

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I'm in an accident as a volunteer driver when I am driving the organization's vehicle, not my own, and a passenger is injured?

Minnesota law provides for personal injury protection coverage which compensates victims of automobile accidents without proof of negligence on anyone's part ("Personal Injury Protection"), and since liability "follows the vehicle" the organization's insurance will provide coverage. If the passenger has no policy, the organization's personal injury protection insurance will respond.

FAQ's Continued

How does volunteer driving affect my car insurance?

- Your insurance rates will not increase because you use your car as a volunteer driver
- Insurance companies cannot refuse to pay claims solely because you are a volunteer driver
- Insurance companies cannot cancel or refuse to renew your personal automobile insurance policy solely because you are a volunteer driver

VOLUNTEER DRIVER INFORMATION BROCHURE

Reimbursement and
Frequently Asked
Questions

For more detailed information regarding IRS Mileage Reimbursement, please follow the QR Code:



This brochure was developed in cooperation with the MN Department of Commerce, the MN Department of Revenue, the MN Department of Transportation, and the MN Board on Aging.

For all other questions, please contact the MN Council on Transportation Access, at 651-366-4171.

*Offering more than
just a ride!*

mn MINNESOTA
COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

Who is a Volunteer Driver?

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A volunteer driver transports persons or goods on behalf of a nonprofit organization or governmental unit in a private passenger vehicle and receives no compensation for services provided other than reimbursement of actual expenses.

Employees receiving wage compensation are not considered volunteer drivers if providing the same type of services they are employed to provide regularly.

Why the need for Volunteer Drivers?

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Volunteer drivers are crucial to the health and well-being of our communities. Volunteer drivers often provide transportation for vulnerable populations when there are no other transportation options available. These trips often consist of medical appointments, grocery store visits, and general social activities, helping to keep older adults and those with disabilities living happy lives in their communities.



What if I'm a Volunteer Driver?

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If you receive mileage reimbursements for charitable activities, you may need to include the payments on your income tax return.

Keep in mind you *may not* need to include reimbursements under certain volunteer programs. For details, see IRS Publication 525, consult with your tax professional, or discuss with any volunteer transportation provider that you may wish to join.

State of Minnesota Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Subtraction

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If you received mileage reimbursement in volunteer service for an organization eligible for a charitable contribution under Internal Revenue Code, section 170(c), you may subtract the amount you received. For details about qualified organizations for deductible contributions, see IRS Publication 526.

Please note that each Volunteer Driver Agency has individual policies regarding reimbursement and the on-boarding process. Consult with your local Volunteer Driver Agency for more details.

