

SENIOR CAR CARE BADGE

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know tips for driving safely and how to take care of a car.

Activity	Materials Needed
Get Car-Wise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn basic car maintenance skills. 	None
What Makes a Safe Car? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how engineers use technology to create safer cars. 	None
Drive Safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a list of tips for safe driving. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
Be Prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put together a winter emergency kit and learn how to drive safely in winter conditions. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Various items depending on the kit you create
Drive Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorm ways to drive less. 	None

Activity #1: Get Car-Wise

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Get a handle on basic car maintenance

- Just like you go to the doctor every year for an annual checkup, doing regular maintenance helps your car run smoothly and safely. Plus, spending a little money now on preventative maintenance helps save money in the long term.
- Find a mechanic at a local car repair shop, or a family member or friend who's knowledgeable about cars, and ask them to show you some maintenance skills:
 - Check tire pressure and wear
 - Check and change car fluids (antifreeze, power steering, coolant, wiper fluid, oil, etc.)
 - Inspect and replace serpentine belts
 - Check battery and learn how to jump start a dead battery
 - Replace windshield and wiper blades
 - Replace air filters (cabin and engine)
 - Rotate tires and check alignment

Activity #2: What Makes a Safe Car?

minutes

Time: 15

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Investigate vehicle safety



1. Most car accidents happen because of human error (a whopping 94% of them!).
2. Go on <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/safety-technologies> to see how the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is using technology to reduce and prevent car accidents.
3. Then, do some research on which cars are recommended for first-time drivers and what safety technologies those cars have that make them a good pick.

Activity #3: Drive Safe

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Research safe driving practices

Materials Needed: Paper; writing utensils

1. Now that you know how engineers are developing technologies to help increase car safety, learn about ways people can be safer drivers and reduce those human errors.
2. Interview a highway patrol officer, police officer, driver’s ed. teacher, or an insurance agent to learn about the leading causes for car accidents. Then ask them how drivers can prevent those accidents and make a list of safe driving tips and share with others.

Activity #4: Be Prepared

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Find out what to do in case of emergency

Materials Needed: Various items depending on the kit you create (see list below for ideas)

1. Living in the Midwest, you can’t avoid cold weather, snow, and ice. Make sure that you and your car are ready for driving during the winter months.
2. Make an emergency survival kit. Some possible items to include:
 - Things to help you see in the night: Flashlight and batteries; metal bucket or coffee can, small candle, matches or disposable lighter
 - Things to help others see that you’re in distress: Road flares; brightly colored bandana or piece of cloth
 - Things to help you get out of the snow: Ice scraper; snow brush; shovel; tow chain; bag of sand, salt, or cat litter to use for tire traction
 - Things to help keep you warm: Blanket; extra clothes; boots; hat; gloves
 - Things to keep you nourished and hydrated: energy bars; trail mix; bottled water

Activity #5: Drive Green

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Drive for a greener world

1. What’s the greenest driving option? Not driving at all! Of course, this is easier said than done for most people. But think—are there ways that you can drive less? Make a list of green driving tips you can try. Do them for a week and then reflect on how well your week went. Could you commit to some of these practices in the long run? Share your tips with your family and friends and encourage them to rethink their driving habits too.
2. Some ideas on how to drive less to get you started:
 - If you have a bunch of errands to run that are located close to each other, can you park once and walk between the places rather than getting back in your car and driving over?
 - Set up a carpool system.
 - Use public transit.

