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Preparing Your Teenager to Drive!



Everything you will need
to know to get your teen
driving safely on our
nation's roads and
highways

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Introduction

Training a new driver is a very complex process. Do you sign up for a driver education course? Do you need to contract private lessons? Or do you simply teach your teenager how to drive by yourself? Hopefully this book will answer some of those questions for you.

Hank Wysocki

One of the most exciting yet most anxious moments in a young person's life is when they get behind the wheel for the first time. Getting a license to drive symbolizes freedom. With that freedom comes an increased sense of responsibility.

Statistics show that one in three new drivers will receive a ticket or be involved in a traffic accident within their first year of driving. Statistics also show that the leading cause of death for teenagers are traffic accidents. Immaturity and inexperience behind the wheel are the major factors contributing to these eye opening statistics.

So what is a parent to do in order that their child does not become a statistic? The answer lies with how serious the adult is concerned with their teen's safety. One thing is for sure however; the parent must be actively involved within the entire driver education process.

This book will help steer you in the right direction. Driving a 2000 pound vehicle at high speeds is no easy task. In fact its quite dangerous. Getting the proper instruction in combination with solid practice will help get your teen started on the right path.

In addition to this book I have created a website with additional FREE Resources. Check back many times to gain valuable information on the entire driver education process.

Hank Wysocki- www.driveredcoach.com

Understanding the Driver Education Process

Licensing procedures vary from state to state. Driver training on the other is pretty similar nationally. We will be referring to the licensing procedures for New York State in this section. Please check with your DMV to see what the procedures are for your state.

The Permit to Drive

You must be 16 years of age to apply for a Drivers License in New York State. Step one is to go get your driving Learners Permit.

Go grab yourself a copy of the New York State Drivers Manual and study it well. You will next be asked to take a 20 question quiz on the manual. You must get at least 14 questions correct in order to pass. You will also be asked to submit to an eye test. Once you have completed these two items and completed the necessary applications you will receive your permit.

The next step is to prepare for your road test. Pay strict attention to where and when you may practice driving. Practice can only be accomplished with a supervising driver who is at least 21 years old and holds a valid New York State Drivers License. You are not allowed to practice in any road test areas and can only drive out of state if their laws allow.

Before signing up for your road test you must take a 5 hour pre-licensing course or complete a 6 week, more formal Driver Education program. If you are under the age of 18 you must wait at least 6 months before signing up for your road test. A new driver must complete a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving with at least 15 of those being after sunset. Once these hours are completed a parent or guardian must sign a form documenting these practice hours.

Preparing for the Road Test

What is the best way to prepare for your road test? I guess the better question is what is the best way to prepare for a lifetime of safe driving. A professional driving instructor and a driver education teacher can teach proper skills and prepare the student to take the 15 minute road test. The reality however; is that this preparation is the very least that can be done. Driving is a fluid process. New drivers are always continuing to learn after they receive their licenses. There is no way they can experience all the necessary driving situations needed to become a seasoned defensive driver while simply learning to drive on their permit.

It becomes the parents job to partner with the driver education professionals. A parent should make a conscious effort to model proper driver behavior for their new driver 24/7. It is also important for the parent or guardian to stay up to date on proper driving technique and defensive driving strategies. After all, these techniques and strategies could help save a life or prevent a serious collision. Finally, it is also the parents job to provide additional driving experience in order to reinforce the important lessons taught by the the driving professional.

In the next chapter we will look at the different methods currently available to to train your teenager for a lifetime of safe driving. We will also look at the many different ways to save on auto insurance during those statistically dangerous years of ages 16-25. This group of drivers is called the "risk pool" and as result of of their Immaturity and inexperience, they pay a significantly higher amount of money to be insured in this country.

New Driver Training Methods

In this section we will look at some of the more typical methods for training new drivers in our country and more specifically to New York State. Some are obviously much better for preparing a young driver to navigate our nation's highways. It will be your job to determine the route that you feel the most comfortable with.

Method 1: "Fast Track"

In this method we are not referring to the speed at which one drives, but instead are referring to the quickest path to a license. This the track that many new drivers take to get their drivers license.

The parent ultimately becomes responsible for all of the training of the new driver. Which is fine, if the parent is up to date on all of the current techniques of defensive driving. The parent or guardian should also be well versed in traffic and safety law for their state. If they are not it will be their job to get the appropriate information and teach it to their teen.

If the teenager is under the age of 18 in New York they must wait 6 months before signing up for their road test. That means in that 6 month period the young driver must achieve over 50 hours of training behind the wheel. 15 of those hours must be after sunset.

The new driver also must sign up and attend a 5 hour pre-licensing program. In this method this will be the only formal driver education experience they will get from a traffic safety expert. Once they have achieved their 50 supervised driving hours, their 5 hour class and their 6 month waiting period they may sign up for their road test.

