

Tips for Organizing a SchoolPool

Register on SchoolPoolMarin.org to receive a match list of other families who are interested in walking, biking, carpooling or taking the bus to school together and travel the same route as you...

1. Once you receive your match list, call or e-mail others on the list to discuss starting a SchoolPool. If you do not receive a match list right away, the system will send you an email as others sign up.
2. Everyone on your match list has indicated an interest in finding SchoolPool companions, so contact them to discuss the types of SchoolPools they are interested in, the number of days to and/or from school, the number of kids and their ages to see if it's a match.
3. If you are forming a SchoolPool with people you may not know, consider arranging to meet first at school. The sample SchoolPool Pledge Form covers SchoolPooling etiquette that members can sign or use for discussion purposes.
4. Once you have agreed to SchoolPool, exchange home and cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Arrangements made on e-mail must be confirmed by the recipient; otherwise a call should be made. (See Pledge Form).
5. Remember, a SchoolPool does not need to be everyday or both to and from school to have a big impact. Please carpool, walk, bike, or use the bus as often as possible. Every vehicle mile reduced is significant. Walkers and bikers can carpool when it gets stormy.
6. If you are carpooling with people you don't know well, consider riding with each other the first time you each drive.
7. Set expectations for the time to meet, the location and departure times and discuss what you will do if another family is late. See Pledge Form.
8. Consider a trial period of a few weeks to see if the new SchoolPool arrangement is working for everyone.
9. Please consider picking up others on your way to school, even if they cannot reciprocate. They can provide rides after school or at other times. Every car trip reduced helps!
10. Informal SchoolPooling with your neighbors works, too. Families can call their neighbors to see if their kids are walking or biking or can carpool that day. A schedule can be developed when possible.
11. Please make sure all drivers of a carpool have a current license and insurance.
12. A "Walking School Bus" is a group of neighbors who walk to school picking up kids along the way or by meeting at a set location. The rule of thumb is to have one adult for six children. Be sure an adult is at the front and the rear of a large group.
13. A "Bike Train" is a group of kids who bike together to or from school. If the group is under age 12, there should be one adult for each four children, one in front and one in back. Young children biking to school should always be accompanied by an adult.
14. To deal with an emergency situation, please make sure you have the correct contact information of all parents with whom your child(ren) schoolpool.

Register for SchoolPool at www.SchoolPoolMarin.org

If you would like to be anonymous at first, consider using a temporary e-mail address you set up on your personal e-mail account to submit on your registration. Be sure you check it regularly.