

START SMART...

*the keys to safe
teen driving*



12 Going the Distance: PURPOSEFUL DRIVING

“Check In” before driving!

AAA StartSmart strongly recommends that parents require their teenage drivers to CHECK IN each time they drive—by answering these five questions:

1. Where do you want to go?
2. Who will your passengers be?
3. When will you return?
4. What is the weather expected to be?
5. What route will you take?

What are the benefits of “Checking In”?

CHECK-IN offers several important advantages that most parents appreciate:

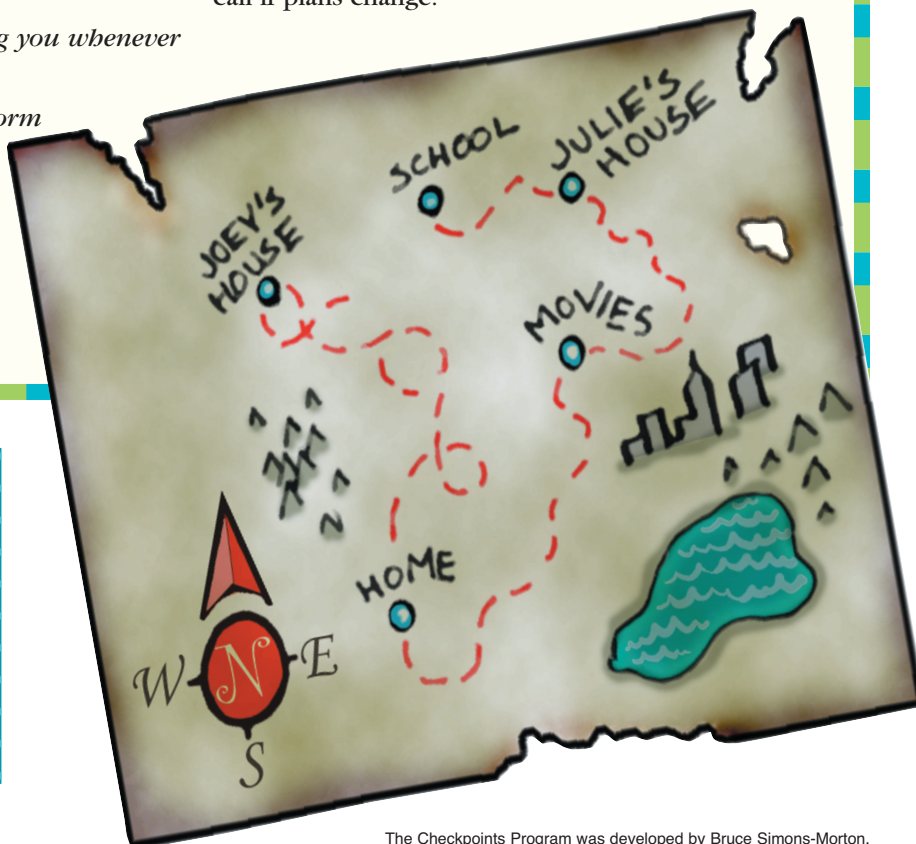
- ✓ *Your teen is responsible for telling you whenever s/he wants to drive.*
- ✓ *The answers to these questions form an agreement between you and your teen about the trip.*
- ✓ *The discussion gives you an opportunity to set limits for the trip.*

Why is purposeful driving important?

Purposeful driving is driving for a purpose to a specific destination. Teen driving is most dangerous when done without a specific purpose or destination or just for fun. Driving to work, school, a friend's house, or a social event are examples of driving for a specific purpose.

What can parents do?

Make sure your teen CHECKS IN before driving. CHECK-IN ensures you know the destination, conditions, and reasons for trips in the car. CHECK-IN is also a good opportunity to remind your teen to drive safely, avoid certain routes or driving conditions, and call if plans change.



Parents agree!

Having your teen CHECK IN before leaving is a great way to keep track of your mobile teen while protecting her/him from unnecessary risk.



AAA StartSmart Experiences

“Cruising on a Saturday night used to be cool, but now the thought of my kids doing it makes me very nervous. We did all kinds of dangerous things, from speeding to drinking. I’m amazed we survived.”—Joshua Hager, father of three teenagers

“Last Saturday we went driving around trying to find something to do. It was pretty late and we were talking to Jim, the guy driving. He didn’t see the turn in the road and we went off the road onto someone’s grass. Fortunately, we didn’t get hurt or damage the car.”—Tisha, a 16-year-old sophomore

“Bad stuff could happen at any time without even trying. So, I don’t want my son to get used to driving around aimlessly and putting himself at even greater risk.”—Natalie Voght, mother of 17-year-old Justin



StartSmart comments...

Driving without a specific destination or purpose in mind can be dangerous.

BOTTOM LINE

- ✓ *Have your teen **CHECK IN** before driving.*
- ✓ *Strictly limit driving that’s “just for the fun of it.”*

**Make
sure your teen
CHECKS IN each and
every time before
taking the car!**

