

ZIMRIDE RIDESHARE FOR MSSF FAQ

What Is Zimride?

Zimride is the leading provider of online social rideshare and carpool matching systems in North America. It provides rideshare services to leading universities (e.g. UC Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Cornell) and corporations (e.g. Cigna, JetBlue, PriceWaterhouseCooper). Combining social networks and a proprietary route-matching algorithm, Zimride makes it easy to share the seats in your car or catch a ride. Zimride empowers you to create social, sustainable and convenient transportation.

Why Zimride For MSSF?

For too long we have driven our cars to field trips and other MSSF events with empty seats. Zimride is a simple way to find MSSF members going the same way you are to MSSF events. No more (i) emailing the organizer to find out who is going and wants to carpool (ii) get the emails of other MSSF members who may be going on the same field trip, (iii) then emailing those members, (iv) waiting for them to get back to you and arranging the details one email at a time.

Zimriding is a fun way to get to MSSF events. Connect with MSSF members, reduce your carbon footprint and save money.

Is It Free?

Yes, 100%! MSSF Zimriders can list a price to split expenses (gas, parking fees, etc). When posting a ride, users are encouraged to list the amount they would like to receive, and those looking for a ride can list what they are willing to pay for a ride. This may be particularly helpful for long rides to the Mendocino Foray or the Saltpoint Foray. This is not mandatory of course, and rides can be offered free of charge.

I Want To Find An MSSF Event Carpool, How Should I Get Started?

Since MSSF members all need to go to the same destination for most MSSF events (field trip location, culinary dinner location, monthly meeting), MSSF organizers will set the destination, and time of each MSSF event on the Zimride site.

1. Register for a Zimride account here: <https://www.zimride.com/p/auth/register>

You can provide as much or as little information as you like during the registration process. All that is required to register is an email address.

2. You can find the Zimride Event Page for a particular MSSF field trip or event in either of two ways:

- a. On the MSSF calendar page for that event

For example the calendar page for the May 2, 2011 Culinary Dinner
<http://mms.mssf.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=12932>

will have a link to the Zimride Event Page for this event

http://www.zimride.com/p/ride/add?event_id=2009&May-Culinary-Group-M=true

- b. In the pulldown menu for All MSSF Events posted on the Zimride MSSF Event Group page:

http://www.zimride.com/p/ride/add?event_page_id=580&MSSF=true

3. Once you click on the Zimride Event page for a particular MSSF event you can Add a Ride as “willing to drive” (i.e could drive or ride) or “passenger only.”
4. Then browse matches, contact and coordinate a ride with other MSSF Zimriders going to the same MSSF event. Note that those “willing to drive” will be matched with all other willing drivers and passengers in the area,

In just a few minutes, you can find new MSSF carpooling partners. If you don't find a match right away, Zimride will email you when a new MSSF user posts a potential carpooling match.

Here is a link to a video demo of Zimride: <http://www.zimride.com/rideshare/video>

If I Add A Ride Am I Obligated To Take Anyone Who Requests A Ride?

No, absolutely not. We recommend only offering or accepting rides from people you trust. Spend a few minutes evaluating their profile before you make a decision. In general we expect you'll have much in common with your fellow MSSF field trip participants.

What Should I Enter In The “Starting Location” Fields?

Enter as much information as you can about your location. Your match results will be more accurate if you include the exact address and street. You can choose to keep your exact address hidden from users while still allowing the system to make the most relevant matches. Full address example: 514 Bryant St, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA. Partial address example: Palo Alto, CA, USA

[Note in the case of MSSF events the ending location is pre-set to be the event location.]

How Does Zimride Determine Which Listings Show Up In The Search Results?

The Zimride search formula calculates the distance that you would have to drive out of your way to pickup a passenger (or vice versa) and displays the results with the best match first. The search formula is able to find people along your route even if the other person isn't starting or ending in the same city. You can use the calendar towards the right of the search results to browse rides on future dates.

How Should We Split Carpooling Costs?

This is particularly relevant for long distance forays like the Mendocino Woodlands foray. If commuters rotate the driving equally, money doesn't have to change hands. But if only one person drives the carpool, passengers generally chip in to cover the costs of gas and parking. The amount of shared cost will vary depending on the carpool. However, some guidelines to consider include how much the driver spends on gas and wear and tear. Below is a breakdown of the average operating costs per mile.

	Small Sedan	Medium Sedan	Large Sedan	Average
Operating Costs	per mile	per mile	per mile	per mile
Gas	8.21 cents	10.54 cents	11.51 cents	10.09 cents
Maintenance	4.26 cents	4.51 cents	4.92 cents	4.56 cents
Tires	0.61 cents	0.87 cents	0.82 cents	0.77 cents
Cost per Mile	13.08 cents	15.92 cents	17.25 cents	15.42 cents

For more information on the most recent AAA *Your Driving Costs*, please visit <http://www.aaaexchange.com/Assets/Files/200948913570.DrivingCosts2009.pdf>.

Is There Such A Thing As Good Carpool Etiquette?

Of course! Like any group effort, a carpool requires courtesy and cooperation to keep things running smoothly. Whether you are behind the wheel or just along for the ride, good etiquette is essential to keep your carpool group running smoothly. Good etiquette takes into account communication, courtesy and the safety of everyone in the carpool. It is recommended that each carpool member should have a chance to express his/her needs and concerns.

Some general carpool etiquette tips are listed below for your consideration:

Dos

- * Be on time.
- * Communicate with your fellow carpoolers.
- * Drive safely at all times.
- * Keep your vehicle clean and in good condition.
- * Respect any restrictions the carpool has agreed on, such as smoking,

eating or drinking.

- * Avoid wearing products with strong scents.
- * Carry through with your commitments.
- * Request changes to the schedule sparingly.

Don'ts

- * Make a habit of being late.
- * Ask your carpoolers to make extra stops along the way so you can take care of personal errands. The carpool is meant to help everyone with his or her ride to the event, period.
- * Bring up controversial topics like religion or politics unless previously agreed by all carpoolers to be acceptable topics of conversation.
- * Have lengthy cell phone conversations while you're in the carpool.

Questions or suggestions?

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