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Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Six Tips to be Road Trip Ready

ATLANTA (July 20, 2021) – As pandemic numbers dwindle and vaccinations increase, the demand for travel is indisputable. Recent data collected by Kelley Blue Book found that 41% of Americans have summer travel plans, 64% are traveling more than 100 miles from home and 65% of vacationers plan to travel by vehicle.

Since drivers are departing on long-awaited and much-anticipated travels, [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#) (GCAF), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), encourages motorists to keep in mind six road trip tips to reduce vehicle emissions, boost their car's performance, decrease overall wear-and-tear and ensure a safe and enjoyable journey.

"Road trips to destinations in the lower 48 states continue to be the preferred way of travel for many this summer, but these vacations require preparation prior to departure," said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. "By actively planning ahead, drivers can avoid the common mistakes that often plague road trips."

- 1. Schedule a Service.** Don't let your car hold you back from reaching your destination. Schedule a service at least a week before your trip to check your oil, tire pressure, battery, air conditioning, brakes and engine.
- 2. Don't Download and Drive.** Distracted driving is a leading cause of fatal motor vehicle crashes in the United States. Download driving directions, podcasts and other road trip essentials before departing to ensure a smooth and safe ride.
- 3. Pack the Essentials.** Mishaps occur, but it's how we react that can dictate the rest of our journey. Don't forget to include car essentials like flashlight with extra batteries, a tire pressure gauge and jumper cables in your emergency kit.
- 4. Wiper Warning.** Summer brings sunshine, warm weather and large storms. Inspect your wipers to ensure they are not damaged and that they lie flat against the windshield. Use approved cleaning solutions to prevent glass damage and guarantee clear visibility.

5. **Invest in a Roadside Assistance Membership.** Nothing can ruin a day like a locking yourself out of your vehicle, running out of gas or getting a nail in your tire. By investing in a roadside assistance membership, you are guaranteed coverage 24 hours a day, and most cover members whether they are the driver or a passenger.

6. **Secure Shade.** Summer heat can drastically affect your vehicle's paint and interior. Avoid parking in direct sunlight, use a UV-protectant wax and purchase a sunshade to protect against UV rays.

To download an infographic on road trip tips, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at www.cleanairforce.com/press/.

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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