among teens?

Create a top 10 list of safe driving tips and share with others. You can interview adults, highway patrol officers, local police officers, your insurance agent or EMTs to form your list. Check out these links to get started: [Safe Driving Practices](#) and [Driving Safety Tips](#).

STEP 4: FIND OUT WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

What should you do in case of an accident? A little forethought goes a long way toward providing the safest journey possible.

It's always good to be prepared should you ever be in, or encounter, an accident. Compile an emergency car kit with the following items, taken from [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). Then, learn how to use the items.

- Jumper cables (you can also include flares and/or a reflective triangle)
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit with any necessary medications
- Non-perishable food such as canned goods, and protein-rich foods like nuts and energy bars
- Manual can opener
- At least one gallon of water per person a day for at least three days
- A basic toolkit with pliers, wrench and screwdriver
- Food and water for pets (if you have any)
- A battery-powered or hand-cranked radio
- Cat litter or sand for better tire traction
- Shovel
- Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes for the cold
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Charged cell phone and car charger

STEP 5: DRIVE FOR A GREENER WORLD

You can boost the fuel efficiency of a car by as much as 30 percent through simple vehicle maintenance and attention to your driving style.

Simple car maintenance and good driving can increase a car's fuel efficiency by as much as 30 percent. Look into fuel-efficient cars like hybrids and electric vehicles. Choose three vehicle models with exceptional fuel efficiency ratings and make a list of selling points for each. Try to "sell" the vehicles.

Next, make a plan for how to drive less and use less fuel. Nearly half of all vehicle trips made are within three miles of our homes. On a map, draw a three-mile radius around your home. List at least three ways you and your family could cut the number of car trips in half. Share these ideas with your family.