The road test is a 15 minute practical test designed to evaluate the teenagers skills and technique behind the wheel. The test will also evaluate their ability to drive in reverse and change directions by asking the teen to parallel park and

perform a 3 point turn. Of course knowledge of right of way and general rules of the road are a must.

In my humble opinion I find this method to be the least effective in the training of our young driving population. Way too much emphasis and pressure is put on the adult to learn and teach the necessary skills required to become a defensive driver. Besides, the drivers that take this track also seem to be the drivers involved in a collision in their first year on the roads and highways.

Method 2: "Economy Track"

In this method a slightly more professional track is taken. Hiring out to a professional driving school in order to take care of the training will help get the new driver started on the right foot. The parent again must be actively involved by providing additional practice however; they will be more able to piggy back off the private driving instructor's lessons.

Private driving schools often provide different instruction packages that range from several hundred dollars up to thousands of dollars. A single lesson will typically cost between 60-80 dollars. So be prepared to pay for this professional training.

Once you feel comfortable with the training your teen has received it is time to take the 5 hour pre-licensing course and then sign up for the road test. Another advantage to taking lessons from a private school is that they typically know exactly what skills to teach in order to better prepare the young driver for the road test.

By no means does the parent or guardian get off easy in this method either. it is their job to supply the continuing practice for every facet of the driver training.

Method 3: "Premium Track"

Probably the best way to train a new driver is to sign them up for a DMV/State Education Department certified driver education program. This program accomplishes several things. It provides 6 weeks of both classroom and behind the wheel training. It exempts the student from the 5 hour pre-licensing course and saves the parent/student a substantial amount of money on their auto

insurance.

The program does require a serious time commitment. Students in New York State must complete 24 hours of behind the wheel training as well as 24 hours classroom training. They must do this with a minimum passing score of 65 in both components of the program. Instructors for these classes are required to take college level courses to become certified as Driver Education Teachers.

Every facet of driver training is taught within the curriculum of these courses. Alcohol and driving, right of way laws, parallel parking and expressway driving are just a few of the topics covered in these programs. The down side is that driver education programs are becoming increasingly difficult to locate. These programs were formally fixtures in our public school systems. Unfortunately in attempt to save money, driver education was usually the first casualty in these tight school budgets. In order to survive, these programs have moved into the after school program or perhaps to the summer, and the parents are now the ones responsible to pay the costs. Not every school offers these programs. It is the student and or the parents job to find a school district that may offer this important course.

Once again parents, you are not off the hook. It is your job to follow up on the vital lessons taught by the professional driving instructor, A student in this program typically only receives 20 minutes of behind the wheel training in each session. The rest of the time is spent in observation. Parents must again partner with these professionals to provide for the additional behind the wheel practice.

The Cost to Drive and How to Save money

Insuring a new driver is extremely costly. A new driver is immediately added to the risk pool which means they pay the highest insurance rates of any driver. In order to save money there are several options.

Option 1 is to apply your new driver to your own family policy as a casual driver. You will save money but also incur increased liability. Many parents choose to let the teenager apply and pay for their own insurance. It definitely is more costly but in turn the teen assumes any liability for a mishap.

Option 2 is to sign up for a Certified Driver Education program. Graduates of this 6 week program receive discounts between 10-15% on their insurance policies. A big savings during the risk pool years.

Option 3 is to take a Certified Insurance and Point Reduction Class. This 6 hour option can be taken in a classroom setting or online. Graduates of this 6 hour program receive insurance discounts of 10% over a 3 year period. You can sign up for one right here. Just hit the button below.

Sign Up to Save
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Driver Ed Coach Can Help!

I hope you found this Ebook informative. Training a new driver to handle all the elements of our highway transportation system is a daunting task. The Driver Ed Coach wants to help and assist you through the entire process.

Simply click the button below to sign up on our website for a FREE Road Test Guide as well as a coupon code for \$10.00 off an online Insurance and Point Reduction Class! On your computer the sign up is located on the side bar. On a mobile device scroll all the way to the bottom of the page to sign up.

On this website you will find plenty of FREE information to help get your teenager ready to drive. Weekly articles on every topic concerned with defensive driving as well as a fully stocked RESOURCES page. You can find information on everything from

how to parallel park to entering a high speed expressway. So come on by and check it out!

My new book "Saving Your Teenage Driver's Life" Important Strategies to Teach a New Driver Now! has just been released on Amazon Kindle! It is a short easy read and I have set the price low so everyone can pick up a copy, both parent and teenagers alike. It is a must read for **all** parents of new drivers!

I will release a second book soon that filled with sequential lessons for those parents who want to take on the entire driver education instruction process by themselves. Thanks again! Make sure to click the button below or simply log on to www.driveredcoach.com!

CLICK HERE for FREE DRIVER ED stuff!

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