

Driving Policies

Outdoor Pursuits Program (OPP) drivers are expected to comply with all OPP, UO, OSU, and State of Oregon rules and policies that relate to driving motor vehicles. *The following list is only a partial summary of the applicable policies.*

Carefully study the following policies. Strict compliance is required.

1. Inspect all safety related aspects of the vehicle, make sure chains are in the vehicle, and adjust all mirrors before driving.
2. Disengage child safety locks before driving! These locks can entrap passengers after an accident.
3. Assess and (if possible) fix any safety related problem. No vehicle is to be operated in an unsafe condition.
4. Accept responsibility for driving if, and only if, FULLY capable. Determining factors include the driver's physical and mental condition, the weather, driving conditions and the type of vehicle.
5. Know the route, meeting points and contingency plans prior to departure.
6. Load all vans from the front. Empty seats MUST be at the back of the van.
7. Ensure that all passengers use safety belts AT ALL TIMES. Sit properly so lap belts function properly. Slumping greatly increases the risk of spinal injury. Check passenger's posture and seat belt position often to assure compliance.
8. Obey all traffic laws and OPP driving policies and protocols, specifically:
 - Posted speed limits. Use the cruise control (where appropriate) to maintain a consistent speed.
 - DO NOT EXCEED 55 mph while driving a passenger van, even if the posted speed is higher.
 - Stop COMPLETELY at all stop signs and stop lights. Stop signs and lights are not yield signs. Drivers must come to a true stop. i.e. the tires must stop rotating!
 - Always turn into the closest land when turning onto a one-way street.
9. Allow sufficient following distance. Ideally, drivers should not follow in sight of the van immediately ahead. NEVER follow so closely that the license plate of the vehicle immediately ahead can be read.
10. Pull over in a suitable place to let speeders pass. Check your rear view mirrors often and be aware of vehicles behind you. Drivers unwilling to drive at the speed limit often endanger others by passing in unsafe places.
11. Rotate drivers as often as necessary to ensure that a rested, alert driver is behind the wheel. DO NOT drive for more than three (3) hours without a significant break or rest period.
12. Drive with the headlights on at all times.