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MEDIA CONTACT: Kevin Chambers
Director of Communications
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
(404) 651-7970

Georgia's Clean Air Force Provides Six Essential Guidelines When Choosing a Vehicle for Young Drivers

ATLANTA (October 21, 2020) – As the school year progresses into full swing this fall, a new group of young drivers will be gracing Georgia's roads. In 2018, approximately 4.3% of licensed drivers in Georgia were 19 years old and younger, according to the Federal Highway Administration. Motorists aged 16-19 face the highest risk of accidents, as stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Helping teens choose the proper vehicle can lead to safer roads for motorists of all age groups.

[Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), provides five essential guidelines for selecting the appropriate vehicle for young drivers.

“While it is an exciting moment watching new drivers pass their driving test, this milestone raises concern and uncertainty for most parents,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Program Manager, Georgia EPD. “Conducting research on the appropriate vehicle for your young driver can help to create a rewarding car-buying experience.”

- **Safety First.** The most important factor to research before selecting a vehicle for a young driver is safety. In addition to reading the ratings provided by the car manufacturers, explore results from a third-party, such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Safety research groups offer an objective assessment for new vehicles based on their safety technologies.
- **Consider Vehicle Size.** Larger vehicles such as SUVs perform better in crash tests than their smaller counterparts, but sedans are easier for a young driver to manage without difficulty. Also, prior to purchasing, check your state's graduated driver licensing laws to determine how many passengers your teen may transport.
- **Remember Reliability.** As a parent, the last thing you want for your young driver is for them to get stuck on the side of the road with an unreliable car. The higher the vehicle's reliability score is, the cleaner and safer it will run.

- **Evaluate Driver Maturity.** It's said that with more power comes more responsibility. If you feel that your new driver lacks maturity or is a thrill-seeker, purchasing a car with higher horsepower may encourage him or her to test the speed limit. Evaluate their maturity level to choose a car that properly complements it.
- **Take a Test Drive.** Young drivers need to feel comfortable and in control while driving. It's vital that both you and your teen test drive any potential vehicles to ensure that you don't miss any concerns that you may have.
- **Set a Budget.** The cost of selecting a vehicle, whether you're buying or leasing, can be quite intimidating. By creating a realistic price range, the end goal will feel much more attainable. Don't forget to include the added expenses that come with a vehicle such as gas, insurance and preventative maintenance.

For additional information or to download an infographic on tips for selecting a vehicle for young drivers, please visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

About Georgia's Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented nearly 1.9 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, the equivalent of removing 13,400 vehicles from the road or planting more than 400 million trees. It is estimated that Georgia residents have saved \$311 million in utility bills since 1996 due to cleaner air. The program has also identified and repaired more than 3.8 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com/>.

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