

# 20 Tips for Passengers

Getting where you need to go can be especially difficult when you no longer drive. Passengers of volunteer driver programs often have challenging travel needs and capabilities. The following 20 tips will help passengers with volunteer driver programs get the most out of their travel experiences.

1. Know that everyone needs help sometimes.
2. Demonstrate courage and personal independence by asking for needed help.
3. There is no shame in being a passenger rather than a driver.
4. If you have a mobility challenge, be kind to your volunteer driver program and your volunteer driver by admitting that you have a challenge and need assistance.
5. Always be considerate of the volunteers who drive you.
6. Think of your volunteer drivers as your friends. Show genuine interest in their lives.
7. Be conversational and interesting and show concern for their feelings and comfort.
8. Even if you have physical limitations, try to think of other things to talk about.
9. Plan your travel as far in advance as possible.
10. Try to schedule appointments when you know the program and volunteer are available.
11. Never try to change travel plans on a whim.
12. If the volunteer driver program allows for passengers to make multiple stops, group your destinations so they can reasonably be done during the same ride.
13. Consider the capabilities and limitations of your volunteer. Do not expect too much.
14. Always show appreciation to your volunteer drivers for their help. A hearty, "thank you!" or perhaps a thank-you card will always be welcome.
15. Show kindness to your volunteer drivers. Some passengers give their drivers special gifts like flowers from their garden or home-baked cookies.
16. Try to leave the volunteers vehicle as clean and tidy as it was when it arrived.
17. If you carry a cell phone, pre-program it to dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.
18. Always follow the volunteer driver program's guidelines and rules.
19. Let friends and neighbors know about the program so they can benefit from its services if they need them.
20. If there is a seatbelt, wear it!