

# Transporting Scouts Safely

*Adult Audience Only, Update January 2024*

## **Stay Focused, Arrive Safely – Avoid Distracted Driving**

Hello Scouts and Scouters, today's safety moment is dedicated to a critical issue that affects us all: distracted driving. We must recognize that any activity diverting our attention from the road can lead to disastrous consequences. Let's delve into this topic further and learn how we can prioritize safety on the road.

### **Defining Distracted Driving:**

Distracted driving encompasses any activity that takes our focus off driving. Even seemingly harmless actions can put lives at risk. Whether it's adjusting the radio, reaching for something, or attending to passengers, these distractions demand our attention away from the road.

### **The Grave Reality:**

Distractions behind the wheel can have fatal consequences. In 2018 alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 14% of all motor vehicle traffic crashes in the U.S. were linked to distraction, resulting in 2,841 deaths.

### **Preventing Distractions:**

To ensure safe travels, let's adopt some best practices outlined in Scouting America's "Transporting Scouts Safely" guidance:

- **Silence Your Device:** Prior to driving, stow away your mobile devices to resist the temptation of checking them while on the road.
- **Turn it Off:** Switch your mobile device to "silent" or turn it off completely.
- **Choose Rest Stops:** Reserve text and message checking for rest stops or food breaks, rather than while driving.
- **Pull Over Safely:** If you need to use your phone, pull off the road to a safe location before making or receiving calls.
- **No Texting While Driving:** Refrain from texting or calling others who are driving as well.

### **Lead by Example:**

As Scouters and passengers, our actions set a powerful example for others. When we prioritize safety, we're demonstrating our commitment to protect lives. Consider coming up with a memorable phrase to remind everyone to drive distraction-free before each trip. Utilize engaging videos to reinforce this message within your unit.

### **Commitment to Safety:**

It's crucial to share these insights with fellow leaders and Scouts. By staying focused and attentive on the road, we can ensure our journeys are not only adventurous but also safe for everyone on board. Remember, by avoiding distractions, we are safeguarding the well-being of ourselves and those around us. Let's choose to drive responsibly and arrive at our destinations safely. Safe travels, Scouts!