

Greater Mercer Ride Provide Needs You!

What is “Greater Mercer Ride Provide”?

Greater Mercer Ride Provide is a new nonprofit community-based transportation service for seniors 65 and older and visually impaired adults within Mercer County. Members can use the service to maintain their independence and remain active members of the community when they are no longer able or choose not to drive. Members set up a transportation account with *Ride Provide* so they never have to worry about carrying cash, and drivers never have to worry about collecting fees. The transportation is provided primarily by volunteer drivers. The more volunteers we have, the more seniors and visually impaired adults we can help.

Why should I volunteer for Greater Mercer Ride Provide?

Volunteering for *Ride Provide* is an easy way to give back to your community on your own schedule. Many seniors and visually impaired adults in Mercer County are struggling with the limitations of not being able to drive. Other transportation options do not meet their needs and they are unable or tired of asking friends and family members for help. Seniors are forced to either stay home or drive themselves when they should not be behind the wheel because they have no other viable options. *Ride Provide* volunteer drivers provide a viable transportation option for seniors and visually impaired adults to get to their doctor’s appointments, to visit friends, to go shopping, to go out to eat and much more. **If you have ever seen someone struggling with not being able to drive, you know how difficult it is and how much of a difference one ride can make.**

Aren’t there already transportation services for seniors in Mercer County?

There are several transportation options for seniors within Mercer County but they are limited in their hours, destinations or purposes. *Ride Provide* never restricts the destination, trip purpose, or frequency of its members’ rides within our service area. *Ride Provide* provides door to door direct transportation in private cars instead of vans and buses, which can be difficult for some seniors to use and can require them to wait for long periods. *Ride Provide* is not trying to replace other services but to supplement them to provide the best transportation possible.

Is there an age limit for volunteer drivers?

Volunteer drivers must be at least 21 years of age and have three years of driving experience. There is no upper age limit for qualified volunteer drivers.

Who will I be driving?

Members of *Greater Mercer Ride Provide* live throughout Mercer County and use the service for a variety of purposes. Some use it often to go to work or meetings while others use it occasionally for shopping trips or medical appointments. *Ride Provide* also has some recurring rides that occur the same time each week. Volunteers can choose to provide one of our recurring rides, giving them the opportunity to get to know a member better by driving the same person, at the same time each week.

How much time is required?

At *Ride Provide* we understand that we all have different schedules and we work with our volunteers to accommodate their needs. You can volunteer everyday, once a week or once a month; it's up to you. You select the hours and days you are available to drive.

I don't know the roads well, will I have to drive far from home?

We try to keep drivers within their own towns as much as possible. As with the schedules, we are flexible on each volunteer's driving area. We can provide directions to and from pick up locations and our staff is always available to help.

Can I be a member and also a volunteer driver?

Yes! *Ride Provide* members can earn transportation credits for their own account by driving other members. If you are only comfortable driving in your own area or during the day, why not volunteer when and where you are comfortable and use the service when and where you are not?

Do you take car donations?

Yes! *Greater Mercer Ride Provide* is always looking for more cars to add to our fleet. If you have a reliable car that you no longer use, why not donate it and get a tax deduction. Members can donate their cars and use the credits to pay for their rides.

If I have other questions, how can I reach Greater Mercer Ride Provide?

You can reach us at 609-452-5140 or by mail at Greater Mercer Ride Provide, 15 Roszel Road South, Suite 101, Princeton, NJ 08540.

----- cut and mail -----

I'm ready to help!

Please send me information about:

- Becoming a volunteer driver
- Speaking to my group/organization
- Becoming a business partner
- Donating my car
- I am not ready to sign on at this time but wish to support Greater Mercer Ride Provide with my tax deductible contribution of \$_____

Name

Address

City State Zip

(____) _____

Phone

Email

Please mail completed forms to: Greater Mercer Ride Provide, 15 Roszel Road South, Suite 101, Princeton, NJ 08540