

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Winter is here, and it's a good time for senior youth and Scouters to think about how to handle the road conditions that come with the season – whether driving as part of a Scout outing or simply as part of your day-to-day lifestyle. Snow and ice can make roads slippery, and frost and winter storms can impair visibility. It's also important to keep in mind that cold weather makes being stranded on a roadside more dangerous than in other seasons.

Fortunately, there are a variety of ways to reduce the risks of driving in the winter, and to be prepared for when things go wrong. Learn about how you can stay safe when getting behind the wheel this winter.



Check the Forecast

The best strategy is to avoid driving in bad weather conditions. Check the weather and travel conditions before heading out. If the weather is bad, wait for conditions to improve.



Give Yourself Extra Time

If you have to drive, give yourself extra time for travel and always let someone know your travel plan. Share where you are going, the route you plan to take and when you expect to arrive.

Be Prepared

As members of the Scouting community, we tend to take pride in being prepared! To find out what items should be in a Winter Survival Kit, check out the suggestions from the [Government of Canada](#).



Clear Off Snow and Ice

Before leaving, clear all snow and ice from your vehicle's windshield, hood, roof, windows and lights. Give your vehicle's windows time to thoroughly defrost.



Have Enough Fuel

Before hitting the road, make sure you have enough fuel. Try to keep the fuel tank at least half full.



Keep an eye on your speed

When driving at night and anytime your vision is reduced, slow down and allow extra distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Remember that posted speed limits are for optimal driving conditions.



Wait it Out

If driving becomes too risky, turn back or look for a safe place to stop until conditions improve.



Install Winter Tires

To help maintain control and stability of your vehicle in icy conditions, Transport Canada recommends installing four winter tires. **All-season tires are NOT a suitable substitute for winter tires**, especially in our Canadian winters!

More Winter Safety

CAA partnered with Transport Canada and released a brochure outlining the top 10 winter driving safety tips drivers need to know. [Check it out!](#)