



Montana DRIVE Workshops - FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated February 2023

- **Where are the workshops located?**

All workshops are located at the Montana DRIVE facility in Lewistown, MT at 1500 Raceway Drive. Because Montana DRIVE depends on a large fleet of vehicles on a specially designed closed track, the program is not available anywhere else.

- **When are the summer workshops?**

The Montana DRIVE workshops are scheduled Monday through Friday from early June to mid-August, with a few Saturdays scheduled. Check the workshop calendar for availability and register early since workshops fill quickly. To be notified when registration opens, subscribe to Montana DRIVE E-News.

- **What are the hours?**

The one-day workshop is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Check-in at the facility at 7:45 a.m. The workshop starts promptly at 8:00 a.m.

- **Do I need to bring a lunch?**

Yes. Drivers need to bring their own lunch. There is a half-hour lunch break, but it's not enough time to get into town and back. A refrigerator, water and microwave oven are available at the facility.

- **How much time is spent driving?**

The workshop day consists of two hours in the classroom and five or more hours in vehicles on the track.

- **Do you provide the vehicles?**

Yes. The Montana DRIVE fleet has a variety of vehicles, including sedans, school buses, an ambulance, and a pickup truck.

- **What kind of training do you offer?**

Montana DRIVE Workshops put drivers behind the wheel to develop skills to respond safely to critical driving risks. Participants include new and experienced bus drivers, truck drivers, firefighters, EMTs, fleet drivers and anyone who drives cars, vans, and pick-up trucks. Teen Workshops are offered in July. The in-vehicle exercises are based on the kind of situations that cause the most types of crashes in Montana. These include off-road recovery, cornering, controlled emergency braking, evasive steering, skid control, and an exercise in a specially equipped Skid-Monster vehicle that combines vision, targeting, braking/accelerating transition and vehicle balance. See the new Vehicle Exercises video on the Montana DRIVE webpage.

- **Do the instructors ride in the car?**

Instructors always ride with workshop participants to demonstrate maneuvers, guide instruction, observe driver actions, and to provide immediate feedback to enhance the intensive learning experience.

- **What is the student-teacher ratio?**

The one-day workshop is limited to 12 participants with four instructors. There is one driving coach for every three participants. The teen workshops have one extra teacher for more individualized instruction.

- What is required to attend a Montana DRIVE workshop?**
All drivers must have a valid driver license, including the teen drivers who are expected to have at least one year of driving experience, a PAID workshop reservation, and a desire to develop skills to respond safely to driving risks. Wear comfortable shoes (no open sandals or flip-flops), bring a lunch, and arrive on time ready to learn and have fun!
- May I reserve a spot now and pay later?**
Yes, but we will invoice you the day you register and will expect payment within 30 days to confirm your registration.
- Can I reserve workshop spots if I don't have our drivers' names?**
Yes, but please send your drivers' names at least two weeks prior to the workshop, so rosters can be prepared and the instructors know who is attending the workshop.
- What if my plans change and I can't come?**
We must be notified as soon as possible if you need to cancel, reschedule, or want to send a substitute. Contact us by e-mail (MontanaDRIVE@mt.gov) or telephone: (406) 444-4432.
Workshop space is very limited and prompt notification of changes is appreciated.
- Do you give refunds if I must cancel?**
Yes, a 90% refund is given with 20 or more days advance notice. A 50% refund is given with 10 to 19 days advance notice. No refund will be given with less than 10 days' notice. Substitutes may be granted if given at least 24 hours advance notice. No contact/No show will result in no refund, no credit, and no rescheduling. We appreciate knowing as far in advance of the workshop as possible so we can offer the opening to another driver. If you pay by check, we will require a W9 form to process the refund. Credit card payments will be refunded back to your credit card account.
- Can my teen driver attend if he/she is 15 years old and has a learner license?**
No. Some teens can handle the risky driving maneuvers, but many are just too inexperienced to fully benefit from the advanced driving exercises. Teen one-day workshops are designed for young drivers who have at least one year of driving experience. Our professional instructors guide teens through off-road recovery, skid control and evasive maneuvers that can be tricky for novice drivers still in Phase I of the Graduated Driver Licensing practice period.
- Where can I stay in Lewistown?**
If you must travel more than one hour to arrive in Lewistown, we recommend that you stay overnight and arrange your own accommodations.
- Do you give group discounts?**
No. There are no group discounts offered to keep fees as low as possible for everyone. Montana DRIVE is a state government-run, nonprofit, user-supported program providing services to schools, state agencies, companies, and individuals for the benefit of public safety. An early registration discount is available to anyone registering for an adult workshop by March 1. State Farm Scholarships are available for teen drivers who apply.
- Do insurance companies offer discounts for successfully completing Montana DRIVE training?**
Check with your auto insurance agent. Montana state law (MCA 33-16-222) requires auto insurance carriers to apply a premium discount to an auto insurance policy of an insured driver 55 years of age or older who has successfully completed a highway traffic safety program. The Montana DRIVE Program is recognized by the Montana Department of Transportation as a qualified highway traffic safety program.