

Be Part of the Climate Change Solution, Organize a Neighborhood SchoolPool!

SchoolPoolMarin.org



Save Time and Money by Driving Less While You Travel Green? Here's How!

A Neighborhood SchoolPool is formed by a group of families within a neighborhood who all travel to the same school at the same time. By sharing the responsibility of getting your children to school you save yourself valuable time while reducing vehicle trips, traffic congestion and the related greenhouse gases and other polluting emissions. Plus, it's fun!

It's Easy to Get Started

Identify other families to share in getting your children to school by walking, biking, carpooling or taking the bus together to school. Here are some ways:

- 1. Register at SchoolPoolMarin.org** to receive a match list of other families that are interested in a schoolpool.
- 2. Look** in your school directory to see if someone lives on a street near you, starting with your child's classroom and then others in their grades or close to their age. Use the school directory or classroom list to obtain e-mail addresses and phone numbers.
- 3. Notice** others on your way to school. Are there other families you have seen traveling the same route as you every day?

Propose a Neighborhood SchoolPool

- 1.** After you have identified at least one or two other families, **send** an **e-mail** to propose a neighborhood schoolpool.
- 2.** Follow-up with a **phone call** to discuss the idea and determine if your schedules match.
- 3. Invite** the parents AND the children who will be in the schoolpool to a get-together either at school, a local park or someone's yard. This is your opportunity for everyone to gauge their comfort level with each other.
- 4.** To organize the schoolpool, develop a **plan**. See SchoolPool Tips and the SchoolPool Marin Pledge Form for ideas. Be sure to:
 - Create a schedule
 - Explore and establish the safest routes for walking and biking
 - Determine ground rules
 - Make emergency contingency plans

TIP: Do NOT be late.
See the Tips Sheet for many other helpful tips or contact info@SchoolPoolMarin.org for additional support.

For more information go to www.SchoolPoolMarin.org



MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Transportation Authority of Marin



**SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS**
MARIN COUNTY

5. Make a **schedule** showing when each family is “driving” the schoolpool on which days, distribute it to the other families and suggest they post the schedule at home (like on the refrigerator) so everyone can see who is picking up the kids every day to avoid confusion. Include on each SchoolPool day, which parent is in charge and contact information.
6. It may take a few weeks to get things going smoothly, so **be patient** in the beginning. Soon you will have a neighborhood travel system in place for the rest of the year and beyond, whether it is for carpooling, biking, walking, or waiting for the bus together. You will have a pool of people to call on when you are in a bind and need help getting your children to or from school and possibly to other activities. These networks can last throughout your children’s school years.

Neighborhood SchoolPool Creates Lifelong Friends

When my daughter was in first grade in 2001, I started a carpool with one of her classmates who lived in the same neighborhood. That carpool soon grew into four families. We started carpooling together because it made sense since we traveled the same route every day, but we were also motivated to make it work because we wanted to drive less.

We organized an easy schedule and each mom picked one day to drive. From then on, I only had to drive to school once a week – what a timesaver! Every Wednesday, we all biked to school with our kids. We took younger siblings on bike extensions while we taught the first graders how to ride safely.

As the kids grew older they continued to bike every Wednesday on their own as it became less and less cool to bike with Mom or Dad. But I still loved waving goodbye to my daughter every Wednesday (with a cup of coffee in my hand) as she confidently rode away on her bike to join the other neighborhood kids.

It’s now 2010 and we carpool our children to Middle School, two miles away. When it’s time for high school, I know they will keep traveling green thanks to our neighborhood habit of traveling to school together.

– **Laura**, Deer Park neighborhood, Fairfax, California

In 2006, when our kids were in kindergarten and 3rd grade we were contacted by a neighbor to get together at her house to discuss ways to get our kids to school together instead of us all driving them by ourselves. She had volunteered on a Safe Routes to Schools committee at our school to organize our neighborhood school pools. Three families agreed to bike once a week on Walk to School Day Wednesdays at the start. It worked so well that now we bike with them whenever we can if the weather permits. We don’t use a formal system; we just call each other the night before or sometimes in the morning. And when we can’t bike we set up carpools. My daughter has made a good friend we might not have met without the SchoolPool. My son now walks to the middle school and we all still bike with the younger kids to school whenever we can.

– **S.B.**, Sycamore Park mom, Mill Valley