

# WHAT <sup>ARE THE</sup> BASICS

## WHAT IS A VANPOOL?

A South Florida Vanpool is a group of 7 to 15 commuters who ride to and from work each day in a volunteer-driven van. Passengers save money when they share the cost of operating a single vehicle and leave their cars at home.

## WHAT DOES SOUTH FLORIDA VANPOOL PROVIDE?

The South Florida Vanpool Program offers a complete package that includes well-appointed commuter vans, insurance, bumper-to-bumper maintenance, 24-hour roadside assistance and a fuel purchasing program. The turn-key package is offered on a thirty-day basis with no long-term commitment. Our partner, South Florida Commuter Services, offers Emergency Ride Home service to vanpoolers.

## DRIVERS ENJOY PERSONAL USE OF THE VAN

If you are the volunteer primary driver you will enjoy limited personal use of the vehicle during off hours and weekends. Qualifications include a safe driving record and a valid Florida driver's license.

## THE ECONOMY OF VANPOOLING

The price is determined by the distance that you live from work and the number of people in your vanpool. The savings you will see when you share your commute cost with your group can't be beat!



For more information:  
**1-800-234-RIDE (7433)**  
[www.1800234ride.com](http://www.1800234ride.com)



# HOW TO START A VANPOOL

**Vanpool  
Starting  
Ahead**



# STEP BY STEP EXAMPLE FOR STARTING A VANPOOL

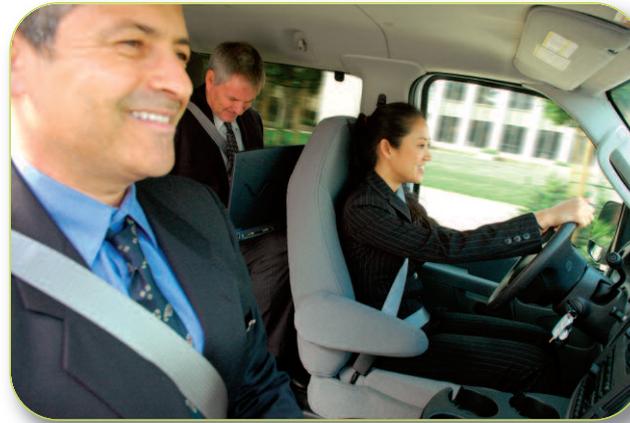
## 1. DETERMINE THE BASIC ROUTE YOUR VAN WILL TRAVEL

Vanpool groups generally meet at a designated Park & Ride lot or secure staging area such as a shopping center where permission has been granted to park. Some vanpools have more than one pick-up and drop-off points; be mindful of the time it takes to make an additional stop when planning your route. Where possible, plan your route so that you can take advantage of HOV lanes to save time. If you have a question about how to plan your vanpool route, a South Florida Vanpool representative will be glad to assist you!

## 2. ADVERTISE THE ROUTE AND RECRUIT RIDERS TO JOIN YOUR POOL

Finding people interested in saving money, sharing a ride, and avoiding the hassles of traffic congestion will be easier than you think! Prospective riders may be friends, co-workers, neighbors, or anyone who travels the same route that you do and shares a common work schedule. South Florida Vanpool can assist you by:

- Advertising your new route on our website
- Providing flyers and helpful vanpool information for you to share with others
- Conducting a transportation event at your worksite
- Coordinating with South Florida Commuter Services to research the regional database for prospective passengers for your group



## 3. IDENTIFY PRIMARY DRIVER CANDIDATE AND SECURE TWO TO FIVE ALTERNATE DRIVERS

It is important to have sufficient approved alternate drivers to ensure the vanpool can operate as needed. For safety, alternate drivers must be:

- Be 25 years of age
- Have a good driving record
- Hold a valid Florida driver's license

A South Florida Vanpool representative can provide you driver approval documents via email, fax or mail. The driver approval process is simple and usually takes just 48-hours to complete.

## 4. HOLD A GROUP FORMATION MEETING

These days, most people communicate electronically, but we find there are advantages to having an in-person meeting when forming a vanpool. Your South Florida Vanpool representative will be glad to attend your meeting or can provide you an outline of what to cover.

This is the perfect time to finalize the details:

- Map the route and schedule
- Select the type/size vehicle that meets your needs
- Work through an estimation of monthly expenses
- Gather contact information for all of the vanpool members
- Initiate a discussion on "rules of the road" for making your vanpool a success

## 5. SELECT YOUR START DATE AND COLLECT THE FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT

The van delivery is a great experience! At this point, everyone is ready to begin enjoying their daily commute and start counting their savings! South Florida Vanpool representatives will deliver the van to you, review vehicle features, and sign the final paperwork. We'll turn the keys over and you'll be ready to GET IN THE VAN AND GO!

**A BETTER WAY**  
to get to work

The logo for South Florida Vanpool, featuring a blue swoosh above the text "South Florida VANPOOL" in blue and green.