

Overview

The Senior Rides Program, coordinated by the Department of Aging & Human Services, is funded through a grant from the Maryland Transit Administration and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. This service is available to seniors who are unable to utilize other public transportation options and lack other reliable sources of transportation.

How It Works

Through the use of volunteer drivers, seniors are provided with door to door transportation to medical appointments, social engagements, shopping, etc. All trips are provided using the volunteer's personal vehicle. When possible, the Department will attempt to coordinate transportation requests with other public transportation resources.

An application is required for all seniors interested in participating in the program. Applications can be completed by phone, in-person, or by mail.

Once accepted into the program, riders are instructed to make their requests for transportation at least 3 business days in advance for in county destinations and 5 business days for outlying destinations, excluding the day of the request. Out of county transportation is available for medical needs only.

Due to the limitations of this program, transportation requests are limited to **4 per month per rider.**

Transportation requests are not a guarantee of service and can only be accommodated if a driver is available.

Rider Requirements

- Be 60 years of age or older and a St. Mary's County Resident
- Meet income guidelines
- Have cognitive awareness and the ability to ambulate using a cane or walker
- Lack access to reasonable, affordable transportation options.

Rider Requirements

- Riders are expected to use other forms of public transportation when available and when appropriate
- Transportation to procedures requiring anesthesia and/or excessive wait times will be considered at the time of request
- Sign release/waiver form
- Be ready at time of pick up
- Be prepared to pay all tolls, parking, or other fees incurred at the time of trip
- Wear seat belt
- Be courteous

Donations Accepted

This is a suggested donation to offset the cost of the program. If you cannot afford the suggested donation contribute what you can.

<u>Suggested Donation Guidelines</u>	
\$10.00	Less than 15 miles
\$15.00	15-30 Miles
\$20.00	31-50 Miles
\$50.00	Outlying destinations

*Outlying destinations include Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington D.C.

**Trips provided out of St. Mary's County are for medical purposes ONLY

Volunteer Driver Recruitment/Benefits

In order to sustain the Senior Rides program, there is an ongoing effort to recruit volunteer drivers. Drivers are not required to volunteer a minimum number of hours per month and are offered the following benefits:

- Mileage reimbursement
- Supplemental accident insurance
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Volunteer Recognition
- Driver Safety Training
- A great sense of pride in their community

Drivers are provided with all pertinent information such as driving directions and contact information prior to the trip.



Driver Qualifications

- Patience and a genuine love of helping others
- Be 21 years of age or older
- Own a personal vehicle or be an authorized user and insured driver under another's automobile insurance policy
- Be covered under an automobile insurance policy with a minimum personal liability limit of \$100,000
- Reside within a reasonable geographic distance from the St. Mary's County border

Driver Requirements

- Participate in informal interview
- Pass criminal background check
- Pass MVA driving record check annually
- Attend driver safety course
- Attend driver orientation class
- Sign a volunteer driver release waiver



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Department of Aging & Human Services

St. Mary's County
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SENIOR RIDES PROGRAM



"Give Seniors A Lift"

301-475-4200, ext. 1066