



Alternative Modes of Transportation

E-Scooter & E-Bike Safety Tips



Wear the Appropriate Helmet

Choose a certified and properly fitting helmet and wear it at all times. There are helmets made specifically for these types of vehicles. In ND and MN, all students under age 18 are required by law to have a helmet when riding on e-bikes or e-scooters.



Know Your Local Laws

Laws around e-bikes and e-scooters vary by community and state. Know what your state's law is and abide by them. Remember to follow the rules of the road also by using your hand signals to communicate turns and obey traffic rules such as STOP or YIELD signs.



Avoid Distractions

Put away your phone and leave earbuds or headphones off. Using these devices leads to distractions when on these vehicles, potentially leading to unnoticed dangers or other traffic. Being alert helps riders to drive defensively.



Be Visible

Wear bright clothing and assure you have lights on the front and back of the e-bike or e-scooter. These are required for nighttime use.



Supervise Young & Inexperienced Riders

Don't assume young drivers know the rules of the road or how to operate these vehicles - they are not toys. Assure they practice in a safe area and with supervision before hitting the roads.

Planning how students get to and from school is a decision that takes thoughtful consideration. While some modes of transportation may be appealing, they come with hazards that can be dangerous to the riders. We offer these tips so all students can get to and from school safely.

Hazards

E-bike and e-scooters can travel at speeds up to nearly 30 mph. These high speeds are leading to high impact falls and crashes, often resulting in broken bones, dislocations, and head trauma.

These vehicles are not designed to be driven on sidewalks, thus placing them in traffic with cars moving at fast speeds and adding additional elements of danger.

Golf Cart Safety



Allow Extra Distance For Braking

Many golf carts only have brakes on the rear wheels, making for a longer stopping distance. Drive slow enough for the conditions and allow more time to stop the golf cart. Sudden stops make these vehicles unstable, so assure all passengers are properly seated.



Remain Seated On the Golf Cart

Children should not stand on the back of the cart but rather should remain seated on the cart's seat. Do not carry more passengers than the golf cart will allow and always wear the seatbelt if the cart is equipped with one.



Do Not Make Sudden Turns

Making sudden turns can lead to the golf cart tipping over. Slow down, make gradual turns and don't have extra people on the back or cart seat that will change the center of gravity for the vehicle.



Only Drive Where Allowed

Golf carts are not allowed on city streets without having the features that make them "street legal". They should also not be driven on sidewalks where pedestrians are walking. Therefore, golf cart use should be limited to private property or public spaces as allowed (golf courses).



For more information on ATV laws, general operation and rider courses, visit <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv/index.html>

Hazards

Golf carts are a vehicle that is often not equipped with safety features for driving on roads (i.e. turn signals, seat belts, lights). These are therefore not street legal and should not be driven on roads with cars.

Golf carts also don't have safety features such as doors, rollover bars, airbags or seatbelts to protect the occupant and they tip easily.

ATV Safety

Hazards

ATVs are large vehicles that can go up to 70 mph and weight upwards of 700-900 pounds. They are prone to tip over and often young adults do not have the upper body strength to bring them to an upright position.

ATVs also do not have many of the protective mechanisms found on a car such as airbags, seatbelts or rollover bars, making them very dangerous for use, especially in younger drivers.



Recommended Age For ATV Use

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Safe Kids Worldwide recommends that youth under the age of 16 not ride on an adult-sized ATV. They often don't have the upper body strength to bring a tipping ATV back into the upright position. Often injuries and deaths on these vehicles occur from crushing from the large sized vehicle.



Rider & ATV Preparedness

If youth ride an ATV before age 16, be sure it's a youth-sized model with limited speed. They should complete an ATV safety course to learn proper handling. To drive on public land, riders must be at least 12 with a safety certificate, and ATVs must meet equipment requirements. Visit the MN Department of Natural Resources page for details.



Do Not Carry More Riders Than the Vehicle is Made For

ATVs are made with an elongated seat, but this is not so that additional passengers can ride along. In fact, adding more people or equipment to the ATV makes it more prone to tipping over. The weight of the rider should be equally spaced between the 4 wheels and adding other passengers redistributes the center of gravity, creating a dangerous situation.



Wear the Gear

Helmets are required for all users under age 18 but are recommended for all ATV users. Also consider a chest protector to provide protection from crushing injuries, eye protection, long pants and closed-toed shoes.

As parents and caregivers, it can be easy to provide alternative ways for students to get to and from school, especially for those not old enough to drive a car. However, these alternative modes have dangers. Please carefully consider these decisions and provide appropriate training and supervision and follow all state and city laws.