

Get the Facts: Young Drivers

WHAT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUR STATE'S YOUNG DRIVERS?

South Dakota teen drivers are covered under graduating laws that limit privileges for these young and inexperienced motorists. But laws aren't enough. Newly minted drivers need role models and guidance in the form of parents and other adults in their lives.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Model good driving habits. If you speed, they're likely to speed.
- Talk about how to handle driving challenges like weather, aggression, and distractions.
- Work with your young driver to set expectations, guidelines (such as passengers, nighttime driving), create a contract and outline repercussions.
- Train teens on a variety of road types and in different conditions (nighttime, rain, snow). The more supervised experience, the safer the teen.
- Agree to provide a safe ride for teens anytime it's needed.
- Continue to monitor and train teens for the first 6 to 12 months after licensing, the period of greatest crash risk.



Motor vehicle accidents are the number one killer of teenagers, accounting for over one-third of all deaths.

The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among teens aged 16-19 than among any other age group. Per mile driven, teen drivers in this age group are nearly three times as likely as drivers aged 20 or older to be in a fatal crash.