

VOLUNTEER DRIVER FORM

I. Transportation

A. General Rules

Transporting children and youth is an important concern. Their safety can be at risk in a variety of ways. Therefore, certain discretion must be used depending upon the event attended, the locale of the event, and the age group participating. This Policy includes both Requirements and Guidelines. When feasible, there should be adherence to the recommendations in the Guidelines. It is expected that the Requirements will *always* be followed.

B. Requirements

1. Drivers must be known to the designated adult leader of the event.
2. When a child/youth is transported in any vehicle, the driver must be either the child's/youth's parent/guardian, or a screened adult or a paid staff person who is at least 18 years old.
3. When a child/youth is transported in a church-owned vehicle, the driver must be at least 21 years of age; provided, however, exception is made when the driver is a paid staff member who is at least 18 years of age and for whom a motor vehicle record search has been made and the record has been found by the Appointed clergy and supply pastors or his/her designee to be satisfactory.
4. Drivers must have a valid driver's license for the vehicle being operated. For example, if driving a church bus/van, a commercial license is required. A copy of the driver's license should be on file at the church.
5. Drivers must require that seat belts be used at all times and the number of passengers must not exceed the number of seat belts.
6. Drivers should be advised of a designated route and should not deviate from it except in cases of emergency or road detours.
7. Drivers should not use cell phones unless required for communication with other drivers and should not text message while driving.
8. When there is reason to believe it would not be safe for a youth to ride in a vehicle driven by another youth, the adults responsible should intervene and take reasonable steps to make alternative

arrangements for all concerned.

9. When a trip is planned and the destination is expected to be 100 miles or more from the point of departure, drivers are to be listed on an "approved driver list" maintained in the church office.
10. Persons who regularly drive church owned vehicles are to be listed on an "approved driver list" maintained in the church office.
11. In order to be listed on the "approved driver list" of drivers, a Motor Vehicle Record search must be conducted and the appointed clergy and supply pastors or his/her designee must determine if the record is satisfactory. (The Ministry Protection Conference office will advise how to obtain a Motor Vehicle Record of a driver. It is usually without charge. Call (800) 282-8011, ext. 137.)
11. Drivers will read and sign an acknowledgement form indicating that the Child Protection Policy has been read and will be followed.

C. Guidelines

1. Drivers should be accompanied by at least one other adult.
2. Drivers should receive training for the church owned vehicle being operated.
3. Youth who drive their own vehicles should be reminded regularly of the importance of vehicle safety.

I have read the above General Rules, Requirements, and Guidelines and covenant and commit to following them.

Print Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

I, _____, **HEREBY AUTHORIZE John Wesley United Methodist Church to request any local, state or federal law enforcement department or agency to release information regarding any record of any investigations, charges, or convictions contained in its files, or in any criminal file maintained on me, whether said file is a local, state, or national file, and including but not limited to accusations and convictions for crimes committed, against minors, to the fullest extent permitted by local, state and federal law. I release any and all law enforcement departments, agencies, and their employees from all liability that may result from any such disclosure made in response to this request. I also give my permission for this information to be shared with those persons who will participate in making decisions with respect to my application.**

You are authorized to rely upon a photocopy or fax copy of this document.

Print Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print all other names that have been used by applicant (if any):

Date of birth: _____ **Place of birth:** _____

Social Security number: _____

Driver's license number: _____

State in which license was issued: _____

License expiration date: _____