

VALENCIA COLLEGE

College Student Tips for a Successful Carpool

How to find a carpool partner

- **In person**
 - Fill out a ridematch application during an event
 - You will receive an email within three days of the event with a list of potential carpool partners
- **Online**
 - Visit **reThinkYourCommute.com** and choose **Find Me A Match** to register
 - Plug in *Student* where it asks for *Department*
 - On the bottom left, choose the button *Request Matchlist*. On the left side, those living near you who are going to your campus (who have registered) will be listed.
 - If no one comes up within a 5-mile radius, consider using a wider radius or just check back in a month or so. People will be continuing to register with reThink on an ongoing basis.
 - Remember, you don't have to carpool every day. Event one or two days a week will help you save money and help the environment.
 - If you start carpooling, let reThink know. You may qualify for the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program!



Ridesharing
is an important effort
to reduce Valencia College's **GHG**
emissions

If you want your carpool profiled in the *Valencia Voice* or featured on the Sustainability Facebook page, contact the Office of Sustainability at 407-582-1830.

Have ideas on how to improve the ridematching online experience? Let us know!
Call 1-866-610-RIDE (7433) or email info@reThinkYourCommute.com

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A Special Note for Valencia College about Safety

Once reThink provides a list of one or more potential matches, then it is ***up to you to make a careful assessment of the other person's reliability and safety for your commuting.***

Interviewing potential matches:

- Get an impression from a phone conversation - talk about classes, etc.- and if anything strikes you as "off," politely end the process there.
- If the person sounds potentially compatible for carpooling, arrange to meet in a public place on campus.
- At that meeting, talk about how you would divide up driving. Some carpool groups use one car and some groups switch drivers.
- Calculate what the total cost of the commute will be per passenger. Include tolls and maintenance, as well as gas, in your calculations. You might make it easy by using the federal mileage reimbursement rate, which is currently 55 cents per mile. Divide by the number of passengers to calculate each person's portion. Set up a schedule for paying for commuting costs and stick to it!
- Now check for a valid Driver's License, registration, and insurance (make and keep a copy). Before finalizing any arrangements, look up the Drivers License in this DMV site (<https://services.flhsmv.gov/DLCheck/>) to be sure it is valid and not suspended.
- If everything checks out and you have a secure feeling about sharing rides with this person, discuss details, for example, where you will park extra cars.
- Create policies in advance for cell phone use, smoking, temperature – even radio stations!
- When you create your schedule, discuss whether or not your group will wait for latecomers.
- Everyone in the pool should share contact information, including cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Keep a print-out of everyone's contact information in your vehicle, just in case someone is running late!
- There may be times when your driver has to unexpectedly leave school early or stay late. Make sure to register for the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program which can help in this situation for qualified carpool and vanpool groups. Be sure to have your entire group enroll for the ERH program – before they need to use it!